

The Role of Palestinian Association of Certified Public Accountants in Promoting the Palestinian Audit Profession

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Abstract

This descriptive study aims at evaluating the role of PACP in promoting the Palestinian audit profession. The level of achieving its designed objectives springs off its vision. A questionnaire was distributed to a sample representing 56.5% PACPA active members. The data analyzed reflected the remarkable achievements to the objectives of PACPA viz:-developing members capabilities with 89% level, continuous education to members with 75%, adherence to the code of conduct with 71.5%, protection of members interests with 68.6%, and compliance with the international accounting and auditing standards with 59.5% completion level. The level of overall achievement to these objectives was 72.48% level. Hypotheses testing reveals the unanimous agreements between members over the achieved levels of the said objectives. Many obstacles the PACPA still encounters headed by the professional independence impairments, and inadequate compliance with international accounting and auditing standards. The researcher recommends serious steps to curb them in order to grant reliable audit profession capable of attracting foreign investments to inflow and upgrade the national economy.

Keywords: Audit Profession, Board of Auditing (BOPA), International Auditing Standards, Low Audit fees, Part-time auditing.

1.1 Introduction

Like other professions, accountancy plays a vital role in economic development. It provides reliable information leading to sound economic decision to the interested parties (stakeholders). High quality corporate reporting may improve transparency which forms a basis for globalization of economies that facilitates the investments mobilization across borders, creates a sound investment environment because of positive impact on investors' confidence level, and provides reliable information to a wide spectrum of population that may qualify them to form sound economic decisions. This high quality of reporting could be implemented by a highly qualified accountant

Building accountancy professional body in any country or region is a complex task because it is a part of economy's legal and regulatory system. It is also required to meet the interests of stakeholders, and attune to the available educational qualifications of the society. Further readiness is necessary to cope with the international dimensions of the profession through the adherence to the International accounting and auditing standards and statements.

In order to maintain control, proficiency, independence, and quality of performance, the audit professional bodies are formed around the world. These bodies perform their duties including the development of the capacities and skills of their members and protect their interests against aggressive parties that hinder them from achieving their objectives.

1.1.1 The Accountancy Professional Bodies in Palestine

Accountancy and auditing practices were observed in Palestine at the time of British rule since 1929 (Helles, 1992, p168). The first Accountancy profession company "George & Khader" started operating in 1944, followed by "Saba & Co." till the 1948 war. Majority of accountancy professionals shifted to neighboring countries specially Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The profession in West Bank was regulated by the Jordan Law (10) for 1961 which remained in effect till it was replaced by the Palestinian Law (9) for 2004. In Gaza strip, the accountancy profession was governed by British colonial rule number (18/1929). It also remained under the Egyptian administration till 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Accountancy Professionals in Gaza joined the "Association of Arab Accountants & Auditors" which was established in 1979, and Association of Auditors which was established in 1998. In West Bank, the Association of Certified Public Accountants was established in 1986. These bodies had little developmental impact on the audit profession because they were politically oriented (Buheisi, 2005). In 1995, the Palestinian Association Of Certified Public Accountants (PACPA) was established whose members belong to both West Bank and Gaza Strip.

PACPA was founded under the license of Ministry of Interior, Palestinian National Authority in Ramallah. It enjoys a corporate body: financial & administrative independence to its own movable and immovable assets in order to perform all legal acts needed to maintain a reliable auditing profession capable of contributing to the development of the Palestinian economy.

The main mission of PACPA is to develop:- the professional capability of its members, ensure their

adherence to each of the professional code of conduct, and international accounting & auditing standards. This mission, if achieved, will positively contribute to upgrading the Palestinian identity and support the Palestinian statehood in the eyes of foreign investors.

The- Palestinian official body-the Council of Auditing Profession was established in 2008 by a presidential decree, in accordance with article (3) of Auditing profession law for 2004, to organize auditing profession in Palestinian territories. The council enjoys legal personality and legal capacity to carry out all actions and behaviors to ensure the realization of the goals stated in the provisions of the audit profession law no.(9) for 2004. The council in cooperation with PACPA, plays a virtual role in regulating audit profession in Palestine and for raising the level of transparency and professionalism. For achieving that it issued in meetings held on 16th and 21st Jul, 2013 instructions, the PACPA licensed members have to comply with. These instructions deal with each of the following:-

Granting permits to persons to perform auditing, Audit certificate issuing, Issuing Code of Professional Conduct to practicing Auditor, Holding certificate Exams, Auditing investigation and disciplinary committees hauling the files in the criminal offense, and issuing the rhythms of sanctions and disciplinary procedures against mistaken auditors (www.BOPA.ps).

