

The role of international accounting education standies in reforming Iraqi accounting systems

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Abstract:

The research mainly aims to shed light on the role of international accounting education standards and how they contribute to the reform of accounting systems in the local environment, and the role that they can play in developing the accounting profession, by conducting an analytical study of international accounting education standards that contribute to presenting a set of factors In order to qualify and develop the competencies of accountants and auditors to perform their jobs with high quality, the most important results that have been reached are that international accounting education standards are an essential source for providing accountants with technical and professional aspects, ethical values and professional behavior, and this ensures obtaining a successful accountant scientifically, practically and ethically, and therefore universities must Al-Iraqiya fully adopts international accounting education standards to improve accounting education, to ensure highly .efficient outputs, which are reflected in the reform and development of accounting systems

:the introduction

Accounting education embodies one of the most important topics that have received great attention from educational institutions and professional organizations because it is related to improving the performance of the accounting profession. This prompted the International Federation of Accountants, through the International Accounting Education Standards Council, to issue standards for education, as these standards contribute to the development of educational outcomes in line with the .requirements of the accounting profession and the labor market

Where it is possible to reform the accounting systems through the development of the human cadres working on these systems, and these cadres are developed through the correct construction from the beginning, i. And the quality of the services it provides, in terms of applying laws and instructions, providing technical and scientific skills, and modern trends of accounting thought, as there must be coordination between accounting education and the accounting profession so that each of them can .perform the task required of it appropriately

The interest in accounting education in terms of developing curricula and technical skills is essential for the development and reform of accounting systems to comply with quality accounting services. Therefore, one of the requirements of international and local professional bodies is the availability of a minimum level of scientific and practical qualification for the accountant, who is able to perform his .role in an efficient and effective manner

The first axis: research methodology

First: the research problem

Despite the importance of accounting education and its influential role in determining the quality of the accounting and auditing profession, it has been subjected to many criticisms regarding its inability to

play the role assigned to it with the required efficiency and effectiveness, and that it suffers from many problems and shortcomings, including those related to academic curricula, including those related to teaching methods, And other problems that make accounting education unable to graduate qualified accountants who are able to fulfill the requirements of accounting jobs in the labor market and .increase the expectations gap

:The research problem is as follows

Does accounting education in the local environment need continuous development to contribute to)
(?reforming accounting systems in the Iraqi environment

Second: Research objectives

The research mainly aims to shed light on the role of accounting education standards and how to use .them in reforming accounting systems in the local environment

Third: the importance of research

The research gains its importance from the fact that it deals with the role that international accounting education standards can play in improving and developing the efficiency and ability of accountants in the local environment, including professional and academic qualification for accounting graduates, in addition to the importance of the role played by accounting systems for stakeholders to provide useful information that cannot be achieved. Except through the good performance of the accounting .education process and adherence to it

Fourth: the research hypothesis

:The research is based on a basic hypothesis

Accounting education in the local environment needs continuous development to contribute to the)
reform of accounting systems in the local environment) and it can be divided into three sub-
:hypotheses

- 1- Accounting education contributes to the reform of accounting systems adopted in the local .environment
- 2- Information and communication technology is important for qualifying graduates to contribute to .the reform of accounting systems
- 3- The graduates' ability to self-learning and continuous development is important in qualifying .accounting graduates to contribute to the reform of accounting systems

The second axis: accounting education standards and their role in reforming accounting systems

First: International Accounting Education Standards(**IESs**).

