



Factors affecting financial transparency with a combined approach of content analysis and Delphi

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ABSTRACT

Subject and Purpose of the Article: This study examines the factors affecting financial transparency and hidden layers in municipal financial systems.

Research Methods: In this study, first the content analysis of previous texts and researches was examined and the components affecting transparency were extracted, then the important factors were identified and classified using the Delphi approach with the opinion of experts. This research was done during the year 2021.

Research Findings: According to the elites participating in this study, the relevant factors extracted in the content analysis and related to the dimensions of the research, including social, organizational, economic and political dimensions, along with their components and characteristics have a significant impact on municipal financial transparency. According to the elites and experts, the variables of culture and organizational commitment, speed and accuracy in handling and imposing penalties and encouragement to increase transparency in the first and third ranks affect financial transparency among the 46 factors extracted in content analysis.

Conclusion, originality and its addition to knowledge: Providing effective factors on financial transparency in municipalities improves the level of accountability of this institution and uses them to create laws and regulations in order to increase transparency. Also, this research is the first research in this field for public institutions and municipalities in finding factors affecting It is financial transparency that also contributes to the richness of the research literature.

Keywords: Financial transparency, Factor Analysis, Delphi Method, Municipality.

1. Introduction

The game theory shows that municipality stimulates the index of transparency via increasing the contribution. The six indexes of transparency can improve the city via the contribution and demand of the people. Finally, results show that the proper strategy can happen when the municipality has transparency and the people contribute which all in all can increase the municipality's transparency level. On the other hand, the best strategy for the people is within the same line which benefits them most. But the most benefit goes to the municipality when people do not contribute in any levels of the game and play a passive role, which can increase the possibility of corruption due to the lack of transparency (Gholami Gowhareh et al., 2022). Financial transparency provides relevant and reliable information about the company's risks, performance and financial condition, as well as the firm's investment opportunities, and aims to assist users in making decisions regarding the company's valuation. Thus, transparency makes it possible to obtain relevant information related to the issues to be decided (Bushman et al., 2004). The economic situation and the accountability and performance of many officials in relation to government management has increased the demand for disclosure and accountability. Accountability is defined as the government's response to the people about its level of performance (Pina et al., 2010). In this regard, transparency becomes a necessary tool to monitor and evaluate the performance of representatives and employees of the business. In addition, transparency is an important component of good governance and institutional quality, which in turn are drivers of economic growth and prosperity (Acemoglu et al. 2002). Therefore, transparency is a challenge for current and, future public administration reform and modern governance. Advanced Islam (2006). The proposed changes in the new General Management (NPM) framework are aimed at achieving a new culture in which citizens' satisfaction is achieved, management evaluation methods are developed, state-owned companies are held accountable, and more transparent and accurate monitoring mechanisms are achieved. Emphasizes accreditation processes and decentralization of public service management (Munoz et al., 2015). In this regard, transparency is a necessary tool for monitoring and, evaluating the performance of government

representatives and, employees. In addition, transparency becomes an important component of good governance and institutional quality, which in turn stimulates economic growth and public welfare (Albalade, 2013). Identifying factors affecting financial transparency can help government managers and politicians improve accountability over time. By recognizing the factors that affect financial transparency, government managers can make decisions to increase information transparency in their subordinates and thus to improve accountability and increase trust in government (Luna and Gil, 2011). Despite the obvious socio-economic relevance of transparency in public institutions such as municipalities, there are still few empirical studies on the determinants of transparency. In addition, many existing studies have focused on one-dimensional criteria of transparency, or focused on private companies, and have focused less on the public and semi-public sectors, and the research literature has neglected to study the determinants of transparency in municipalities. In this regard, this study examines the factors that in addition to proving their impact on transparency according to the content analysis of past texts, have a significant impact on financial transparency of the municipality and the hidden layers of financial systems in public institutions, especially in municipalities. It shows to some extent and presents components that have not been considered so far. This study also enriches studies on financial transparency in the field of semi-government.

