

## **Assessing the Influence of Voluntary Disclosure on Audit Quality in Public Shareholding Companies Listed on the Amman Stock Exchange**

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### **Abstract**

This study aims to examine the link between voluntary disclosure and audit quality in public shareholding companies (PSCs) on the Amman Stock Exchange (ASE). It also examines the effects of voluntary disclosure of financial analysis results and ratios, future information, and social responsibility on auditing quality through three sub-questions. The results indicate that there is a statistically significant effect of voluntary disclosure on audit quality in PSC in ASE. On the other hand, there is no statistically significant effect of voluntary disclosure of financial analysis results and ratios on audit quality. Conversely, the study reveals a statistically significant effect of voluntary disclosure of future information and social responsibility on audit quality. These results have important implications for enhancing transparency and accountability in PSC in the ASE. This study also contributes to clarifying the relationship between voluntary disclosure and audit quality, providing valuable insights for both companies and regulatory bodies.

**Keywords:** Voluntary Disclosure, Audit Quality, Future Information, Social Responsibility.

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## تقييم تأثير الإفصاح الاختياري على جودة التدقيق في الشركات المساهمة العامة المدرجة في بورصة عمان

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### ملخص

تتناول هذه الدراسة العلاقة بين الإفصاح الاختياري وجودة التدقيق في الشركات ذات المساهمة العامة في بورصة عمان. يتناول سؤال البحث الرئيسي ما إذا كان مستوى الإفصاح الاختياري له تأثير على جودة التدقيق. كما تقوم الدراسة بالتحقق من ثلاثة أسئلة فرعية تتعلق بتأثير الإفصاح الاختياري عن نتائج ونسب التحليل المالي والمعلومات المستقبلية والمسؤولية الاجتماعية على جودة التدقيق. تشير النتائج إلى وجود تأثير إحصائي للإفصاح الاختياري على جودة التدقيق في الشركات ذات المساهمة العامة في بورصة عمان. من ناحية أخرى، لا يوجد تأثير إحصائي للإفصاح الاختياري عن نتائج ونسب التحليل المالي على جودة التدقيق. وعلى العكس، تكشف الدراسة عن تأثير إحصائي للإفصاح الاختياري عن المعلومات المستقبلية والمسؤولية الاجتماعية على جودة التدقيق. تحمل هذه النتائج آثارًا هامة على تعزيز الشفافية والمساءلة في الشركات ذات المساهمة العامة في بورصة عمان. تسهم أيضا هذه الدراسة في توضيح العلاقة بين الإفصاح الاختياري وجودة التدقيق، مقدمة رؤى قيمة لكل من الشركات والهيئات التنظيمية.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** الإفصاح الاختياري، جودة التدقيق، المعلومات المستقبلية، المسؤولية الاجتماعية.

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## **Introduction:**

The recent development of business organizations has led to an interest in voluntary disclosure, especially in light of the development of the accounting profession and the connection of this development to the quality of auditing. Several studies have explored this relationship with the aim of gaining a deeper understanding of the impact of voluntary disclosure on audit quality and its implications for stakeholders. Voluntary disclosures are defined as additional information provided by the company in a non-mandatory manner, whether this information is financial or non-financial (Zamil et al., 2023), while audit quality is defined as a continuous series of processes whose success depends on several factors such as the competence of auditors, the rigor of their testing procedures, the effectiveness of partner-led engagement teams, and the organizational culture of the audit firm (Francis, 2023).

One area of research has addressed the overall impact of voluntary disclosure on audit quality, with a particular focus on its role in improving the reliability, accuracy and transparency of financial reporting, which in turn affects the quality of the audit process (Agyei-Mensah, 2019; Ahmadi & Bouri, 2019; Al-Janadi et al., 2013; Johl et al., 2021; Legoria, et al., 2018). For instance, Hamada (2014) showed a statistically significant positive relationship between voluntary disclosure and audit quality in public shareholding companies (PSCs). Dahdouh and Hamada (2015) confirmed that voluntary disclosure positively affects audit quality, indicating that it enhances the credibility of financial statements.