The education process, according to the perspective of International Accounting Education Standards IESs is defined as a continuous process to develop and maintain professional competence , throughout the career of accountants, and this is done through three basic elements: (IAESB, 2017: 11)

- 1- Education : It is a systematic and organized process that aims to develop knowledge, skills, and capacities. It is a process that usually takes place, but not exclusively, in the academic .environment (universities)

- 2- Training: The learning and development activities that complement the process of education and practical experience, and the focus has been mainly on practical application, and are usually carried out in the workplace (economic units, professional organizations, accounting offices)
- 3- Practical Experience : Practical experience represents work activities and other activities that are related to the development of professional competence

Education can include a number of other informal activities such as (communication, guidance, monitoring, reflection and the acquisition of unstructured self-knowledge). In addition, there is what is called general education (various other non-accounting knowledge). The ethical values and professional behaviors that are developed through accounting education, and the development of professional skills is lacking in decision-making, judgment and doubt. Examples of general education include understanding ideas and historical events, learning about different cultures, and) .understanding the political, economic and social forces in the countries of the worldAI- obaidi & Salman 7 :2020 ,

International accounting education standards represent basic rules for providing general guidelines that lead to guiding and rationalizing educational practices. They also clarify the foundations associated with accounting education by defining good practices that are generally accepted in this field, and present basic principles, concepts and definitions that enhance accounting education. One of the International Accounting Education Standards(IESs) is to serve the public interest by setting high-quality international educational standards, which enhance accounting competence and as a result enhance and sustain the accounting profession all over the world and increase the level of public and stakeholder confidence in the work of accountants (IAESB, 2019: 7) .

Education standards also provide a conceptual framework for the education and development of accountants, and this framework is useful for employers who support the development of accountant education, understanding educational institutions, employers, and others who have an active role in designing, developing, evaluating, and evaluating accounting education programs (IAESB, 2019: 8) .

The issuance of international accounting education standards passed through three historical stages, :namely

The first phase (1977-1998): TheIFAC Education Committee issued several guidelines related to accounting education, represented by elevenIEG education guidelines .

The second phase (1998-2008): During this period, work was done to issue standards for accounting education instead of the guidelines that distinguished the previous periods, as the Education Committee turned into the International Accounting Education Standards Council, as it issued in the initial stage in 2003 six international standards For accounting education, it was applied in 2005, followed by the issuance of two other standards, bringing the total number of standards for accounting .education to eight

The third phase (post-2009): In this phase, the International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB) begins the process of reviewing and updating the standards it issued, and issuing a new .conceptual framework as an introduction to the standards

As a result, the Board issued a booklet or guide for international accounting education standards in :which includes eight revised and updated standards, which are as shown in the following table ,2015

Table (1) International Accounting Education Standards(IESs).

Application date	Standard topic	number
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1-7-2014	Entry requirements for the accounting education program	IES1
1-7-2015	Initial Professional Development (Technical Competence)	IES2
1-7-2015	Initial Professional Development (Professional Skills)	IES3
1-7-2015	Initial professional development (professional values, ethics and attitudes)	IES4
1-7-2015	Initial professional development (work experience requirements)	IES5
1-7-2015	Initial professional development (assessment of professional competence)	IES6
1-1-2014	Continuing professional development	IES7
1-7-2016	Professional development for the partners responsible for the profession of auditing the financial statements	IES8

: IAESB, Handbook of International Education ,Pronouncements, 2017 Edition

From the aforementioned, attention to accounting education standards is no less important than attention to professional standards. The provision of accountants of the required level must start from the university education stage. Talking about accounting education standards is a talk about qualified accountants who are able to join the labor market easily and competently, since it is assumed that there will be an integration between the International Accounting Standards IAS/IFRS and the (IESs Accounting Education Standards . It is supposed to be acquired during the initial education period, whether in relation to the accounting profession or the auditing profession alike, as well as interest in post-graduation to maintain and develop skills to keep pace with the changes and .developments that occur in the work environment

Second: accounting systems

The accounting system is a plan that represents a set of procedures and steps for the applied side of accounting, which helps to complete the main functions of accounting in counting, recording, classifying and summarizing the results of financial operations in the form of financial statements, in a way that ensures the achievement of the goals pursued by accounting, and from here it was .necessary to develop a definition For the accounting system, and even the accountant is guided by it The accounting system is thus the general framework that contains the principles and assumptions that define the documents, books, records, and all procedures, tools, and instructions that must be followed to tighten the measurement processes and the methods of presenting and monitoring the .results in an accurate and impartial manner