1.1.2 Literature Review and Previous Research Studies:

Accountancy, a socio-economic profession, serves a wide spectrum of society members through providing them with their informational needs which may qualify for sound economic decisions. This matter could be achieved when highly qualified accountants perform accounting, auditing, and taxation jobs in an efficient manner that may ultimately result in a proper allocation and management of economic resources in both private and public sectors. Professional accountants, by such actions, ultimately contribute to the growth of individual companies, and assist the governments in achieving their economic and social objectives. It is because the accountants provide assurance on the reliability of information underlying the stakeholders decision-making process concerning allocation of economic resources (IFAC, 2011;1).

There are many global professional organizations which contributed effectively to the development of accounting like US American Accountant Association (AAA), the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), and Institutes of Chartered Accountants in each of England, Canada and Australia, which all work on the development of science and accounting applications, through research and studies, and to make recommendations to develop accounting principles that have enabled this science to keep pace with economic development, and service units and the Department of economic and Investor community. These organizations also helped to solve many of the procedural accounting problems by setting fixed rules and uniform basis for measuring the level of corporate performance and display their own data to the public. Also Universities and specialized colleges in the world played a distinct role in the dissemination of knowledge of accounting and may prepare generations of accountants armed with the latest science related to the profession. The university professors and academics have great merit in spreading the accounting thought in many countries of the world. (Palestinian Accountant, 2009)

In order to achieve its objectives efficiently, accountancy professions might need to be regulated by laws, ethics and standards or statements. This regulation is supposed to abridge the imbalance between the service provider (accounting practitioner) and the service purchaser (interested party in decision making) by providing a level of comfort that the provider has necessary qualifications and obliged to meet standards, ethics and pertaining laws and statements (IFAC, 2011;2). The accountants' work could enjoy high quality and may positively affect the stakeholder interests, and ultimately benefit economy and society members. Like any career, there are four key elements to regulate the audit profession, namely: General framework for professional practice, bodies or professional associations oversee the regulation of the profession, Constitution and the ethics and behavior, and generally acceptable professional standards. Any regulating attempt to the profession may affect at least one of the mentioned key elements.

A study conducted by (Sweidan, 2006) concluded the urgent need to make reforms over accountancy profession in Saudi Arabia, and in Australia (Hamburger, 1989). A study about the accountancy profession in Germany concluded the need of law of auditing to be reformed (Vieten, 1995), in order to abridge the expectation gap between the stakeholders and auditors (Dewing & Rusel, 2002), and recommended the auditing law underlies serious reforms in order to narrow the gap.

The study (Shurayqi, 2013) about the regulation of Audit profession in Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco revealed urgent need to regulate the auditing profession in these countries in order to keep on serving their respective national economies, and to enable them implementing the partnership agreement with the European Union and fulfill continuous progress of their national capital markets. His comprehensive recommendations included the need to keep the profession on coping with the globalization requirements through maintaining professionalism measures, educating public about the audit profession role and importance, and setting qualifying programs and measures to its professional, and putting suitable audit fees to the auditors and grant them measures and codes

of conduct to keep their professional independence.

(Enechikeluba,2012) in his research about the impact of professional bodies on the development of accountancy profession concluded that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) more than any other professional body to the accountancy profession because of being responsible for :- formation on Nigerian Accounting Standards Board, training professional accountants through professional exams, and preparing national Standards and guidelines for auditing, and organizing seminars, and conducting training courses to accountancy professionals and holding continuing education programs. The researchers recommendations included:- that it is must for Nigerian accountancy bodies to re-invent themselves in order to remain relevant by collaborating with one another, encouraging and further training accountancy experts in the areas most relevant to the development of accountancy profession. Finally, harmonization among professional bodies is needed further regulation to accountancy profession framework, code of conduct adherence, and to be in one line with IFAC requirements.