Theoretical Foundations

Governmental financial reports are key tools to satisfy public sector financial transparency because information about a government's financial position, financial performance and service performance is crucial to determine the sustainability of service delivery and value for money issues (Mack & Ryan, 2006; Peters, 2007; Pina et al., 2010; Torres et al., 2006). The growing importance of regulation in the context of ensuring the financial transparency of enterprises should start at the industry level, which makes it possible to determine the key parameters and unify the requirements for the information disclosure process. At the same time, taking into account all the positive and negative factors of financial transparency, the enterprise must independently decide on the limits of the implementation of the openness policy. Detailed

expanded information on the financial activity of the enterprise allows users to have more specific data compared to data from official sources that publish mandatory reporting on the financial condition of the enterprise. Access to financial and economic information means that any user, regardless of his qualifications, can obtain any data on the activities of the organization. Thus, the level of financial transparency, and hence the openness of information about the activities of the organization, reflects the degree of user satisfaction with the data to which he gets access. Summarizing, it can be noted that following the principles of financial transparency has its positive and negative sides (Grishkova, 2018). Rodríguez López et al(2023) In a research titled " Anti-corruption barriers, financial transparency and accounting quality in political parties: Evidence from Spain" they came to the conclusion that the quality of the accounting information of the political parties is deficient and so is the level of the financial transparency. Likewise, the explanatory power of the models estimated with corrected accounting information is more significant, being the ratio of the private and public income, age, debt and the saving rate, variables that strongly affect the quality of the accounting information. Finally, the institutional anti-corruption barriers imposed in terms of financial transparency have not been enough. In fact, last year was the worst in the time series, since there is no party that discloses the quality financial information.

The most prominent theories related to financial transparency are the theory of fiscal illusion theory of bureaucratic behavior theory, agency theory, Neo institutional theory and institutional change, and the legitimacy theory (Rodríguez Bolívar, 2013). Each of these theories has addressed different aspects of financial transparency in public institutions. The financial illusion theory explains why government spending seems to be lower than it actually is. This result occurs when the complexity of the structure of the country's tax system makes the overall budget revenues of the country not completely transparent (Sanen dig, and Wallace, 2010). Financial illusion theory also shows that governments try to hide the tax burden and also try to increase public spending benefits (Campbell, 2004). Lack of transparency is related to bureaucratic behavior model and financial illusion theory. Bureaucratic management hides

inefficiency through poor financial reporting, and then the financial illusion may be created by not disclosing the future consequences of current spending policies, thus using information asymmetry. Information to stakeholders affects the legitimacy of an organization's actions (Archel et al., 2009; Deep House and Chaninman, 2008). In fact, this theory shows the positive relationship between public policy and the need to try to influence the process through information disclosure. Also, according to the theory of legitimacy, transparency about the activities of the organization is a way for legal actions for their stakeholders and giving legitimacy to the organization (Francisca, 2015). This theory claims that if organizational legitimacy is threatened, organizations will disclose information in an effort to enhance organizational legitimacy. presenting a picture of good governance in response to public pressure is a way to legitimize and enhance the reputation of municipalities (Pina, Torres, & Royo, 2018). The three-level evaluation model of financial transparency in the municipality which is shown in table number 1, focuses on three dimensions of the most effective features of evaluation models . The first dimension includes historical information, which includes traditional accounting reports in the areas of budget operations, monitoring, evaluation, management, and auditing, such as balance sheets, cash flows, net asset positions, and other qualitative information provided by the government. The second dimension includes the evaluation of budget reports and income and performance reports. The third dimension includes a set of specific information and tools for different stakeholders. In all these dimensions, accounting and governance systems, human and organizational resource control are considered to comply with legal processes and frameworks and the existence of planning (Puron-Cid and Bolívar, 2018).