Several studies have explored specific areas of voluntary disclosure and its impact on audit quality, focusing on the impact of disclosure in areas such as financial analysis, forecasting, and social responsibility. For example, Chen and Shi (2022) found that environmental, social, and governance (ESG) disclosures positively impact corporate financial performance, suggesting that this type of transparency may lead to positive outcomes. Similarly, Ayu et al. (2020) studied the impact of environmental and social disclosures on financial performance, and found a positive effect that enhances the benefits of disclosing this information. In addition, Lundholm and Myers (2002) examined the impact of a firm's disclosure activities on the relationship between stock returns and current and future earnings, and found that firms that provide more informative disclosures assist stakeholders integrate future earnings of data more quickly, rendering current returns more accurately reflect future earnings expectations.

While these studies offer valuable insights, it is essential to consider the specific context of PSCs in the Amman Stock Exchange (ASE). The ASE has its own regulatory framework, cultural factors, and market conditions, which create a unique setting for voluntary disclosure and auditing practices. Although many studies have explored how auditing quality affects voluntary disclosure (Abozaid et al., 2020; Astuti et al., 2020; Biçer & Feneir, 2019; Marwa et al., 2020; Wang & Sun, 2022; Wardhani, 2019), fewer studies focus on the reciprocal nature of this relationship in the ASE context.

Jordan was chosen as a study site because it is an ideal environment to study this effect due to the nature of its economy and the importance of public shareholding companies in it. The study compared the impact of the level of voluntary disclosure on audit quality by surveying three different sectors: the service sector, the industrial sector, and the financial sector. The study is also, to the researcher's knowledge, one of the few studies, especially at the local level, that measured the dependent variable (audit quality) through auditor fees.

This study aims to explore how voluntary disclosure impacts auditing quality in PSC in ASE. Specifically, it has set a goal to investigate the impact of disclosure of financial analysis, future forecasts, and social responsibility. These insights can help companies, regulators and stakeholders enhance transparency and accountability, as well as improve the overall quality of securities market audits.

## **Literature Review:**

Previous studies examined the links between different levels of voluntary disclosure and audit quality, looking in particular at how increased transparency affects audit procedures. In addition, they addressed the question of whether voluntary disclosure contributes to enhancing the reliability of financial information, making it more reliable and acceptable to both auditors and stakeholders. These studies are very important, as they provide detailed insights into how voluntary disclosure can contribute to improving audit quality and enhancing confidence in financial reporting, which has a positive impact on corporate performance and overall market stability. Additionally, analyzing the theoretical frameworks, methodologies, empirical findings, and conclusions of existing studies in this area provides valuable insights for literature review.

For example, Ahmadi and Bouri (2017) have identified the effect of some audit quality characteristics on the level of voluntary disclosure in the annual reports, observing that both auditor industry specialization and the Big 4 listener network improve the level of voluntary disclosure.

Demek et al. (2020) examined the impact of disclosure on investors' perceptions of audit quality, and indicated that voluntary disclosure in the audit report mitigates the perceived impact of using other auditors. O'Shaughnessy et al. (2022) examined the relationship between voluntary disclosures related to external auditor oversight and audit quality, suggesting that audit committees that display a higher degree of voluntary disclosures that define their oversight activities toward external auditors tend to demonstrate a stronger level of audit quality. Furthermore, Johl et al. (2021) provided additional evidence supporting the association between voluntary disclosure and higher levels of audit quality. The findings of previous research highlight the importance of examining the relationship between voluntary disclosure and audit quality and provide a basis for further investigation.

Abdullah and Akhras (2020) explained the impact of voluntary disclosure practices on the external audit of a sample of the banking sector listed in the Iraqi market. They concluded that there is a significant positive impact for each of the bank's general information, future strategic information, social responsibility and environmental information, and non-financial performance information on the external audit process, while there is a weak, insignificant positive impact for each of future expectations information, financial performance information, and governance information for the bank on the external audit process.