Helles,1992 studied the evolution of Accounting in developing countries. His study focused on Hashemite Kingdome of Jordan. The main purposes of the study was to ascertain whether Jordan's accounting systems (enterprise, government, social) provide the necessary information for its socio- economic development planning and to suggest means by which to improve accounting in the country.. It is shown that Jordan is a developing country, which was and still is subject to pressure from foreign powers both politically and economically. This pressure has created a bias towards the U.K and USA accounting systems. Laws and regulations, accounting education and the accounting profession, are oriented towards the accounting of these two countries.

The study revealed that:- public accounting has not reached the stage where it can be recognized as a developed profession, the most important items needed to improve national accounting practices are as follows: (1) an active accounting organization; (2) accounting principles suitable to the Jordanian environment; (3) official auditing pronouncements; and (4) a code of professional conduct . The empirical survey also revealed the inadequacy and unsuitability of current reporting practices to the needs of the local users of financial reports. It also identified the following as major problems facing accounting profession: (1) shortage of qualified accountants; (2) weakness and underdevelopment of the Jordanian accounting curricula; and (3) lack of sufficiently qualified teaching staff.

Several recommendations are made concerning the development of the accounting profession and education so they can meet the challenge of economic development. These recommendations call for improvement in accounting practices, organization of the profession, coordination of efforts with government, and increase contacts with accountants in other countries.

Soda , 2015 study to improve the external auditors quality in Jordan with aims to identify areas through which the quality of external audit in the Jordanian business environment can be improved. One of the most important findings of the study is that there is a clear impact of the study variables, represented by the existence of regulatory system of quality control performance and the use of information technology by the external auditing firms, as well as the activation of the legal accountability of the audit firms to improve the quality of auditing services in the business environment. The most significant recommendations of the study are the need to activate the means of performance control on the audit firms and reliance on the information technology and modern information systems as well as increasing the awareness of the auditors to their legal responsibilities when auditing the activities of the data framework is in accordance with the international audit and assurance standards requirements

(Al-Amro&Al-Angari ,2007) study which aimed at evaluating major regulatory pillars of auditing profession in Saudi Arabia (including professional standards, ethical codes of professional conduct, fellowship examinations, continuous professional education programs, quality review programs, and communication channels that assure the delivery of rules and regulations to auditors and society in general) through measuring the effectiveness of such regulatory pillars in dealing and coping with the difficulties and challenges facing the Saudi auditing profession's environment and restricting its negative effects. The main challenges to Saudi profession are limited compliance with professional rules like auditing standards and code of conduct, Continuous fees paid to auditors, Existence of Arab professional organizations and bodies, and Membership of Saudi Arabia in the World Trade Organization. The paper is concluded by providing some recommendations, such as participation of academics in correcting the laws of accounting and auditing, assuring the existence of fair balance between fees and effort in all audit assignments, and the consideration that should be placed by the Saudi Organization for Certified Public Accountants (SOCPA) on various required changes on its strategic plan that would enable Saudi Arabia to achieve the requirements of the World Trade Organization. The researchers also recommended some future research topics.

Nassar,etal,2013 studied the accounting education and accountancy profession in Jordan. The aim of the study was to identify the problems obstructing the accounting education & profession and the techniques of improving them. The accounting education should seek to adapt professional trend and many strategies could be

adopted to improve them including : up-to-date accounting curriculum; textbooks; journals; references; teaching materials and so on; develop new and more effective teaching approaches; through up-dating academic schemes and syllabi and using local environment and experience in teaching; up-date accounting professors by encouraging them to participate in research programs, and national and international conferences; encourage local authors to produce textbooks and translations into Arabic.

In Palestinian territories, (Hellis&Miqdad,2000) describe the accounting profession as a "mean" because of the belief that it oftenly present a legal channel for tax elusion (evasion). Regarding to the factors affecting success of accounting and auditing firms they found, the accountants working at the firm were efficient if the firm is famous . Regarding the confidence between accounting firms and tax department, the study showed that the relation lacks the satisfactory level of confidence. The tax department did not trust the work of the accountants, and depended on intuitive estimation. Regarding the obstacles facing accounting firms, the researchers found that the non-clear tax regulation and the lack of confidence between the firms and tax departments were the main obstacles facing the accounting firms.