Existence of regulatory framework and planning	Legal process		
	Historical information	Financial performance	Special information and tools
	Budget management	Budgetary performance	
	Budget performance		Specific financial information for different stakeholders
	Budget monitoring		
	Budget evaluation		
	Audit		
	Accounting and governance systems, human resources and organizational control		
	Participation		

Table No. 1: The three-level model of transparency
(Puron-Cid and Bolivar research, 2018)

Research background

Numerous studies have examined the factors affecting information disclosure. The importance of determinants of financial transparency has been acknowledged by many academics and professionals in many policy areas (Mergel, 2013; Puron-Cid & Bolívar, 2018). Among the many factors affecting financial transparency in this study, the most relevant and most repetitive of these factors in previous studies are discussed. Studies in this field have widely confirmed the impact of institutional and organizational frameworks on financial disclosure (Allen, 2002). Using agency theory, Petrosky showed that the economic determinants that affect financial transparency are due to the permanent impact on their attitudes and behavior (Petrosky, 2007). Governments are affected. Studies by Gita et al. Also showed that the demand for financial transparency increases with economic prosperity (Gaeta et al., 2018). However, some researchers have shown in their studies that in less developed or recessionary economies there is a greater incentive to put pressure on governments to improve transparency (Rios & Bastida, 2018). This view is also in line with the theory of legitimacy, as it explains that economic development and financial transparency may also have a negative relationship in governments because officials and citizens view economic development as a more important indicator of the legitimacy of transparency. They know. Pitrosky and Raizin (2007) show that political ideology determines transparency. Analyzing the impact of

political and economic-economic factors on municipal financial transparency, Guillamón et al. (2011) showed that mandatory advertising and transparency are key in public administration, and the higher the tax and per capita transfer, the more financial information is disclosed. Accordingly, transparency is higher. Sun (2020) showed that cities with higher administrative ranks have more responsibility for disclosing information in accordance with their greater power and socio-economic responsibilities (Sun, 2020). Bastida et al. (2017) showed that municipalities that receive higher taxes and duties have higher levels of disclosure information and also imbalances in financial resources and debts play an important role in financial transparency (Bastida et al., 2017). in a research entitled "Analysis of the application of game theory in promoting the financial transparency of municipalities in Iran, based on clause 18 of the general policies of the country's administrative system" came to the conclusion that municipality stimulates the index of transparency via increasing the contribution. The six indexes of transparency can improve the city via the contribution and demand of the people. Finally, results show that the proper strategy can happen when the municipality has transparency and the people contribute which all in all can increase the municipality's transparency level. On the other hand, the best strategy for the people is within the same line which benefits them most. But the most benefit goes to the municipality when people do not contribute in any levels of the game and play a passive role, which can increase the possibility of corruption due to the lack of

transparency (Gholami Gwohareh et al, 2022). Researchers claim that economic development can lead to higher levels of financial transparency, as wealthier regions are able to establish institutions that protect people's right to know and participate in public debates. In addition, wealthy taxpayers have a greater understanding of their rights and may seek greater financial transparency to better monitor how their taxes are spent (Bastida and Benito, 2011). Krishnan (2012) showed that with increasing debt, financial transparency decreases and managers want to hide the lack of transparency in order to survive in the system. Also, large municipalities and local government leaders have different transparency scores depending on their political orientation and government. Leftists are more transparent (Krishnan, 2012). Darabi and Nemat Elahi (2016) in identifying and prioritizing the factors affecting the financial transparency of the insurance industry using Dimatel and fuzzy TOPSIS techniques. Shokri and Pak Maram (2019) showed that individual factors, factors of laws and standards of the organization, organizational factors, factors of

employees' attitudes and empowering factors are among the factors affecting the transparency of financial statements. Karimian et al. (2015) identified and prioritized the factors affecting the transparency of the Iranian administrative system over Article 18 of the general policies of the administrative system. The results of the analysis of their research data showed that the "national" factor as the most important criterion in the transparency of administrative system information can be considered. Ghafouri (2019), Evaluated the role of the budget allocation report on the financial transparency of municipalities and showed that financial transparency is unfavorable and this report is prepared with many shortcomings. Mohammadi and, Ghanbarinia (2018) Nebz showed that the implementation of accrual accounting system has a significant effect on the financial transparency of Zanjan Municipality. According to the research literature and related texts, this study examines the factors affecting financial transparency. These indicators and dimensions are presented in Table No. 1.

