



ESG, ETHICS, AUDIT REPORTS, AND GENERIC SKILLS IN ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

**EDITOR
NORKHAIRUL HAFIZ BAJURI**



UTM
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA

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This book comprises eight chapters that discuss some of the most formidable problems facing accountancy in the twenty-first century. It is a must read for financial and accounting students, academics and researchers. These are started by the role of theory in social science; together with assessing the value of audited accounts for the Malaysian Public Service, he analyses what makes an accounting graduate employable and studies the ethics of the students. It one also it looks at ESG commitment and financial performance relationship, whether students are prepared or not for 4th industrial revolution, and raising capital through equity crowdfunding. The last chapter it talks on ethical behaviour among auditors with a focus on gender differences and moral values. Given that it has been the cumulative effort of different persons who contributed differently to this work through their various language styles, one is sure to find this very instrumental in providing fresh insights into modern accounting challenges.



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CONTRIBUTORS

Dewi Fariha Abdullah *Faculty of Management, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Malaysia*

Dharventh Chandira Segaran *Faculty of Management, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Malaysia*

Francis Kwaku Kuma *Department of Accountancy, Koforidua Technical University, Ghana*

Kavitha Mathiazhan *Faculty of Management, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Malaysia*

Maisarah Mohamed Saat *Faculty of Management, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Malaysia*

Mohd Effandi Yusoff *Faculty of Management, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Malaysia*

Mohd Noor Azli Ali Khan *Faculty of Management, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Malaysia*

Nor Hamimah Mastor *Faculty of Management, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Malaysia*

Norhalimah Idris *Faculty of Management, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Malaysia*

Noriza Mohd Jamal *Faculty of Management, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Malaysia*

Norkhairul Hafiz Bajuri *Faculty of Management, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Malaysia*

Nur Fatina Ahmad Sanadi *Faculty of Management, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Malaysia*

Tamilselvan Suparmaniam *Faculty of Management, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Malaysia*

Tar Yoke Hui *Faculty of Management, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Malaysia*

Vishalan Naidu Panichelvam *Faculty of Management, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru, Malaysia*

PREFACE

If you pick up this small book, the chances are you are a student, an academician, or a researcher at one of the top universities in the country. We believe, this small manuscript in one way or another, is going to be informative for you. Insight into some of the most challenging issues facing the accounting profession during the second half of the twenty-first century, including perennial questions, has been deliberated upon. Though – admittedly – it may not be even close to being exhaustive, never mind life-changing; at the very least, the book is a reassuring start – and hopefully, refreshing too. Every discerning reader should gain some invaluable insight.

The book consists of eight chapters. The first revisits the basic functions of theory in social science settings and their associated hazards. The second chapter explores the effectiveness of audited reports in the Malaysian public sector, specifically from the three ministries under study. This chapter concluded that the Auditor General's reports have effectively highlighted these agencies' weaknesses. The next chapter investigates generic skills among accounting graduates amidst the twenty-first century's growing work-life challenges. Skills such as communication, computing, and thinking have been considered imperative and vital and hence must be emphasised. The subsequent chapter moves on to students' perceptions of the importance of ethics in the accounting profession. Self-efficacy and subjective norms significantly influence the intention to be ethical.

The fifth chapter delves into one of the hot topics of recent years: environmental, social, and governance (ESG) commitment. Focusing on the energy sector, firm size has no moderating effect on the relationship between ESG disclosure and financial performance (FP). The sixth chapter focused on the awareness and readiness of accounting students

in the face of the 4th Industrial Revolution, concluding that they possess the necessary knowledge and awareness of this latest paradigm shift. They perceive themselves as possessing a high level of technological and digital skills, particularly in digital currencies and data analytical tools, although many openly admit a deficiency in leadership skills.

The seventh chapter critically examines equity crowdfunding as a viable way of raising capital, with major pieces of literature summarised and appraised. The eighth chapter returns our focus to the issue of ethical behaviour among auditors. Male and female employees indeed have different perceptions of this issue. At the same time, positive and moderate relationships between the three auditors' ethical values of integrity, objectivity, confidentiality, and ethics are also observed. These are the brief outlines of each study's focus and findings. All of which are important in their way.

Finally, as a collection of work by a multitude of researchers – which hitherto would be laid to waste – a large degree of shifting in language tones and styles is inevitable. That is just the natural consequence of a collaboration involving a host of researchers and writers of various backgrounds and genres. But in diversity can also lie possible beauty and joy; if we remain objective and keep on searching for the truth.

Norkhairul Hafiz Bajuri

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