Durgham,2009 study recognized the problems facing external auditors in Gaza as follows: audit profession regulating bodies do not enforce to comply with auditing and accounting international standards, Professional bodies do not effectively play a vital role in spreading aware among public about the role of auditing profession, government do not give importance to the audit profession, low audit fees are paid to auditors, and the rules and regulations pertaining to audit profession are outdated and need to be updated. His recommendations included the absolute adherence by auditors to professional code of conduct, amendment of the audit profession law no.9 for 2004 is must, reorganizing audit profession board to include academics, and increase training courses to auditors.

(Mdwekh,2013) refers to a gap between accountancy practices and academic university programs. His recommendations included the need to improve the academic programs to cope with the economic and technical developments ,so that they keep on serving audit profession . The study also recommended that Palestinian universities should teach accounting students ethics of the profession and Islamic values, provide the financial support to improve their capabilities to develop their teaching abilities supported by technical means software packages in accounting and auditing.

(Al-dawoud, 2014) opines that irrespective of tremendous growth achieved by Palestinian audit profession, no specific measures could be seriously adopted for permitting audit service establishments. A lot of audit service firms are family controlled which may cause :- failures in important technical expertise shortage in necessary financial support to improve professionalism. The entry of foreign audit companies lead to uncontrolled growth in the number of audit professionals in the local market and incited the level of compliance with the international accounting and auditing standards. The researchers recommended the increase of PACPAs activities with regard to the following: more training courses to its members, strict measures to protect members interests, and reducing the level of harmful competition among its members in the local market.

A study conducted (Buheisi,2010) reveals that accountancy profession in Palestine is weak because of many reasons like :absence of the professional laws regulating the profession, lack of continuous education to accountants, misunderstanding of the public to the role of accounting profession, low level of using accounting information in economic decision ,and inactive role of the profession association in serving the profession. His recommendations included: the need of regulation of the profession by a joint professional -governmental body., increase the capacity of accountants through continuous training programs and increase the users awareness about the role and importance of accounting profession.

1.1.3 Study Objectives:

The objectives of the study are to examine the PACPA efforts in performing the following tasks :-

1. Upgrade the professional capabilities of the practitioners of accountancy and audit services.
2. Enhance the adherence level of practitioners to the professional and ethical codes of conduct.
3. Increase the compliance level of its practitioners with auditing Standards and statements requirements.
4. Protect the PACPA members interests.
5. Observe continuing education to the practitioners.
6. Scrutinize the problems that the PACPA may encounter in achieving the abovementioned objectives, and suggest proper solutions to them.

1.1.2 Research Problem:

The PACPA has been working for approximately eleven years to achieve its objectives. The researcher believes that such a period may be sufficient to evaluate the performance of this unique body in Palestine. It is believed that much work is still needed by PACPA to achieve its designed objectives of serving the audit profession in order to ultimately contribute to the development of the Palestinian economy.

1.1.3 Data & Research Method:

This descriptive study uses secondary and primary sources of data. The primary source includes the

administration of a well structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was developed based on the objectives of the study. A five-point likert summated rating scale was used in line with the type of information being sought. Thus, it is categorized as follows: strongly agree with (4 points), agreed with (3 points), neither agree nor disagree with (2 points), disagree with (1 point), and strongly disagree with (0 points). The questionnaire enjoys a high level of 93% Cronbach Level which assures a high consistency of its contents and reliability to implement the purpose of the study. Thereafter, it was distributed to a sample of 130 out of 207 (www.PACPA.ps.2016) Certified Public Accountants (auditors) working in local and international auditing firms in Palestinian Territories.

It was found that 117 questionnaires representing 90% of the respondents were returned. The collected questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive statistics to determine the level of agreement on achievements reached. Specifically, the mean value of descriptive table is compared with the cut-off mean score computed as total scale measure (10) points divided by the (5) point scale. i.e (2.00) points which forms the basis for PACPA least accepted success level in achieving its goals, and the percentage of achievement to the objectives was also calculated. Finally, the variance analysis methods, like ANOVA or F or T tests, were also applied in hypotheses testing. The null hypothesis is supported or approved in case the estimated significance level exceeds (0.05) significance level. Otherwise, it is rejected.