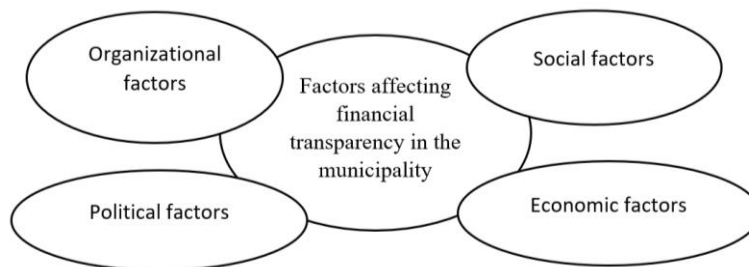


Figure1. Research conceptual model

Table 2: Indices and dimensions extracted from texts by content analysis method and factor loading coefficients - factors affecting transparency

Overall rating	Rank in the group	Political dimension	Organizational dimension	Economic dimension	Social dimension	A symbol	Variables	Indicators	Dimensions
35	10	0/415	0/502	0/607	0/734	Social11	Culture of responsibility	Information about citizens Social1	Social
44	11	0/391	0/473	0/571	0/691	Social12	Average age of citizens		
21	6	0/465	0/563	0/681	0/823	Social13	Population size		
11	3	0/486	0/587	0/710	0/859	Social14	Citizens' education		
29	8	0/442	0/535	0/647	0/782	Social15	Average income per household		
18	4	0/472	0/570	0/690	0/834	Social16	Urban level		
33	9	0/421	0/509	0/615	0/744	Social17	Income dispersion index (eg Gini index)		

Overall rating	Rank in the group	Political dimension	Organizational dimension	Economic dimension	Social dimension	A symbol	Variables	Indicators	Dimensions	
19	5	0/471	0/570	0/689	0/833	Social18	Institutionalization of bribery and corruption		Social2	
8	1	0/515	0/623	0/753	0/911	Social21	Timely access to financial reports	access		
10	2	0/508	0/614	0/743	0/898	Social22	Existence of website related to transparency and presentation of information			
24	7	0/459	0/555	0/672	0/812	Social23	Citizens' access to the Internet			
46	7	0/365	0/441	0/638	0/517	Economic 11	Municipal debt	Financial Economic1	Economic	
38	6	0/415	0/502	0/726	0/589	Economic 12	Municipal financial pressure			
27	3	0/450	0/544	0/786	0/637	Economic 13	Deficit			
32	4	0/429	0/518	0/749	0/607	Economic 21	The amount of private sector investment	Economic Development Economic2		
25	2	0/465	0/562	0/812	0/659	Economic 22	Financial dependence on the government			
9	1	0/520	0/628	0/908	0/736	Economic 23	Dependence on taxes (income) received from citizens			
36	5	0/417	0/504	0/729	0/591	Economic 24	Unemployment rate			
20	13	0/593	0/827	0/682	0/553	Organ11	Existence of responsibility to answer to the citizens	Organ1		Organizational
37	4	0/523	0/729	0/601	0/548	Organ12	Accountability to the city council and other subordinate institutions			
39	19	0/521	0/726	0/599	0/563	Organ13	Implement the resolutions of the Islamic Council of the city			
16	20	0/600	0/837	0/691	0/560	Organ14	Frequent change of mayor			
4	12	0/661	0/922	0/761	0/617	Organ15	Existence of administrative ranking			
26	5	0/570	0/795	0/656	0/532	Organ16	Implementation of approvals and instructions prepared by the Ministry of Interior			
22	15	0/590	0/823	0/679	0/551	Organ17	Provide suitable platforms such as the Internet			
6	14	0/660	0/921	0/760	0/616	Organ18	Existence and preparation of complete and appropriate instructions			
28	6	0/561	0/783	0/646	0/524	Organ19	Existence of strict policies and guidelines			
5	16	0/661	0/922	0/761	0/617	Organ110	Accurate implementation of accrual accounting			

