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The Relationship Between Strategic Planning and Risk
Management in Public Sector Organizations of KSA

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to my dear parents, who have been a constant source of support and inspiration throughout my life. To my mother, whose love and encouragement have always been my motivation, and to my father, who taught me the meaning of perseverance and hard work. To my esteemed professors, who provided me with invaluable knowledge, guidance, and mentorship, I dedicate this work as a token of my gratitude and recognition of their generosity. To my colleagues and friends, who stood by my side and were a pillar of support, I dedicate this work as an expression of my appreciation for all the encouragement and assistance I have received from them. Finally, I dedicate this work to everyone who contributed to my success and supported me throughout this journey, praying that this achievement marks a step toward greater success and progress.

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Abstract

The integration of strategic planning and risk management is crucial for enhancing organizational performance, governance efficiency, and resilience in public sector institutions. This study explores the relationship between strategic planning and risk management in Saudi Arabia's public sector, with a focus on how their integration influences decision-making, resource allocation, and policy execution. Using Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM), the study confirms that strategic planning significantly enhances risk management effectiveness, and that risk management mediates the relationship between strategic planning and organizational performance. The findings indicate that institutions with structured risk-aware planning frameworks experience higher efficiency and governance effectiveness.

Despite these benefits, the research highlights key challenges to full integration, including bureaucratic silos, resistance to change, and weak regulatory enforcement. To overcome these barriers, the study recommends leadership-driven reforms, digital transformation, regulatory alignment, and AI-driven risk assessment tools to support evidence-based decision-making. The findings have significant academic and practical implications, reinforcing the need for risk-informed governance models aligned with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 objectives. By implementing these strategies, public sector organizations in KSA can enhance institutional transparency, accountability, and resilience, ensuring long-term policy success and sustainable development. Future research should explore sector-specific applications of risk-based strategic planning to further strengthen public administration frameworks.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1- Introduction	1
1.1 Research Background	2
1.2 Research Aims and Objectives	3
1.3 Research Questions.....	4
1.4. Research Hypothesis.....	4
1.5 Problem Statement.....	5
1.6 Research Significance.....	6
Chapter 2 - Literature Review	8
2.1 Introduction	9
2.2 Strategic Planning in Public Sector Organizations	10
2.2.1 The Role of Strategic Planning in Public Sector Organizations	10
2.2.2 Strategic Planning and National Development Goals	11
2.2.3 Strategic Planning Approaches in the Public Sector	12
2.2.3 Challenges in Strategic Planning for Public Sector Organizations	14
2.3 Risk Management in Public Sector Organizations	15
2.3.1 Importance of Risk Management in Public Sector Organizations.....	16
2.3.2 Risk Management Frameworks in the Public Sector.....	18
1. Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Model.....	18
2. ISO 31000 Risk Management Framework	19
3. The COSO Risk Management Framework.....	20

2.4 The Integration of Strategic Planning and Risk Management.....	21
2.4.1 Benefits of Integration	22
Improved Resource Allocation	23
Increased Organizational Resilience.....	24
Greater Stakeholder Confidence.....	24
2.4.2 Challenges to Integration.....	25
Lack of Coordination and Silos	25
Regulatory Constraints	26
Resistance to Change.....	26
2.5 Strategies for Effective Integration.....	27
2.5.1 Leadership Commitment and Governance	28
2.5.2 Training and Capacity Building	29
2.5.3 Use of Technology and Data Analytics.....	31
2.5.4 Policy Reforms and Regulatory Alignment.....	32
Chapter 3: Research Methodology	35
3.1 Overview	36
3.2 Research Philosophy.....	36
3.3 Research Approach	37
3.4 Research Method	37
3.5 Research Strategy	38
3.6 Population.....	38
3.7 Sampling.....	39

3.8 Data Collection	39
3.9 Survey Instrument.....	40
3.10 Pre-Testing	40
3.11 Online Survey Collection.....	41
3.12 Data Analysis.....	41
3.13 Ethical Considerations	42
3.13.1 Informed Consent	42
3.13.2 Confidentiality and Anonymity	43
3.13.3 Voluntary Participation and Right to Withdraw.....	43
3.13.4 Avoidance of Harm	44
3.13.5 Ethical Approval and Institutional Compliance.....	44
3.13.6 Cultural Sensitivity and Respect for Local Norms	45
3.13.7 Data Management and Security.....	45
3.13.8 Honesty, Integrity, and Avoidance of Bias.....	46
3.13.9 Ethical Considerations in Data Interpretation and Reporting.....	46
3.13.10 Compliance with Saudi Research Ethics Guidelines.....	47
Chapter 4 – Analysis.....	48
4.2 Analysis	50
4.2.1 Demographic Analysis.....	50
4.2.2 Descriptive Statistics for Key Variables	51
4.2.3 Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) Results.....	53
4.3 Reliability Analysis.....	54