1.1.4 The Features of the Sample

Table(1) Demographic Characteristics of the sample

	Variable	Level	Frequency	%
1.	Position	Senior Auditor	47	40%
		Junior(executive) Auditor	70	60%
		Total	117	100%
2	Educational Level	Bachelor degree at least	81	69.2
		Master Degree	21	17.9
		Other	09	12.9
		Total	117	100%
3	Experience	5 years maximum	9	7.7
		5-15 years	42	35.9
		15 years at least	66	56.4
		Total	117	100%
4	Audit certificate	Arab Certified Public Accountant	60	51.3
		American Certified Public Accountant	41	35
		Others	16	13
		Total	117	100%

Table (1) shows the study sample(respondents) characteristics as the following:-

With regard to position:- 60% of respondents are junior auditors(executives) and, 40% are senior auditors. This composition fairly represent the universe. With regard to educational level, 69.9% of respondents hold bachelor degree as maximum, 17.9% of them have master degree, and the remaining respondents have other qualifications. These figures indicate the level of awareness and knowledge the respondents may have about the subject of the study. With regard to experience:- 35.6% of respondents have high level of experience(i.e. 15 years experience as minimum), 56.4% have medium level of experience(5- 15 years), and the refreshers with 5 years maximum, represent 7.7% of the sample. This characteristic shows the sufficient level of respondents capabilities of evaluating the on ground situation of the profession. Finally, 51.3% respondents hold Arab Certified Public Accountant certificate issued by International Arab Society of Certified Accountants of Jordan. This category got license of practicing the profession before enacting the current audit profession No.(9) for 2004. 35% of respondents hold Certified Public Accountants certificate of United State of America(USA) which is directly recognized as Palestinian Audit certificate underlying audit exam held by BOPA, and 13% of them hold other certificates like British Chartered Accountant Certificates, and New Zeland or Australian certificates...etc..Such certificates cannot qualify its holders to practice auditing in Palestinian territories unless they appear in the exam held by POBA.

1.1.5 Descriptive Statistics of the Sample Responses:

A-The Extent of Achieving PACPAs Designed Objectives:

Table(2):Arithmetic Means and Standard Deviations to data collected on PACPA objectives

No.	Objective	Mean	Standard deviation	% Achievement level(%)
1	Developing members capabilities	3.561	0.375	89.02
2	Adherence to the Code of conduct	2.861	0.675	71.53
3	Compliance with International Standards	2.380	0.623	59.50
4	Protection of Members Interests	2.745	0.68	68.62
5	Continuous education to members	3.000	0.55	75.00
	Overall	2.899	0.581	72.48

Table (2) presents the arithmetic mean and standard deviation of the data collected through the questionnaire about the objectives of the PACPA in order to promote the Palestinian audit profession. . It has been noticed that means of respondents to any PACPA objective exceeds the cut-off value of (2.00),being the minimum acceptance level of implementation. By reviewing the percentage, we find that the objective" Developing members capabilities" ranked the first position with mean of (3.561) and achievement percentage of(89.02%).This matter seems very essential for any profession to progress. The second objective" Continuous education to members" recorded (3.00) mean and implementation percentage of (75.00%) ,which strongly supports its predecessor .The third ranked objective " Adherence to the Code of conduct" which has organizational impact on the profession recorded (2.861) mean and 71.53%.implementation percentage. It is followed by the objective" Protection of Members Interests" of (2.745) mean and with(68.02%) implementation level.The last objective "Compliance with International Standards" recorded a mean of (2.380) with (59.50%) implementation level . The overall mean to the achievement of the objectives of PACPA was (2.899) with (72.48%) achievement level. This figure reflects the material achievements level of PACPA success in building up reputable audit profession capable of positively contributing to building the Palestinian economy and attracting the foreign investments.