There is more than one definition of the accounting system, and this is due to the difference in the angle from which the accounting system is viewed. The accounting system can be defined as: The transactions concluded by the economic unit, the methods of recording them, the means of controlling them, and the methods of presenting their results.” In which transactions are recorded, and the procedures followed in collecting information related to financial operations in the institution are defined. Another definition can be given to it as: - “The framework that includes the rules, principles and foundations that help the institution to prepare documents, prove them in books and records, and extract data and statements. accounting and statistical, and achieving internal control through a set of .means and tools used in this system.” (Hussain and Al-Bakri, 2020: 111)

The accounting profession in Iraq is greatly affected by laws, legislation and systems, the most important of which are the Public Accounting Principles Law, corporate laws, income tax laws, special .laws and regulations, and the commercial bookkeeping system

Government accounting has been applied since 1940 in official government departments whose financing is linked to the state's general budget. Its work is regulated by the Public Accounting Principles Law and the financial instructions issued by the Ministry of Finance, supervising the application. The role of government accounting is defined in tabulating, measuring and communicating financial information related to government activities

As for the unified accounting system, the Office of Financial Supervision shall supervise and follow up on its implementation, and issue instructions that include the treatments and amendments that must be adhered to. It serves the various relevant authorities and parties, starting from the executing agency itself, up to the higher authorities in the state agencies and the overall responsible for development at the level of the national economy. Therefore, the unified accounting system was applied in the public and mixed sectors as a first stage to provide unified and integrated data on the activity of these two sectors, and the application of this helped The system is based on providing good information (Rahim, 2023: 66)

As for the commercial accounting that is applied in the private sector and is bound by the instructions and directives of the General Tax Authority and the bookkeeping system that is required by the private sector of individuals and companies, and adheres to the instructions issued by the Registrar of Companies in the Ministry of Commerce, after the issuance of Companies Law No. Accurate consolidated accounting data used as indicators in the planning process and in controlling the activity of these companies to ensure their performance of their role in the planned economic development. This indicates the priority of serving the state's requirements as a main objective of the accounting profession

On January 4, 2016, the Central Bank of Iraq issued an order obligating banks and insurance companies to move from the unified accounting system to the international accounting standards IFRS / IAS as the book stipulated the application of these standards starting from the fiscal year , 2016, and for the success of adopting international standards in the Iraqi environment, it

Hence, the importance of accounting education emerges through the need to keep abreast of developments and changes in the work environment and information technology and the adoption of international financial reporting standards. The auditors are able to perform their jobs in light of these changes and developments, and provide stakeholders with information and financial reports of high quality that serve their decisions

The third axis: the field study

First: the study population and sample

The research community consists of all actors in the field of accounting in Iraq, whether they are academics or professionals employed in economic units or offices for accounting services

Second: the statistical tools used in the analysis

SPSS, Version program was used to unpack the data of the collected questionnaires and treat them statistically (22)

Third: Test the reliability and validity of the questionnaire

Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the questionnaire as a single unit is equal to 0.881, which is very high and close to the correct one. It expresses that the questionnaire is characterized by stability and its data can be relied upon and analyzed. The value of the root of the Cronbach's alpha coefficient is equal to 0.944, which is a value close to one, which confirms the validity of the questionnaire statements.

Fourth: Presentation and discussion of the results of the answers to the questionnaire

We dedicate this item to presenting the results of the field study obtained from transcribing the answers to the questionnaires in the SPSS program.