Kanakriyah (2016) explored how voluntary disclosure affects accounting information quality in Jordan. They concluded that all accounting information consumers agree that voluntary disclosure aids economic decision-making. One important finding is that voluntary disclosure improves accounting information, influencing investors' judgments. The study has major ramifications for financial statement users, and it emphasizes voluntary disclosure's role in decision-making. It recognizes the inherent relationship between voluntary disclosure and economic decision-making and how it raises user awareness.

Boateng et al., (2022) examined the impact of corporate governance and voluntary disclosures on annual reports post-International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) adoption. They found that enterprises' voluntary disclosures remain low despite adopting IFRS.

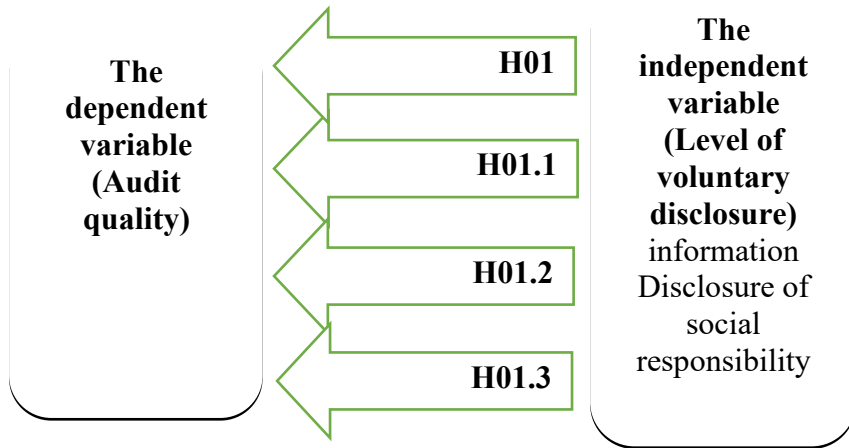
### **Research Gap:**

Identifying a research gap is a crucial aspect of the study. There are limited studies on the link between voluntary disclosure and audit quality. There is a scarcity of research that specifically examines the direct relationship between the extent of voluntary disclosure practices adopted by public shareholding companies and the quality of auditing processes (Md Zaini et al., 2018; Agyei-Mensah, 2019). Many studies have overlooked the relationship between voluntary disclosure and audit quality vary across different industries in public shareholding sector (Jara-Figueroa et al., 2018). Furthermore, several studies did not fully address how different regulatory frameworks impact the voluntary disclosure and audit quality in PSC. There is also a gap in understanding how diverse stakeholders, such as investors, regulators, and auditors view the impact of voluntary disclosure on audit quality (Michael & Dixon, 2019; Mohamed et al., 2019).

### **Hypotheses development:**

- H01: There is no statistically significant impact at a significance level  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  of voluntary disclosure on the quality of auditing in PSC on the ASE. This main hypothesis is supported by the following sub-hypotheses:
- H01.1: There is no statistically significant impact at a significance level  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  of disclosing financial analysis results and ratios on the quality of auditing in PSC on the ASE.
- H01.2: There is no statistically significant impact at a significance level  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  of disclosing future information on the quality of auditing in PSC on the ASE.
- H01.3: There is no statistically significant impact at a significance level  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  of disclosing social responsibility on the quality of auditing in PSC on the ASE.

The study model is sketched as follows:



**Figure (1): Study model (Alqatameen et al., 2020; Altawalbeh, 2020).**

## **Variables and their measurements**

### **Firstly: dependent variable (audit quality)**

The dependent variable was measured through the value of audit fees paid by the company to the external auditing firm during the study's targeted period.