4.4 Factor Loading Analysis	56
4.5 Convergent and Discriminant Validity Analysis.....	58
4.6 Convergent Validity	59
Findings Interpretation:	60
4.7 Discriminant Validity	61
4.7.1 Criterion Test Using Fornell-Larcker Framework	61
4.7.2 Indicators Cross-Loading Analysis.....	62
4.7.3 HTMT Ratio Test.....	63
4.8 Structural Model Assessment	64
4.8.1 Coefficient of Determination (R^2 Value)	64
4.8.2 Effect Size (F^2 Value).....	65
Chapter 5 - Discussion and Findings	67
5.1 Introduction	68
5.2 The Impact of Strategic Planning on Risk Management	68
5.3 The Mediating Role of Risk Management in Organizational Performance	69
5.4 Reliability and Validity Assessment	70
5.4.1 Reliability Findings	70
5.4.2 Convergent Validity Findings	71
5.4.3 Discriminant Validity Findings	71
5.5 Structural Model Assessment and Hypothesis Testing.....	71
5.5.1 Path Analysis Interpretation.....	71
5.6 Implications for Public Sector Governance in KSA.....	72

5.6.1 Policy Implications	72
5.6.2 Practical Implications	72
5.6.3 Theoretical Contributions	73
Chapter 6 - Recommendations and Conclusion	75
6.1 Addressing Research Questions.....	76
6.2 Applying Findings to Academic Research and Real-World Governance	78
6.3. Conclusion	80
References	83
Appendices	88
Appendix A – Survey.....	88

Chapter 1- Introduction

1.1 Research Background

Strategic planning and risk management are crucial components of effective governance, especially in the context of public sector organizations. In Saudi Arabia (KSA), as part of the government's ongoing reforms and modernization efforts, there has been a growing emphasis on improving organizational effectiveness, transparency, and accountability (Al-Sulaiman, 2019). One of the key areas under focus is the integration of strategic planning and risk management to ensure sustainable development, improved public services, and the achievement of national goals (Al-Shammari et al., 2020).

Strategic planning, which involves setting long-term objectives and determining the best course of action to achieve them, is essential for guiding public sector organizations toward achieving their mission and vision (Harrison & Koo, 2018). On the other hand, risk management focuses on identifying, evaluating, and mitigating risks that may hinder the attainment of these strategic objectives (Kumari & Singh, 2017). The integration of both approaches has the potential to strengthen decision-making processes, improve resource allocation, and enhance organizational resilience in the face of uncertainties (Wright, 2020).

In KSA, the government has undertaken several initiatives to reform public administration, such as the Vision 2030 plan, which emphasizes the importance of effective planning and risk management in achieving economic diversification, social development, and the enhancement of government services (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016). However, despite the increasing recognition of the importance of these two disciplines, there remains a gap in understanding how strategic planning and risk management

interact and contribute to the overall success of public sector organizations in KSA (Al-Ghamdi, 2021). This research seeks to fill this gap by exploring the relationship between these two critical elements in the context of public sector organizations in KSA.

1.2 Research Aims and Objectives

The primary aim of this research is to explore the relationship between strategic planning and risk management in public sector organizations of KSA. Specifically, the study aims to:

1. Examine the integration of strategic planning and risk management within the public sector organizations of KSA (Al-Fadl, 2020).
2. Assess the impact of strategic planning on the effectiveness of risk management practices in these organizations (Smith et al., 2019).
3. Investigate the role of risk management in supporting the achievement of strategic objectives in public sector organizations (Brown & Williams, 2017).
4. Identify the challenges and barriers faced by public sector organizations in integrating strategic planning and risk management (Mokhtar, 2021).
5. Provide recommendations for improving the integration of strategic planning and risk management to enhance organizational performance and resilience (Jackson & Brooks, 2018).

To achieve these aims, the study will utilize both qualitative and quantitative research methods, including surveys, interviews, and case studies, to gather data from relevant stakeholders within public sector organizations in KSA.