1- Presenting and discussing the results of the importance of the theoretical study in accounting to qualify the graduate to contribute to the development of accounting systems

In the light of the research hypothesis, which states that accounting education contributes to reforming the accounting systems adopted in the local environment, the results of this axis came as shown in Table (2), which follows

arrangement	direction	standard deviation	SMA	Not important at all	not important	without opinion	Important	very important	In your opinion, the job of an accountant requires that the graduate have the following:
01	very important	0.6	4.25	0	0	0.9	32.9	66.2	A- Familiarity with financial accounting, instructions, laws and legislation for the preparation of financial statements
04	very important	0.76	4.41	0	1.8	2.3	36.9	58.1	Knowledge of international financial reporting standards and how to apply them -2
03	very important	0.61	4.14	3.3	7.3	1.1	17.9	70.1	Developing knowledge of the financial analysis of the financial statements to know the financial position of the economic unit -3
0.2	very important	0.62	4.49	0	0.09	4.5	34.2	60.4	Familiarity with the application of international auditing standards and related laws and regulations -4
05	Important	0.84	4.58	1	3.6	13.5	45	36.9	Knowledge of the principles of good governance and control risk management -5
	very important	0.42	4,374	Statistical indicators of the axis as one unit					

The previous table (2) shows the importance of the importance of the theoretical study in accounting in qualifying qualified graduates to perform their jobs in the labor market. It was important, as we note that the value of the standard deviation of the axis as one unit is 042, which is a low value that reflects the homogeneity of the answers and their lack of dispersion.

2- Presenting and discussing the results of the importance of information and communication technology in qualifying graduates to contribute to the reform of accounting systems

In light of the second hypothesis, which states that information and communication technology is important for qualifying graduates to contribute to the reform of accounting systems, the results of this axis came as shown in the following table)3(

Table (3) Study sample answers The importance of information and communication technology in qualifying graduates to contribute to the reform of accounting systems

arrangement	direction	standard deviation	SMA	Not important at all	not important	without opinion	Important	very important	In your opinion, the job of an accountant requires that the graduate have the following
01	very important	0.85	4.66	0	2.3	0	27.7	70	The ability to use the general computer and general software in accounting work -1
02	very important	0.67	4.15	0	5.4	0	28.2	64.4	Full knowledge of accounting software -2
05	Important	0.99	3.38	6.9	10.7	13.1	45.9	23.4	Knowledge of Internet systems and electronic data transfer -3
0.3	very important	0.69	4.92	0.9	4.5	1.8	50.5	42.3	Possess skills in preparing reports and administrative messages -4
04	very important	0.82	4.21	0.9	6.3	0.9	45	.46.9	Knowledge of how to maintain electronic systems and the information that results from them -5
	very important	0.49	4.26	Statistical indicators of the axis as one unit					

The general direction of the answers to this axis as one unit was significant based on Table (3) above, as the respondents agreed that information and communication technology is important for qualifying graduates to contribute to the reform of accounting systems, where the arithmetic mean was 4.26 and this value belongs to the fifth category of the Likert scale (4.20) . -5) n However, this value is close to the important category, with a standard deviation of 0.49, which is a weak value that reflects the homogeneity of the answers. This result stems from the importance of information technology and communication machines for accounting work

3- Presenting and discussing the results of the importance of graduates having the ability to self-learning and continuous development

In light of the hypothesis that states that the graduates' ability to self-learning and continuous development is important in qualifying accounting graduates to contribute to the reform of accounting systems, the results of this axis came as shown in the following table)4(

Table (4): Study sample answers about the importance of graduates having the ability to self-learning and continuous development

arrangement	direction	standard deviation	SMA	Not important at all	not important	without opinion	Important	very important	In your opinion, the job of an accountant requires that the graduate have the following:
01	very important	0.70	4.23	0	2.7	4.5	46.5	46.2	Continuing attendance -1 at developmental courses related to accounting in order to be aware of new developments and changes
03	Important	0.95	4.1	0.9	9.9	6.3	45	37.8	View the latest versions -2 and amendments of accounting standards and related laws and instructions
04	Important	1.02	4.06	1.8	3.6	6.6	48.1	39.9	Friction with -3 experienced accountants, communicating with them, and discussing the most prominent accounting problems and issues
02	Important	0.74	4.39	0	4.5	1.8	44.1	49.5	Keeping abreast of -4 technological developments and developing skills to benefit from them in accounting work
05	Important	1.02	3.65	2.7	14.4	16.2	48.6	18	Preserving the -5 credibility of accountants and the continuity of the profession by keeping pace with changes and updates in accounting education standards
	Important	0.57	4.09	Statistical indicators of the axis as one unit					

Likert scale (4.19- 3.40) expressing the general trend of the answers. The axis was important, as well. We note that the value of the standard deviation of the axis as one unit is 0.57, and a low value that reflects the homogeneity of the answers and their dispersion.