### **Secondly: independent variables**

The independent variables, representing dimensions of voluntary disclosure, were measured as follows:

A. Level of disclosure regarding financial results and ratios was measured through the disclosure of the following sub-indicators: disclosure of previous profitability rates, disclosure of dividend distribution policy (mentioning the percentage of profit to be distributed) for the current year, disclosure of debt ratio, disclosure of historical financial information for the past six years, and disclosure of liquidity ratios. These sub-indicators were expressed as dummy variables and measured as follows: A value of 1 signifies the presence of the indicator, whereas a value of 0 indicates its absence. As for measuring the dimension of the overall level of disclosure regarding financial results and ratios, it was undertaken using the following equation: (number of disclosed items / total number of indicators (5)) × 100%.

B. Level of disclosure regarding future information was measured through the disclosure of the following sub-indicators: disclosure of next year's profit expectations, disclosure of factors influencing future operations, disclosure of planned research and development for the next year, and disclosure of information about future sales (revenues) in quantitative terms. These sub-indicators were expressed as dummy variables and measured as follows: A value of 1 signifies the presence of the indicator, whereas a value of 0 denotes its absence. As for measuring the dimension of the overall level of disclosure regarding future information, it was undertaken using the following equation: (number of disclosed items / total number of indicators (4))  $\times$  100%.

C. Level of disclosure regarding social responsibility was measured through the disclosure of the following sub-indicators: disclosure of employee list and positions, disclosure of donations, and disclosure of sponsorship of social activities. These sub-indicators were expressed as dummy variables and measured as follows: a value of 1 indicates the presence of the indicator, while a value of 0 indicates otherwise. To gauge the extent of social responsibility disclosure, the following equation was employed: (number of disclosed items / total number of indicators (3))  $\times$  100%.

### **Study mathematical model:**

To examine the influence of the level of voluntary disclosure on audit quality in PSC on the ASE, the following study model was constructed:

$$\text{Audit quality} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 x_1 + \alpha_2 x_2 + \alpha_3 x_3 + \varepsilon$$

$\alpha_0$ : Intercept of the regression

$x_1$ : Level of disclosure of financial results and ratios

$x_2$ : Level of disclosure of future information

$x_3$ : Level of disclosure of social responsibility

$\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$ : Coefficients of regression

$\varepsilon$ : Represents the random error of observation



### Descriptive analysis:

In this section, the study variables will be elucidated by presenting their respective minimum and maximum values, mean values, and standard deviations observed throughout the study period, as outlined below.

Descriptive analysis of the independent variable (voluntary disclosure):

**Table (1): Values of some descriptive statistics indicators for dimensions of the independent variable (voluntary disclosure)**

Variable	Observations	Minimum Value	Maximum Value	Mean	Standard Deviation	Disclosure Level
Financial Results and Ratios Disclosure	300	0.00	100.00	59.53	22.21	Moderate
Future Information Disclosure	300	0.00	100.00	55.08	24.98	Moderate
Social Responsibility Disclosure	300	0.00	100.00	79.33	28.90	High

\* The arithmetic means were processed according to the following equation (Subedi, 2016):  $\text{Class Length} = (\text{Upper Bound} - \text{Lower Bound}) / \text{Number of Levels} = (100 - 0) / 3 = 33.33$ . Hence, the arithmetic means can be divided as follows: - Class 1: If the arithmetic means range from 0 to less than 33.33, it indicates a low disclosure level. - Class 2: If the arithmetic means range from 33.33 to less than 66.66, it indicates a moderate disclosure level. - Class 3: If the arithmetic means range from 66.66 to 100.00, it indicates a high disclosure level.

Table (1) reveals the following:

1. The disclosure values for financial results and ratios in the sample companies spanned from 0% to 100%. The mean value is 59.53% (rounded to 60%), with a standard deviation of 22.21. This suggests a moderate level of disclosure for financial results and ratios among the sample companies. This result suggests that the companies provide accounting and financial information in their statements according to the needs and interests related to investment decision-making. This enhances confidence in the reports and financial statements provided by these companies, encouraging stakeholders and investors to increase their investments.
2. The disclosure values for future information in the sample companies varied from 0% to 100%. The mean value is 55.08% (rounded to 55%), with a standard deviation of 24.98. This suggests a moderate level of disclosure for future information among the sample companies. This result can be interpreted as Jordanian companies seeking to provide

information about future financial performance due to its importance in giving shareholders an understanding of their future investments in the company and expected profit ratios. This disclosure enhances investors' ability to evaluate and predict the company's future profits and cash flows.