Overall rating	Rank in the group	Political dimension	Organizational dimension	Economic dimension	Social dimension	A symbol	Variables	Indicators	Dimensions
40	21	0/518	0/723	0/596	0/484	Organ21	Existence of active personnel with high efficiency	Personnel Organ2	
17	11	0/600	0/837	0/691	0/560	Organ22	Number of financial personnel		
7	7	0/656	0/915	0/755	0/612	Organ23	Personnel education		
30	17	0/561	0/782	0/645	0/523	Organ24	Personnel specialization		
34	18	0/528	0/737	0/608	0/493	Organ25	Motivation		
1	1	0/683	0/953	0/786	0/638	Organ26	Organizational culture and commitment		
13	8	0/613	0/855	0/705	0/572	Organ27	High work experience		
41	22	0/511	0/713	0/588	0/477	Organ28	Gender of the mayor		
14	9	0/608	0/848	0/700	0/567	Organ29	Municipal age		
43	23	0/501	0/699	0/577	0/468	Organ31	Audit by an independent auditor elected by the city council	Regulatory body Organ3	
45	24	0/490	0/683	0/563	0/457	Organ32	Existence of internal audit committee in the municipality		
2	2	0/683	0/952	0/785	0/637	Organ33	Speed and accuracy in handling		
15	10	0/602	0/840	0/693	0/562	Organ34	Follow-up of violations by independent institutions		
3	3	0/668	0/931	0/768	0/623	Organ35	Imposition of penalties and incentives to increase transparency		
12	1	0/857	0/613	0/506	0/410	Political1 1	Existence of the right to demand accountability from the institutions receiving the budget	Political	Political
31	3	0/938	0/671	0/553	0/449	Political1 2	Political solidarity between the mayor and the governor		
23	2	0/822	0/588	0/485	0/491	Political1 3	The mayor's political solidarity with the members of the city's Islamic Council		
42	4	0/711	0/508	0/419	0/452	Political1 4	The mayor's political solidarity with the members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of that city		

Research Methods

In general, the research method used in this research is an applied research in terms of purpose and in terms of nature, it is a descriptive survey research. Since the purpose of this study is to identify the factors affecting financial transparency, this study designs and explains

the financial transparency model in two stages of mixed methodology (qualitative-quantitative). For this purpose, first in the qualitative phase, by analyzing the content and studying the theoretical foundations of previous research, a conceptual framework will be proposed to measure transparency. Then, in order to assess and strengthen the validity of the proposed model, the

opinions of academic and professional experts will be received through a questionnaire (Delphi method). To collect the data needed to test the research questions, first the theoretical foundations and research background were studied and key factors based on theoretical and research foundations that the researcher believes are compatible with the environmental characteristics of Iranian society were extracted using content analysis to Base on that, the key questions that can be included in the questionnaire should be designed for expert opinion. In the second stage, the Delphi method, which is a valid scientific and well-known model for public opinion polls, was used and the factors affecting transparency were extracted.

Research scope, community and statistical sample

The present study was conducted in terms of time during 2020 and is thematically related to financial transparency in public institutions such as municipalities. The statistical population of this research consists of two parts. First, by linking and using past texts such as articles, dissertations and books and other related content (as the main texts), the community and the articles used as a sample

(purposefully) were selected and analyzed. In the second part of the research, the questionnaires were collected using the available sampling method from the study population as follows and the relevant analyzes were performed based on the questionnaires: Faculty members of accounting and financial management departments of universities, financial managers and municipal officials who are fully acquainted with the processes and factors affecting the transparency and quality of municipal financial reporting, as well as certified public accountants and auditors.