1.3 Research Questions

This research is guided by the following key research questions:

1. What is the current state of strategic planning and risk management in public sector organizations of KSA? (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020)
2. How are strategic planning and risk management integrated within public sector organizations in KSA? (Al-Fadl, 2020)
3. To what extent does strategic planning influence the effectiveness of risk management practices in these organizations? (Wright, 2020)
4. How does risk management contribute to achieving strategic objectives within the public sector? (Brown & Williams, 2017)
5. What challenges and barriers do public sector organizations face when attempting to integrate strategic planning and risk management? (Al-Shammari et al., 2020)
6. What strategies can be implemented to improve the integration of strategic planning and risk management in KSA's public sector organizations? (Jackson & Brooks, 2018)

1.4. Research Hypothesis

H1: There is a positive relationship between strategic planning and risk management effectiveness in public sector organizations in KSA.

H2: Strategic planning positively impacts the achievement of strategic objectives in public sector organizations.

H3: Risk management mediates the relationship between strategic planning and organizational performance in public sector organizations.

1.5 Problem Statement

The relationship between strategic planning and risk management has been widely discussed in academic and practical circles, particularly in the context of private sector organizations (Fleming & Kurnia, 2018). However, the understanding of how these two critical components work together in public sector organizations remains underexplored, particularly in the case of KSA. While many public organizations in KSA have adopted strategic planning processes to align their operations with national goals, there is a lack of formal integration with risk management practices (Mokhtar, 2021). This lack of integration may lead to inefficiencies, misalignment of resources, and an inability to respond effectively to unforeseen challenges. As public sector organizations face increasing pressures to deliver services efficiently while managing risks, understanding the relationship between strategic planning and risk management is essential for improving governance and achieving sustainable development goals (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).

This research addresses the gap in the literature by investigating how strategic planning and risk management are interrelated and how their integration can enhance organizational performance in public sector organizations in KSA. By identifying the key factors that influence this relationship, this study will provide valuable insights that can inform policy development, organizational strategies, and decision-making processes in the public sector.

1.6 Research Significance

This research is significant for several reasons:

1. **Contribution to Knowledge:** The study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on the relationship between strategic planning and risk management, particularly in the context of the public sector in KSA. By exploring this relationship, the research will provide insights into how strategic planning and risk management can be better integrated to improve organizational effectiveness and resilience (Smith et al., 2019).
2. **Policy Implications:** The findings of this research will have important policy implications for the Saudi government and public sector organizations. Understanding the relationship between strategic planning and risk management will help policymakers and organizational leaders make informed decisions about how to align their planning and risk management practices with national objectives, including the Vision 2030 plan (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016).
3. **Practical Insights for Public Sector Organizations:** The research will provide practical insights for public sector organizations in KSA, helping them improve their strategic planning and risk management processes. By identifying the challenges and barriers to integration, the study will offer actionable recommendations that can enhance organizational performance and support the achievement of strategic goals (Al-Shammari et al., 2020).
4. **Enhancing Organizational Resilience:** Public sector organizations in KSA, like those in many other countries, are exposed to a variety of risks, including

financial, operational, and reputational risks. Effective integration of strategic planning and risk management can help these organizations navigate uncertainties, adapt to changing conditions, and achieve long-term success (Wright, 2020). This research will highlight the role of risk management in enhancing organizational resilience and ensuring the sustainability of public sector initiatives.

5. **Supporting Academic Research:** This research will fill a gap in the existing academic literature on strategic planning and risk management in the public sector, particularly in the Middle Eastern context. The study will provide a foundation for future research in this area and encourage further exploration of the topic in other regions with similar governance structures and challenges (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).

This research is timely and relevant, given the ongoing efforts by the Saudi government to modernize and improve the performance of its public sector organizations. By investigating the relationship between strategic planning and risk management, the study will provide valuable insights into how these practices can be better integrated to enhance the effectiveness and resilience of public sector organizations in KSA.

Chapter 2 - Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

Strategic planning and risk management are essential pillars of organizational effectiveness, particularly in public sector organizations. Effective governance requires public institutions to adopt structured planning approaches that ensure sustainable development and the fulfillment of national objectives (Al-Ghamdi, 2021). Over the years, the Saudi Arabian government has emphasized improving governance mechanisms through strategic planning, particularly under its Vision 2030 initiative, which seeks to enhance public administration, economic diversification, and service delivery (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016).