B-Obstacles of PACPA While Achieving Its Objectives:

Table(3):Arithmetic Means and Standard Deviations to data collected about obstacles of achieving PACPA objectives

No.	Obstacles	Mean	Standard deviation	Effect level(%)	Rank
1	Part-time auditing practices	3.12	0.35	78.0	5
2	Opinion trading practices	3.30	0.47	82.5	3
3	Low- audit fees	3.35	0.24	83.8	2
4	Lack of adequate training	3.20	0.62	80.0	4
5	Improper compliance with Professional code of conduct	3.54	0.48	88.5	1
6	In adequate compliance with International Standards	3.11	0.51	77.8	6
7	Public misunderstanding of audit role and importance	2.60	0.58	65.0	7
8	Ineffective control of PACPA over its members	2.25	0.26	56.25	9
9	Lack of governmental control	2.46	0.15	61.5	8
	Overall	2.99	0.41	74.8	

Table (3) presents the arithmetic mean, and standard deviation of the data collected from respondents through the questionnaire about the obstacles the PACPA encounters for the sake of promoting the Palestinian audit profession. . It has been noticed that every mean pertaining to each obstacle exceeds the cut-off value (2.00),being the minimum level of materiality in effect. By reviewing them , we find that the obstacle “Improper compliance with Professional code of conduct” ranked the first position with mean of (3.54) and (88.5%) effect level. The second obstacle" Low- audit fees” recorded (3.35) mean and (83.8%) effect level.The third ranked obstacle " Opinion trading practices " recorded (3.30) mean and (82.5%) effect level. It is followed by the obstacle" Lack of adequate training” of (3.20) mean and with(80%).The obstacle " Part-time auditing practices "which recorded a mean of (3.12) with (78.00%) effect level. The following obstacles “In adequate compliance with International Standards” recorded a mean of (3.11) and 77.8% level of importance, followed by “Public misunderstanding of audit role and importance” whose mean (2.60) and with 65.00% importance level. The “lack of governmental rule” recoded a mean of(2.46) and 61.5% effect. The last obstacle examined “Ineffective control of PACPA over its members which recorded a mean (2.25) and 56.25% effect level.. The overall mean to the obstacles facing PACPA was (2.899) with (72.48%) effect level. This figure reflects the challenge size the PACPA is facing to gain success in building up reputable audit profession capable of positively contributing to

development of the Palestinian economy and attracting the foreign investments

1.1.6 Hypotheses Testing:

HO1:There is no significant variance among sample members over the role of PACPA in promoting Palestinian audit profession ascribed to respondents position.

Table(4):The results of one sample T- tests to data collected

No.	Objective	Computed T- value	Sign. Value	Decision
1	Developing members capabilities	1.1	0.31	support
2	Adherence to the Code of conduct	0.34	0.73	support
3	Compliance with International Standards	1.01	0.31	support
4	Protection of Members Interests	0.18	0.85	support
5	Continuous education to members	0.02	0.98	support
	Overall	0.75	0.636	support

Table (4) shows that(0.31,0.73,0.31,0.85,0.98,) sign values associated with their respective computed T-values of (1.01,0.34,1.01,0.18,0.02) and degree of freedom (117) more than (0.05).This leads to support or accept the hypotheses of all listed objectives in the said table. This means that respondents whether senior or junior auditors unanimously agree on the contributing role of PACPAs on Promoting the Palestinian audit profession.

HO2:There is no significant variance among sample members over their opinions about the role of PACPA in promoting Palestinian audit profession ascribed to respondents educational level.

Table(5):The results of one sample T- tests to data collected

No.	Objective	Computed T value	Sign. Value	Decision
1	Developing members capabilities	0.45	0.65	support
2	Adherence to the Code of conduct	0.29	0.77	support
3	Compliance with International Standards	1.22	0.23	support
4	Protection of Members Interests	0.75	0.45	support
5	Continuous education to members	1.43	0.16	support
	Overall	0.828	0.452	support

Table (5) shows that each of (0.65,0.77,0.23,0.45,0.16) sign values associated with their respective computed T-values of (0.45,0.29,1.22,0.75,1.43) exceeds significance level of (0.05).This leads to support or accept the hypotheses of all listed objectives in the said table. This means that the respondents irrespective of their educational levels unanimously agree on the contributing role of PACPA on Promoting the Palestinian audit profession.

HO3:There is no significant variance among sample members over the role of PACPA in promoting Palestinian audit profession ascribed to respondents experience level.

