
Bridging theory and practice: Contemporary perspectives in accounting and finance

Dharen Kumar Pandey

Indian Institute of Management Sambalpur, Sambalpur, India

Email: dharenp@gmail.com

Abstract

With the dedicated support of our editorial board members, authors, peer reviewers, section editors, and production team, we are pleased to present the June 2024 issue of the International Journal of Accounting, Business and Finance (IJABF), now published under the auspices of the Indian Accounting Association Patna Branch. This volume (3:2) features five research articles addressing critical contemporary issues in accounting and finance, from audit quality standards to financial inclusion measurement and climate finance strategies. Each contribution not only provides valuable empirical insights but also identifies important avenues for future research. We extend our sincere gratitude to all contributors whose scholarly work and rigorous peer review have made this issue possible. These collective efforts continue to advance IJABF's mission of bridging academic research with professional practice in the field of accounting and finance.

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Editorial: IJABF Volume 3 Issue 2

The June 2024 issue of the International Journal of Accounting, Business and Finance, now published by the Indian Accounting Association Patna Branch, presents five thought-provoking research papers that address pressing issues in accounting, finance, and governance. These studies offer valuable insights into audit quality standards, financial inclusion, climate finance, and corporate governance, with implications for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers.

The issue opens with a timely study by Pinello et al. (2025) examining stakeholder responses to proposed audit quality standards by the AICPA and PCAOB. The authors analyze comment letters on regulatory updates aimed at modernizing audit practices. Their findings reveal a clear divide: while large accounting firms support the changes, smaller firms and individual practitioners express concerns over increased compliance costs and scalability issues. This research underscores the challenges of balancing regulatory improvements with practical implementation, particularly for smaller audit firms. The study serves as a critical reference for standard-setters seeking to refine audit quality frameworks without disproportionately burdening smaller practitioners.

Two papers in this issue focus on financial inclusion in Bihar, India, employing advanced analytical techniques to assess efficiency and develop measurement frameworks. Kushwaha, Kumar, and Kumari (2025) apply Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) to evaluate district-level financial inclusion efficiency from 2016 to 2021. Their study identifies significant disparities, with some districts excelling while others lag behind. These findings enable policymakers to target interventions more effectively, ensuring that financial services reach underserved populations.

Complementing this work, Ranjan and Chaurasia (2025) develop a novel Financial Inclusion Index using a non-parametric DEA approach. By deriving data-driven weights, their methodology overcomes the subjectivity of traditional index construction. The study highlights stark variations across Bihar's districts, with Patna emerging as a high-performing region and



Arwal among the lowest. This research provides a replicable model for assessing financial inclusion in other regions, contributing to global efforts to enhance economic access.

Sodha and Bhayani (2025) shift the focus to climate finance, examining mechanisms to support India's transition to a low-emission economy. The authors propose a four-pillar strategy emphasizing private sector engagement, international partnerships, diversified financial instruments, and innovation. Their framework aligns with India's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy, offering actionable recommendations for mobilizing climate finance. Given the urgent need for sustainable funding in developing nations, this study provides a roadmap for policymakers to attract investment while addressing climate vulnerabilities.

The final paper by Yamani (2025) explores the relationship between audit committee characteristics, board gender diversity, and financial performance in Saudi Arabian banks. Contrary to conventional expectations, the study finds that larger audit committees may hinder performance, while gender diversity does not significantly moderate this relationship. These findings contribute to the ongoing debate on corporate governance in emerging markets, suggesting that structural factors beyond diversity may play a more critical role in financial performance.

This issue highlights the dynamic interplay between regulation, inclusion, sustainability, and governance in accounting and finance. The studies collectively emphasize the need for evidence-based policymaking, scalable regulatory frameworks, and targeted interventions to address economic disparities. As the journal now comes under the aegis of the Indian Accounting Association Patna Branch, we reaffirm our commitment to publishing high-quality research that bridges theory and practice in the field of accounting and finance. We are grateful to the Office Bearers (Table 1), Executive Members (Table 2), and the life members of the Indian Accounting Association Patna Branch for approving the publication of the IJABF under the Association's banner in the Annual General Meeting held in December 2024. We hope these contributions inspire further research and inform decision-making across academia, industry, and government.

Enjoy reading!

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