Despite the recognized significance of strategic planning and risk management, research on their relationship and integration in public sector organizations remains insufficient. Previous studies (Harrison & Koo, 2018; Al-Shammari et al., 2020) suggest that strategic planning provides organizations with direction, ensuring alignment with long-term goals. Similarly, risk management facilitates proactive decision-making by mitigating uncertainties that may hinder strategic objectives (Brown & Williams, 2017). However, their intersection—how strategic planning influences risk management and vice versa—has not been thoroughly explored in the context of Saudi public sector organizations (Al-Fadl, 2020).

The literature review in this chapter critically examines strategic planning in public sector organizations, highlighting its role, approaches, challenges, and its significance in KSA's public sector. Furthermore, the discussion contextualizes strategic planning within the Saudi government's public administration framework, illustrating how national policies influence decision-making and risk mitigation processes.

2.2 Strategic Planning in Public Sector Organizations

Strategic planning is a systematic process that enables organizations to define long-term objectives, allocate resources effectively, and establish structured mechanisms to achieve desired goals (Harrison & Koo, 2018). Unlike the private sector, where profit maximization is a key objective, strategic planning in public sector organizations is primarily focused on service delivery, policy implementation, and governance effectiveness (Al-Fadl, 2020).

Public institutions must operate under strict regulatory frameworks, ensuring accountability and transparency while achieving national development objectives (Smith et al., 2019). Given the complexity of managing public resources, strategic planning provides decision-makers with a framework to prioritize projects, allocate funding, and measure performance outcomes (Brown & Williams, 2017).

2.2.1 The Role of Strategic Planning in Public Sector Organizations

Strategic planning plays a crucial role in public sector governance by providing a structured framework for decision-making, policy implementation, and long-term sustainability (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020). It enables public institutions to define their objectives, anticipate future challenges, and ensure resource optimization to improve service delivery (Jackson & Brooks, 2018).

According to Brown and Williams (2017), the effectiveness of strategic planning in public organizations depends on several key factors:

- **Leadership Commitment** – Strong leadership ensures that strategic plans align with national priorities and governance goals.

- Stakeholder Involvement – Public sector organizations must engage multiple stakeholders, including government agencies, citizens, and private sector partners, to achieve their objectives.
- Data-Driven Decision Making – The use of quantitative and qualitative data enhances strategic planning by providing evidence-based insights for policy implementation.
- Adaptability to Changing Conditions – Given the rapidly evolving economic, political, and technological landscape, public institutions must ensure flexibility in strategic planning.

2.2.2 Strategic Planning and National Development Goals

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 exemplifies how national policies influence strategic planning in the public sector. Vision 2030 is designed to transform the country's economic structure, enhance public service delivery, and promote sustainable governance (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016). Public institutions in KSA are required to align their strategic plans with Vision 2030 objectives, ensuring that government initiatives contribute to economic diversification and social progress (Al-Shammari et al., 2020).

For example, Al-Ghamdi (2021) highlights how Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Finance has restructured its strategic planning processes to align with Vision 2030, emphasizing financial sustainability, public sector efficiency, and enhanced governance mechanisms. Similarly, other public organizations have implemented long-term strategic plans to improve service delivery in sectors such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure development (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020).

- A study by Harrison and Koo (2018) found that effective strategic planning contributes to:
- Enhanced Public Sector Efficiency – Well-defined objectives enable institutions to streamline operations and reduce bureaucratic inefficiencies.
- Improved Transparency and Accountability – Clear strategic objectives ensure that government institutions operate with accountability and regulatory compliance.
- Resilience Against Economic Uncertainties – Strategic planning helps public organizations prepare for economic fluctuations, political shifts, and financial risks.

2.2.3 Strategic Planning Approaches in the Public Sector

Public sector organizations employ various **strategic planning frameworks** to guide decision-making and policy implementation. Some of the most widely used approaches include:

The Balanced Scorecard (BSC) Approach

The Balanced Scorecard (BSC) framework is a widely used strategic planning model that integrates financial and non-financial performance measures (Smith et al., 2019). It helps public sector organizations track their operational efficiency, citizen satisfaction, and policy effectiveness (Jackson & Brooks, 2018).

A study by Fleming and Kurnia (2018) found that Saudi public institutions using the BSC framework experienced:

- Improved Performance Monitoring – Clear performance indicators helped measure service delivery effectiveness.
- Better Resource Allocation – Government agencies optimized funding allocation based on priority sectors.
- Enhanced Stakeholder Engagement – Policymakers could assess citizen feedback and policy impact more effectively.

