

# Article Review 2: Cybersecurity and banks performance: Evidence from Gulf Cooperation Council Review

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## **Introduction**

The article titled Cybersecurity and Banks performance: Evidence from Gulf Cooperation Council takes a look into how investments in cyber security effects productivity and profits by making investors and customers feel safe about the security and safety of their finances and information. It looks deeply into the cyber security setting during the pandemic of Covid 19 in 2020 and following years and concludes with the fact that cyber security does influence financial performance.

## **Relation to the Principles of Social Science**

This article ties pretty well back to the 7 principles of social sciences, and it rather strongly identifies with a few of them. The first being empiricism, the idea that you can only study behavior that is real to the senses. This is shown through seeing their research tables and the changes the tables go through as different factors are applied. The next principle is Objectivity, which states that the research must be value-free and not promote a personal opinion or point of view. This is clearly shown in the fact that much of the information presented here is data in the form of tables, numbers, and explanations; at no point do they bring their own views or opinions into the research or their conclusions. Then there is also Ethical Neutrality, the idea that when conducting research, scientists must adhere to ethical standards. This is shown in the article through the data that they were given for their research, they made requests for it to study and did not violate guidelines to get data.

## **Research Question and Hypothesis**

The research questions this article wants to answer are stated clearly “What level of cybersecurity did GCC listed banks achieve during COVID - 19? And how does this level

relate to their financial performance?" The independent variable is the level of cyber security in the banks, the dependent variable is the banks return on assets (ROAs) mainly. Now, while a Hypothesis is not clearly stated in the article based on the data and research questions, it could be if the level of Cyber security affects a bank's return on assets.

### **Research Methods**

In this Article, surveys were the biggest method of research used. The Scientists sent out emails alongside checklists with Cybersecurity questions to several banks. They also used archival research by going through data, through things like bank annual reports and the Bloomberg database. The data used was also quantitative as seen through the tables and connections between statistics shown and explained within the article.

### **Types of Data/Analysis**

The main type of data Analysis used was Descriptive Analysis, regression Analysis and correlation analysis to explain the data in the tables and track the data throughout the years of COVID. Explaining the connections to how variables affected each other and finally to match the patterns and create a full picture that can be easier to read.

### **Connection to Course**

While this article doesn't seem to connect to the course at first. Upon looking deeper, there are several connections present that can be applied. For one, we learned about many of the methods used in class through the first few modules, allowing us to understand the outline of the information presented. Then there's the fact that this was in a way a study of social and financial systems affected by technology, a subject discussed in Module 2. Due to the timeframe of this article's information, that being the years of covid, a lot of social systems had to be moved

online, thus, some of the information presented can be connected back to those subjects. Then there the connection to the human side of this as well, due to covid moving many things digital, new policies had to be made and the addition of IT specialists on boards became present.

### **Possible Connection to Marginalized Groups**

While the article doesn't directly mention marginalized groups as a subject, it is implied that having a more diverse board of directors can help handle issues that may arise in the cyber field. The article mentions women having more representation on boards and having IT staff as well. Also, the portion mentioning the statistic of having woman on the board was for a control group the scientists had while doing this study, as such, the connections or effects of to marginalized groups were not too well explored in this article.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, this article took a look at whether or not Cybersecurity had an impact on the financial performance of banks. The conclusion it came to was that higher cybersecurity does in fact correlate with higher return on assets. The article also states that there should be more transparency in cybersecurity and how secure they really are, alongside believing that having IT people or those well-versed in cyberspace on governing boards will help as things shift more into cyberspace, especially given this was conducted around the time of COVID where many systems were moved to the digital world. Finally, the study suggested that the use of a unified cybersecurity frame work would benefit financial systems like banks.

Work Sited

Al-Sartawi, A. M. A. M., Sanad, Z., Shehadeh, M., & Binsaddiq, R. (2025). Cybersecurity and banks performance: Evidence from Gulf Cooperation Council. *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, 19(1), 52–71. [View of Cybersecurity and Banks Performance: Evidence from Gulf Cooperation Council](#)