Table(6):The results of one sample T- tests to data collected

No.	Objective	Computed T value	Sign. Value	Decision
1	Developing members capabilities	0.409	0.669	support
2	Adherence to professional Code of conduct	0.494	0.617	support
3	Compliance with International Standards	3.306	0.056	support
4	Protection of Members Interests	1.732	0.200	support
5	Continuous education to members	1.193	0.322	support
	Overall	1.443	0.373	support

Table (6) shows that each of (0.699,0.617,0.056, 0.200,0.322) sign values associated with their respective computed T-values of (0.409,0.0306,1.732,1.193) is more than significance level of (0.05).This leads to support or accept the hypotheses of all listed objectives in the said table. This means that respondents irrespective of their experience levels unanimously agree on the contributing role of PACPA to Promoting the Palestinian audit profession.

HO4:There is no significant variance among sample members over the role of PACPA in promoting Palestinian audit profession ascribed to respondents audit certificate.

Table(7):The results of One Way ANOVA to data collected

No.	Objective	F value	Computed Sign.	Decision
1	Developing members capabilities	2.364	0.079	Support
2	Adherence to the Code of conduct	.642	0.671	Support
3	Compliance with International Standards	.908	0.497	Support
4	Protection of Members Interests	.976	0.976	Support
5	Continuous education to members	1.281	0.281	Support
	Overall	1.234	0.501	Support

Table (7) shows that each of the following signs (0.079, 0.671, 0.497, 0.976) associated with their respective computed F-values of (2.364,0.642,0.908,0.976,1.281) is more than (0.05). This leads to support or accept the hypotheses of all listed objectives in the said table. This means that respondents irrespective of their audit certificates unanimously agree on the contributing role of PACPAs to Promoting the Palestinian audit profession.

1.1.7 Conclusions and Recommendations:

This descriptive study examined the achievements of PACP for contributing to the development of Palestinian audit profession. The data collected through a questionnaire distributed to a sample of 117 audit practitioners concluded the following:-

1.PACPA in coordination with BOPA are main regulating bodies to the audit profession in Palestinian authority. The BOPA grants permits to the auditors after they pass a qualifying exam or in accordance with audit profession law No. 9 for 2004 and pertaining rules and regulations enacted later.

2. PACPA has remarkably contributed to the development of Palestinian audit profession .The overall effect was estimated by 72.48% level. The objectives measured to achieve its objectives were the following :

a- Developing the members capabilities was estimated by 89% level .It was achieved through organizing regular workshops,seminars,and training courses to PACPA members.

b- Adherence to the professional code of conduct record was up to 73.5% level, due to the direct control of main regulating bodies of the profession which are the BOPA and PACPA.

c-The compliance with the International accounting and auditing standards &statements requirements leveled to 59.5% .This partial compliance was ascribed to improper adherence to the requirements of these standards and the lack of expertise in the field of international accounting and auditing.

d- Continuous education to the profession members was up to 70% level. This effort presented workshops, seminars and refresh courses about local tax issues and amendments regularly in the laws and pertaining instructions. Little was about the new developments in the fields of accounting and auditing.

e-Protection of members interests was up to 68.6% level. It was encountered by in adequate practices undermining audit practices in the local market like low- balling practices, and conditional audit fees, and unfair and harmful competition among auditors. The partial control of government over the Palestinian territories could be a supporting reason.

A hypotheses testing refers to the unanimous agreement between respondents on PACPAs achievements level to its designed objectives positively leading to the development of the weak Palestinian economy irrespective to their differences with regard to the position, educational level, and audit certification they may have.

Underlying the abovementioned conclusions ,the following recommendations could be stated as follows:-

- Auditors independence must be guaranteed through setting up guidelines for pricing audit services, and preventing or at least minimizing opinion-trading practices.
- Auditing practicing should be confined to the wholly engaged certified auditors because they will be more serious in complying with the requirements of profession code of conduct and international accounting and auditing standards whose applications encourage the foreign investments inflows.
- Auditors performance must undergo regular and critical valuation. The results of such a valuation should form a sound basis for renewing the license of auditing practicing , issued by BOPA , for the future.
- PACPA members must be regularly well educated about the new developments in the fields of accounting, auditing and international taxation issues ,and trained how to properly deal with issues pertaining to them .
- The public must be well educated for the importance of the audit profession and its objectives, and its role in serving the palestinian national economy

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