2. SWOT Analysis

The Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis is another common approach used in public sector strategic planning. It enables organizations to assess internal strengths and weaknesses while identifying external opportunities and threats (Harrison & Koo, 2018).

Al-Fadl (2020) highlights that SWOT analysis is particularly useful in public policy formulation, as it allows government agencies to:

- Identify areas for improvement within the organization.
- Leverage external opportunities such as economic growth and technological advancements.
- Mitigate potential threats, including regulatory changes and financial risks.

3. Scenario Planning

Scenario planning involves developing multiple future scenarios based on different variables such as economic conditions, political stability, and social changes (Brown & Williams, 2017). This approach is highly relevant in the public sector, where government institutions must prepare for uncertain future challenges.

According to Smith et al. (2019), scenario planning has been applied in KSA's energy sector, where policymakers create multiple energy transition scenarios to prepare for potential shifts in global oil demand and technological advancements.

2.2.3 Challenges in Strategic Planning for Public Sector Organizations

Despite its benefits, strategic planning in public sector organizations faces several challenges. According to Al-Ghamdi (2021) and Mokhtar (2021), some of the major obstacles include:

- **Bureaucratic Complexity** – Public sector organizations often face rigid bureaucratic structures that slow down strategic planning processes.
- **Regulatory Constraints** – Legal and policy regulations sometimes limit the flexibility of strategic decision-making.
- **Lack of Skilled Workforce** – Many public institutions in KSA struggle with a shortage of skilled personnel required for effective strategic planning (Al-Fadl, 2020).
- **Resistance to Change** – Traditional governance structures often resist modern strategic planning approaches (Harrison & Koo, 2018).

Strategic planning plays a critical role in enhancing governance, efficiency, and policy implementation in public sector organizations. In Saudi Arabia, strategic planning is deeply embedded in national development initiatives such as Vision 2030, ensuring that public institutions contribute to economic growth and social progress. Various strategic planning approaches, including the Balanced Scorecard, SWOT analysis, and Scenario

Planning, have been widely adopted to enhance decision-making, transparency, and resource allocation. However, bureaucratic constraints, regulatory challenges, and skill shortages continue to pose significant obstacles.

As KSA continues its public sector transformation, integrating risk management with strategic planning will be essential in ensuring long-term organizational resilience and sustainability. The next section will explore the role of risk management in public sector organizations, highlighting how it complements strategic planning efforts

2.3 Risk Management in Public Sector Organizations

Risk management is a critical function in public sector organizations as it helps them navigate uncertainties, financial constraints, and operational risks while maintaining service delivery (Kumari & Singh, 2017). Unlike private sector entities, which focus on profit maximization, public sector organizations operate under strict regulations and public scrutiny, making risk management an essential component of good governance and organizational sustainability (Brown & Williams, 2017).

In the context of Saudi Arabia (KSA), risk management has become increasingly important due to the country's ongoing economic reforms and governance modernization efforts, particularly under Vision 2030 (Al-Ghamdi, 2021). The Saudi government has introduced various risk management regulations and frameworks to promote transparency, minimize financial mismanagement, and ensure the efficient allocation of resources in public institutions (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020).

Despite these efforts, many public sector organizations in KSA still face challenges in adopting structured risk management practices, often due to bureaucratic resistance,

lack of skilled personnel, and weak enforcement of risk management policies (Mokhtar, 2021). This section explores the importance of risk management in the public sector and examines different risk management frameworks used by public organizations to mitigate uncertainties and improve service delivery.

2.3.1 Importance of Risk Management in Public Sector Organizations

Public sector organizations operate in an increasingly volatile and complex environment, where risks stem from financial instability, regulatory changes, technological disruptions, and socio-political uncertainties (Brown & Williams, 2017). The failure to manage these risks can lead to budgetary deficits, service disruptions, policy failures, and reputational damage (Wright, 2020).

Risk management in the public sector serves multiple critical purposes, including ensuring service continuity, safeguarding public funds, and maintaining public trust. According to Mokhtar (2021), public sector organizations face four major types of risks:

- **Financial Risks** – These include budget constraints, revenue fluctuations, fraud, and financial mismanagement. Effective risk management ensures proper budget allocation, fraud detection, and financial sustainability (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020).
- **Operational Risks** – These involve failures in internal processes, technological breakdowns, human errors, and supply chain disruptions. Public institutions need to establish operational risk mitigation strategies to maintain efficient service delivery (Brown & Williams, 2017).