Sampling

In Delphi research, the sample should be selected in such a way that experts on the subject of research, called Delphi group members as representatives of the community in the survey play a key role, so choose the sampling method. Randomness is not appropriate for the selection of these people, but in these studies, experts are selected by examining their knowledge and experience. The study sample and participants in this study are 110 people whose demographic information including gender of the respondent, age, level of education, work experience is provided.

Table ۳. Demographic characteristics of respondents

Abundance	Variable name	
23	Female	Gender
87	Man	
15	Less than 30 years	Age
20	Between 31 and 35 years	
44	Between 36 and 40 years	
31	More than 40 years	
46	Master's degree (working in doctoral program)	Education
64	P.H.D	
7	Less than 5 years	Work experience
15	Between 5 and 10 years	
23	Between 11 and 15 years	
35	Between 16 and 20 years	
30	Between 16 and 20 years	

Research Findings

• Content analysis

In qualitative content analysis in the first stage, by examining Persian and Latin texts and articles and dissertations line by line on the subject of research and according to the keywords of the researcher, key phrases that directly or indirectly to financial transparency in Municipalities and public

organizations point out that the first coding cycle began with the selection and extraction of concepts from them. Then, through the comparative process, the similarities and differences of the concepts were examined and similar concepts were placed in one category. This method of continuous comparison of concepts with each other is called the continuous comparative method or the method of continuous

comparative analysis (Strauss and Corbin, 2008). After coding, 57 codes, 48 concepts and 8 components appeared and were identified and extracted in the form of 4 dimensions (as described in Table 2). The most important action after the formation and extraction of components from the concepts of texts in the method of qualitative content analysis is to determine the measurement indicators. Measuring the components of financial transparency in municipalities and public organizations in different dimensions requires extracting and determining relevant and effective indicators in the relevant fields. For this purpose, measurement indicators (quantitative and qualitative) for 8 components and in 4 dimensions are identified, and extracted.

- **Statistical analysis of data**

After identifying and extracting the dimensions, components and variables of financial transparency in municipalities and public organizations through qualitative content analysis, the findings were made available to the experts and intellectuals of the statistical community through a questionnaire. The results of distribution and collection and the analysis of the questionnaire data is presented separately below. In the questionnaire, first the social, economic, organizational and political dimensions of financial transparency of municipalities are questioned. The majority of respondents considered the economic dimension to be more influential than the four dimensions. Then, the indicators related to each dimension were questioned and the indicators extracted from the texts were approved by the intellectuals and elites of the statistical community.

Check the validity of the answers

In reviewing questionnaires related to statistical research, from a standard to The validity of the answers given in the factors (each question in the questionnaire) is used, which is called "Cronbach's alpha". This index is sometimes known as the alpha coefficient. Cronbach's alpha shows the degree of correlation between its dimensions and related factors. The high value of variance between the dimensions and its related factors shows high internal stability against the measurement error related to each factor. A Cronbach's alpha value above 0.7 indicates acceptable reliability. In some cases, the alpha value of 0.6 is the criterion (Davari and Rezazadeh, 2013).

Table 4- Check the validity of the data

Convergent validity-AVE	Combined reliability	Cronbach's alpha	Dimensions
0/586	0/801	0/812	Social
0/622	0/735	0/719	Economic
0/593	0/781	0/760	Organizational
0/641	0/846	0/833	Political

Combined reliability (PLS)

The partial least squares (PLS) method is a newer and more modern criterion than the traditional Cronbach's alpha, which is referred to as hybrid reliability. According to Table 3, the value of Cronbach's alpha and the combined reliability of the research dimensions in all dimensions is higher than 0.7, which indicates the appropriate reliability and validity of the factors and components affecting transparency.