3. The disclosure values for social responsibility in the sample companies varied from 0% to 100%. The mean value is 79.33% (rounded to 79%), with a standard deviation of 28.90. This points to a high level of social responsibility disclosure among the sample companies. This outcome can be attributed to industrial companies' endeavors to enhance their social image and promote environmental conservation through increased disclosure of their social responsibilities. There is an increasing focus on social responsibility among Jordanian companies, aiming to contribute to sustainable development.

Descriptive analysis of the dependent variable (audit quality):

**Table (2): Values of some descriptive statistics indicators for the dependent variable (audit quality)**

Value	Audit Fees
Minimum Value	750.00
Maximum Value	760488.00
Mean Value	42381.54
Standard Deviation	438552.66

A look at table (2) tells that the values of audit fees in the sample companies ranged between 750.00 and 760,488.00. The mean value for these fees is 42,381.54 (rounded to 42, 382) with a standard deviation of 438,552.66. This result suggests that Jordanian companies prioritize the external auditing process due to its significance in decision-making, both internally and externally.

#### **Normality test:**

In the study, a normality test was conducted for all variables by calculating the skewness and kurtosis values. The data demonstrated a normal distribution, with skewness values falling within the range of ( $\pm 3$ ) and kurtosis values falling within the range of ( $\pm 8$ ), as suggested by Hair Jr.

et al., 2011). Table 3 provides details on the normal distribution of the study variables.

**Table (3): Findings concerning the normal distribution of the study variables**

Variable	Skewness	Kurtosis
Disclosure of financial results, ratios, and analysis	-0.263	-0.425
Disclosure of future information	-0.215	-0.484
Disclosure of social responsibility	-1.130	0.108
Audit quality	17.265	298.701

Table (3) displays the tests (i.e. Skewness & Kurtosis) that were employed to assess the normal distribution of the study data. The skewness values ranged from -1.130 to 17.265, while the kurtosis values varied between -0.484 and 298.701. Based on these grounds, it can be inferred that the data related to the variable "audit quality" are not normally distributed, indicating the presence of skewness. To address this issue, a transformation needs to be applied to the variable values to correct for non-normality.

By performing a logarithmic transformation on the variable "audit quality" and then retesting and extracting the values for normal distribution, Table 4 illustrates this process.

**Table (4): Normal distribution test after logarithmic transformation of variable (audit quality)**

The variable	Skewness	Kurtosis
Audit quality	-0.03	2.31

From this, we can infer that the data pertaining to the study variables follow a normal distribution.

## Hypotheses testing

### Main hypothesis test:

The main hypothesis test states that there is no statistically significant effect, at a significance level of  $\alpha \leq 0.05$ , of voluntary disclosure on audit quality in PSC on the ASE. We evaluated this hypothesis by employing a multiple regression equation to examine how the dimensions of voluntary disclosure influence audit quality in PSC on the ASE. The results are presented in table 5:

**Table (5): The findings from applying the multiple regression equation to analyze the impact of voluntary disclosure dimensions on audit quality in PSC on the ASE**

Variable	Unstandardized transactions		Standardized transactions		Statistical significance	R	R <sup>2</sup>	Adjusted R <sup>2</sup>	F
	B	$\Sigma$	Beta	T					
Regression Constant	0.608	0.012	51.752		0.000	0.312	0.097	0.076	4.494
Disclosure of financial analysis, results and ratios	0.004	0.011	0.022	-0.378	0.706				
Disclosure of future information	-0.026	0.01	0.155	2.513	0.013				
Disclosure of social responsibility	-0.018	0.009	0.128	2.070	0.039				

Table (5) reveals that R<sup>2</sup> is 0.097, while adjusted R<sup>2</sup> value is 0.076. These values indicate that the voluntary disclosure numerical aggregate contributes 9.7% to the observed variance in audit quality. In addition, the results recorded an F-value of 4.494, with a statistical significance of 0.000, indicating a significant relationship at a significance level of  $\alpha \geq 0.05$ . As a result, the null hypothesis is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis is confirmed, indicating a statistically significant effect of voluntary disclosure on audit quality in PSCs listed on the ASE, with a significance level of  $\alpha \leq 0.05$ .