Fifth: Testing research hypotheses

1- :First hypothesis test

Table 5)

T -test indicates that accounting education contributes to the reform of accounting systems adopted in the local environment

T	ddl	Sig.	Difference	Interval of confidence the
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		(bilateral)	moyenne	difference is 95%	
				Inferior	superior
30,316	50	0.000	1.3244	1.6330	1.5325

In light of the results of table (5) above, we found that Sig (a as its value was estimated at $.05 >$ (which indicates the existence of a statistically significant difference. Therefore, the null $.(0.000)$ hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted that accounting education contributes to system reform Accounting approved in the local environment, and through this result obtained, the results of this axis can be generalized to the research community, and the morale of the .results obtained and their great ability to represent reality

2- Test the second hypothesis

Table No.)6(T -test Information and communication technology is important for qualifying graduates to contribute to the reform of accounting systems

T	ddl	Sig. (bilateral)	Difference moyenne	Interval of confidence the difference is 95%	
				Inferior	superior
28,717	50	0.000	1.29109	1.6502	1.9316

In the light of the results of Table (6), it is shown to us that Sig (a as its value was estimated at $.05 >$ (which confirms the existence of statistically significant differences. Therefore, the null $.(0.000)$ hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted that information and communication technology is important for qualifying graduates To contribute to the reform of accounting systems, and these results allow us to generalize the results of this axis to the research community, and .confirm the results obtained and their great ability to represent reality

3- Third hypothesis test

T test Graduates possessing the ability to self-learning and continuous development is important in -qualifying accounting graduates to contribute to the reform of accounting systems

T	Ddl	Sig. (bilateral)	Difference moyenne	Interval of confidence the difference is 95%	
				Inferior	superior
21,631	50	0.000	1.17112	1.9800	1.4422

In light of the results of Table No. (7) above, we found that Sig (a as its value was $.05 >$ (estimated at (0.000)), which confirms the existence of statistically significant differences. Therefore, we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis that graduates have the ability to self-learning and continuous development It is important in qualifying accounting graduates to contribute to the reform of accounting systems, and these results allow us to generalize the results of this axis to .the research community, and confirm the results obtained and their great ability to represent reality

The fourth axis: conclusions and proposals

First: conclusions

- 1- Accounting education is an organized process with a scientific and practical pattern, aiming to ensure that outputs are obtained with high efficiency and skill
- 2- The International Accounting Education Standards are an essential source for providing accountants with the technical and professional aspects, ethical values and professional behavior, and this includes obtaining a scientifically, practically and ethically successful accountant
- 3- The successful accountant contributes to the development and reform of the approved accounting systems through the good competence and qualification he obtained from the learning process
- 4- The graduate's possession of the personal ability to learn, self-development and continuous development qualifies him to develop and reform accounting systems
- 5- The graduate's knowledge of information and communication technology and his ability and desire for self-learning and continuous development help him to innovate and develop existing accounting systems

Second: Proposals

- 1- Iraqi universities must fully adopt international accounting education standards to improve accounting education, ensuring highly qualified outputs
- 2- The necessity of striving by universities and professional organizations related to the development and qualification of accountants and auditors on an ongoing basis to ensure their new competence
- 3- Work on developing the personal capabilities of accountants and auditors for self-education and continuous development to improve the provision of the best accounting services by them
- 4- Paying attention to information and communication technology, and qualifying accountants to use digital technologies to keep abreast of developments and changes in the work environment

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