Convergent Validity

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Binomial test

The binomial test answers the research question "What are the components affecting financial transparency in municipalities and public organizations in terms of institutional, political and economic.?"

In all social, economic, organizational and, political dimensions, the null hypothesis has been rejected, meaning that there is a significant difference between the ratio of less than or equal to 3 and the ratio of more than 3. According to the obtained ratios, the ratio of answers greater than 3 is greater than the ratio of answers smaller than 3. In fact, the answer to the question related to dimensions, most statistically educated respondents have chosen many and many options with codes 4 and 5, which shows the dimensions of the elites, social, economic, organizational and political from the perspective of financial transparency. They are in municipalities and public organizations.

Table 5- Two-sentence test for the dimensions of financial transparency

P value	Percentage of views	Number	Answers	Indicator / variable
0/001	0/078	8	Less than or equal to 3	Social dimension
	0/922	102	Larger than 3	
0/000	0/067	7	Less than or equal to 3	Economic dimension
	0/933	103	Larger than 3	
0/000	0/057	6	Less than or equal to 3	Organizational dimension
	0/943	104	bigger than 3	
0/003	0/089	9	Less than or equal to 3	Political dimension
	0/911	101	Larger than 3	

Significance coefficients

One of the most appropriate criteria for examining the fit of the confirmatory factor model is the relationship between variables and effective factors, t-values or t-values. Significant numbers t is one of the criteria for measuring the relationship between variables. According to statistical outputs, the relationship between variables and, factors affecting transparency shows that the level of 95% confidence in all

dimensions and, components of the elites participating in this study. They affect financial transparency. Given that the resulting numbers show only the correctness of the existence or non-existence of the relationship and, the intensity of the relationship between them cannot be measured by it. In order to measure the effect and, the degree of correlation between dimensions and factors, the component divergence method is used.

Table 8- Significant coefficients for the dimensions of financial transparency

Amara t	Standard coefficient	Relationship within variables	
35/312	0/711	Social dimension	Dimensions of municipal financial transparency
76/810	0/614	Economic dimension	
63/115	0/726	Organizational dimension	
29/836	0/517	Political dimension	
38/837	0/783	Information about citizens	Social dimension
82/901	0/719	access	
79/817	0/537	Financial	Economic dimension
122/014	0/866	Economic Development	
42/719	0/520	Organizational	Organizational dimension
92/827	0/776	Personnel	
77/911	0/691	Regulatory body	
32/341	0/509	Political	Political dimension

Discriminant Validity

Divergent validity covers two components: first, comparing the degree of correlation between factors related to one dimension with that dimension versus correlation of that factor with other dimensions. Second, comparing the correlation of one dimension with the factors of that dimension versus the correlation of that dimension with other dimensions. In the first case, the degree of correlation between factors related to one dimension with that dimension and the degree of correlation between factors related to one

dimension with other dimensions are compared. If the degree of correlation between a factor and other dimensions is greater than the correlation of that factor with its own dimension, divergent validity is impaired (Davari and Rezazadeh, 2013). To examine the divergent validity in this case (the first case), the description of Table 2 was performed, the rows of the table belonging to the factors and its columns also belong to the dimensions of the research. The numbers in the table indicate the degree of correlation between the factors and the relevant dimensions. The relationship between the factors affecting financial

transparency is shown in Table 2. As can be seen, the divergent validity of the factors affecting the financial transparency of the municipality is confirmed. Because the factors related to each dimension are more correlated with that dimension than with other dimensions. In the following, the ranking of influential factors will be discussed.