**Sub-hypotheses test:**

In this section, the sub-hypotheses are tested to explore how each independent variable affects the dependent variable. The first sub-hypothesis, which states that there is no statistically significant effect at a significance level of  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  for the disclosure of financial analysis results and ratios on audit quality in PSCs listed on the ASE, was tested using a simple regression model. This approach may be helpful in evaluating the impact of disclosing financial analysis results and ratios on audit quality in these companies. The results are shown in Table 6.

**Table (6): Impacts of disclosure of financial analysis and ratios on audit quality**

The variable	Unstandardized transactions		Standardized transactions		R	R <sup>2</sup>	Statistical significance
	B	$\Sigma$	Beta	T			
Regression Constant	0.606	0.007	87.918		0.051	0.003	0.378
Disclosure of financial analysis, results and ratios	0.010	0.011	0.051	0.883			

Table 6 shows that there is no statistically significant effect at the significance level  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  of disclosing financial analysis results and ratios on audit quality in PSC listed on the ASE. R value is (0.051), indicating a weak correlation between the independent variable and the dependent variable. R<sup>2</sup> value is (0.003), indicating that the disclosure of financial analysis results and ratios explains only 0.3% of the variation in audit quality, which is a very low value. The t-value (0.883) is positive, signifying a favorable trend in the relationship between the variables, but the relationship is very weak. Hence, the sub-hypothesis is accepted.

The second sub-hypothesis, which states that there is no statistically significant effect at the significance level  $\alpha \leq 0.05$ , of disclosing future information on audit quality in PSC listed on the ASE, was tested using the simple regression equation to examine the impact of disclosing future information on audit quality in PSC listed on the ASE, as illustrated in Table (7).

**Table (7) Impact of disclosing future information on audit quality**

The variable	Unstandardized transactions		Standardized transactions		R	R <sup>2</sup>	Statistical significance
	B	Σ	Beta	T			
Regression Constant	0.629	0.006	109.824		0.192	0.037	0.001
Disclosure of future information	0.032	0.009	0.192	3.379			

Table (7) shows a statistically significant impact at a significance level of  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  of disclosing future information on audit quality in PSC listed on the ASE. R is (0.192), pointing to a statistically significant correlation between the independent variable and the dependent variable. R<sup>2</sup> is (0.037), which explains the ability of disclosing future information to influence audit quality. This means that disclosure about future information explains approximately (3.7%) of the variation in audit quality, which is statistically acceptable. The value of (T) is (3.379), indicating a positive relationship between the variables and statistical significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis for the second sub-hypothesis is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis is accepted, stating that there is a statistically significant impact at a significance level of  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  of disclosing future information on audit quality in PSC listed on the ASE.

The third sub-hypothesis, which states that there is no statistically significant impact at a significance level of  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  of disclosing social responsibility on audit quality in PSC listed on the ASE, was tested using the simple regression equation to study the impact of disclosing social responsibility on audit quality in PSC listed on the ASE, and Table 8 illustrates this.

**Table (8) Impact of disclosing social responsibility on audit quality**

The variable	Unstandardized transactions		Standardized transactions		R	R <sup>2</sup>	Statistical significance
	B	Σ	Beta	T			
Regression Constant	0.595	0.007	85.349		0.142	0.020	0.014
Disclosure of social responsibility	0.032	0.009	0.192	2.478			

Table (8) indicates a statistically significant effect at the significance level  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  of disclosing social responsibility on audit quality in PSC listed on the ASE. R value is (0.142), indicating a statistically significant positive relationship between the independent variable and the dependent variable.  $R^2$  (0.020), explains the ability of disclosing social responsibility to explain 2% of the variation in audit quality, which is statistically acceptable. The value of the t-statistic (T) is (2.478), indicating a positive relationship and statistical significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis of the third sub-hypothesis is rejected, and the alternative hypothesis is accepted, concluding that there is a statistically significant effect at the significance level  $\alpha \leq 0.05$  of disclosing social responsibility on audit quality in PSC listed on the ASE.

### **Discussion and conclusion:**

The current study examined the impact of the level of voluntary disclosure on the auditing quality in PSC in Jordan. The study addressed many gaps in previous studies represented by the lack of studies that explored the topic in depth and the scarcity of studies specifically focusing on the Jordanian context. The study also adopted a different dimension to measure audit quality by examining auditor fees. The results showed the importance of voluntary disclosure as a factor affecting audit quality, which highlights the study's contribution to bridging knowledge gaps and enhancing scientific literature in this field. This study has yielded several noteworthy results, summarized as follows:

The main hypothesis of the study revealed a statistically significant impact of voluntary disclosure on audit quality in PSC listed on the ASE (significance level:  $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ). The findings suggest that the level of voluntary disclosure reflects the company's concern for presenting financial instruments in the budget, determining the necessary information to disclose and the methods used for presenting financial instruments, assets, liabilities, and ownership rights. The researcher attributes this result to the companies' endeavors in minimizing risks to bolster their reputation within the local community. Voluntary disclosure positively influences the societal perception of the company, impacting community activities and improving the company's ability to handle financial information. By meeting stakeholders' needs and expectations, the quality of auditing is also enhanced.

1. Regarding the first sub-hypothesis, the results did not show a statistically significant effect of disclosing financial analysis results and ratios on audit quality in PSC listed on the ASE (significance level:  $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ), which may indicate the importance of ensuring consistency between

reality and the information disclosed, minimizing substantial discrepancies. The personal judgment of the information released might affect this outcome.

2. The second sub-hypothesis demonstrated a statistically significant effect of disclosing future information on audit quality in PSC listed on the ASE (significance level:  $\alpha \leq 0.05$ ). This provides a clearer view of the company's capacity to enhance profitability and increase market value.
3. The third sub-hypothesis showed a statistically significant effect of social responsibility disclosure on the quality of auditing. This effect reflects the importance of social responsibility in enhancing the company's reputation.

The practical importance of the study appears through encouraging companies to increase their voluntary disclosure and increase the auditor's interest in it, and perhaps mentioning this in the external auditor's report, by revealing the level of voluntary disclosure and its impact on the quality of the audit. Voluntary disclosure also contributes to helping investors make appropriate and correct decisions and contributes to enhancing and raising the level of quality of preparing financial statements, and also contributes to assisting drafters of legislation, laws and accounting standards by clarifying the elements that have an impact on companies' disclosure and related disclosure policies when issuing legislation, which leads to more credibility and transparency in financial statements, and contributes to attracting new investments for the company or securing new sources of financing its activities. Therefore, the importance of the practical study is through examining the level of voluntary disclosure in Jordanian public shareholding companies and the elements that affect this disclosure, which will create standards for stakeholders to the degree of sufficiency of this information and the extent of the need to oblige companies to disclose the elements that they do not voluntarily disclose.

While this study provides important insights into the relationship between voluntary disclosure and audit quality in companies listed on the ASE, there are limitations that we would like to point out. First, the study sample included companies listed on the ASE in Jordan, which may not give a complete picture of the practices and challenges facing other institutions in different sectors and countries. Second, relying on the quantitative research method only may limit other important details that can be obtained through qualitative methods such as interviews with auditors and company



management. To add to this study, we recommend that future studies examine the following areas. First, it is recommended to explore institutions in other sectors and countries to compare with the results of the current study. Second, there should be a use of qualitative research methods such as interviews with auditors, investors and executives in order to gain deeper insights into the factors affecting voluntary disclosure and audit quality.

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