Ranking the factors affecting transparency from the perspective of the elite

According to Table 2, which is taken from the divergent validity output and shows the degree of correlation between dimensions with variables and factors affecting the financial transparency of the municipality, the ranking column in the group shows the rank of each factor in the same group as For example, in the social dimension, the variables of timely access to financial reports and the existence of a website related to transparency and information presentation are ranked first and second in their group, and in the overall ranking, they are ranked 8th and 10th. Similarly, the variables of dependence on taxes (income) received from citizens and financial dependence on the government, as well as the budget deficit have obtained the first to third ranks in the economic dimension and are in the 9th, 25th and 27th positions in the general ranking. In the organizational dimension, organizational culture and commitment have the first place in the factors affecting transparency, and in the second and third place, according to the information obtained from Table 4-18, the variables of speed and accuracy in handling as well as the variable of penalties and incentives to increase They have transparency. That all three first to third variables in the organizational dimension in general also have the first to third places. In the political dimension, the variable of having the right to respond to the institutions receiving the budget has the first rank in the group and the 12th rank among all research variables.

But at the end of the influential factors that have been extracted by content analysis method and have been approved by the academic elite are components such as municipal debt and the existence of an internal audit committee in the municipality that ranks 46th and 45th among 46 factors affecting financial transparency, they have in the municipality. From the

point of view of the elites participating in this study, all 46 factors related to the dimensions of the research on municipal financial transparency changed under my significant influence. No. 2 is presented

Discussion and conclusion

The results show that the variables and components derived from the content analysis of past texts and used in research and global studies consider common components as factors affecting financial transparency in municipalities and other public non-governmental organizations. The results showed that the dimensions and components of content analysis of research texts and literature according to the opinion of elites and statistical community in Iran such as social, organizational, economic and political dimensions each affect the transparency of municipal financial reporting. Be. Also, these dimensions, along with their components and characteristics, have a significant impact on the transparency of financial reporting, and strengthening any dimension and any factor can make financial reporting more transparent in municipalities and public organizations (Figure 1). Regarding the ranking of effective factors in each dimension, the results showed that in the social dimension, the variables "timely access to financial reports" and "existence of a website related to transparency and information presentation" ranked first and second in their group, but In the overall ranking, they are ranked 8th and 10th. Similarly, the variables "dependence on taxes (income) received from citizens" and "financial dependence on the government" as well as "budget deficit" have obtained the first to third ranks in the economic dimension and in the general ranking in the 9th positions. And are located 25 and 27. In the organizational dimension, "organizational culture and commitment" has the first place in the factors affecting transparency, and in the second and third place in this dimension, the variables of "speed and accuracy in processing" and also the variable of "imposing penalties and incentives to increase transparency" are located. It is worth mentioning that all three first to third variables in the organizational dimension in general also won first to third places. In the political dimension, the variable "Existence of the right to answer from the institutions receiving the budget" was ranked first in the group and ranked 12th among all research variables. The results of this study are in accordance with the research (Krishnan, 2012). In his

research, he showed that the amount of debt has a significant relationship with financial transparency. Introduced the effect on financial transparency in the municipality. The results of this study are also in line with the findings of Bastida et al. (2018), Tavares et al. (2018), Crot (2018), Guillaume et al. (2019). In Iran, researches such as Ebrahimi (2018), Mahmoud Sani and Mokhtari (2020), Shokri and Pak Maram (2018), Khodadai Karimvand and Aghiq (2019), Veisi Hesar (2019), Ghafouri (2019), Ebrahimi et al. (2019), Arami (2019), Deihimpour et al. (2018) also partially examined the factors affecting financial transparency. Qualitative studies are a way for future quantitative and qualitative research. In this regard, it is suggested that due to the impact of social, economic, organizational and political factors, the variables discovered in this research should be examined by decision makers to increase financial transparency. Be taken and used. (They can be used to create and create a financial transparency checklist in the municipality). Future researchers are also suggested to explain and present a model for measuring transparency in the municipality according to the output factors affecting financial transparency in the municipality. Every research will have a series of limitations that appear on the way to its realization and the research will face problems that make it difficult to generalize the results. The current research is not exempt from this rule and has the following limitations:

- 1) Different perceptions of questionnaire items
- 2) The results cannot be changed to another time and place.
- 3) Limitation in not controlling some variables affecting the research results

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