- Regulatory Compliance Risks – Governments frequently update laws, policies, and regulations, requiring public organizations to ensure full compliance to avoid legal penalties and reputational damage (Jackson & Brooks, 2018).
- Reputational Risks – Public sector organizations are held accountable to citizens and stakeholders, making their reputation a valuable asset. Scandals, poor service delivery, and corruption can erode public confidence and diminish institutional credibility (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).

In recent years, risk management in Saudi Arabia's public sector has gained significant attention due to the country's ongoing transformation efforts under Vision 2030 (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016). The Saudi government has launched several initiatives to strengthen risk management practices, such as:

- Regulatory Reforms – The government has introduced new compliance measures to reduce financial mismanagement and enhance transparency in public institutions (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020).
- Digital Transformation – Public organizations are adopting digital risk management systems to enhance data security, prevent cyber threats, and improve decision-making (Mokhtar, 2021).
- Training and Capacity Building – Government agencies have implemented training programs to develop risk management skills among public sector employees (Wright, 2020).

However, despite these efforts, many public institutions in KSA still lack a formalized risk management strategy, often relying on reactive rather than proactive risk mitigation approaches (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).

A study conducted by Brown and Williams (2017) found that public organizations with well-integrated risk management frameworks experienced greater operational efficiency, improved service delivery, and enhanced public confidence. This highlights the importance of institutionalizing risk management across all levels of government and public administration.

2.3.2 Risk Management Frameworks in the Public Sector

To systematically address risks, public sector organizations adopt structured risk management frameworks that guide their risk identification, assessment, mitigation, and monitoring processes (Jackson & Brooks, 2018). The most widely used frameworks include:

1. Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Model

The Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) framework provides a comprehensive approach to risk management by integrating all organizational risks under a single framework (Kumari & Singh, 2017). It helps public institutions in:

- Risk Identification – Recognizing potential financial, operational, and regulatory risks.
- Risk Assessment – Measuring the likelihood and impact of each identified risk.
- Risk Mitigation – Implementing strategies to prevent or minimize risks.
- Risk Monitoring – Continuously tracking risk exposure and adjusting mitigation plans.

According to Jackson and Brooks (2018), ERM is effective for large public organizations that require a holistic approach to managing diverse risks. However, many public institutions in KSA struggle to implement ERM due to organizational silos, lack of expertise, and resistance to centralized risk management policies (Mokhtar, 2021).

2. ISO 31000 Risk Management Framework

The ISO 31000 framework is an internationally recognized risk management standard that provides principles and guidelines for effective risk governance (Smith et al., 2019). It emphasizes:

- Risk-Based Decision Making – Ensuring that all strategic decisions consider potential risks.
- Risk Communication – Enhancing transparency and risk awareness within public institutions.
- Stakeholder Engagement – Encouraging collaboration between different departments to manage risks effectively.

A study by Wright (2020) found that ISO 31000 is widely adopted in government agencies across Europe and the Middle East, as it promotes a standardized risk management culture. However, in Saudi Arabia, many public institutions still rely on fragmented risk management approaches, making it difficult to apply ISO 31000 principles consistently (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).

3. The COSO Risk Management Framework

The COSO (Committee of Sponsoring Organizations) framework is another widely used model that focuses on internal controls and governance structures to enhance risk management (Brown & Williams, 2017). Its core components include:

- Risk Governance – Establishing accountability structures for managing risks.
- Control Environment – Creating policies that define risk management procedures.
- Risk Monitoring and Reporting – Ensuring continuous evaluation of risk exposure.

According to Al-Saleh and Al-Mazrouei (2020), the COSO framework is particularly beneficial for public financial institutions, where risk control mechanisms are essential for preventing fraud and budget mismanagement.

Challenges in Implementing Risk Management Frameworks in KSA

Despite the availability of well-established risk management frameworks, public sector organizations in KSA face several challenges in implementing structured risk management strategies (Mokhtar, 2021):

- Bureaucratic Resistance – Many public institutions are reluctant to adopt modern risk management practices due to rigid bureaucratic structures (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).
- Lack of Risk Management Expertise – There is a shortage of trained professionals in risk management, leading to weak implementation of risk policies (Brown & Williams, 2017).

- **Inconsistent Risk Management Policies** – While some public institutions have formalized risk management strategies, others rely on ad-hoc risk mitigation approaches (Jackson & Brooks, 2018).

Risk management is a crucial element of public sector governance, ensuring financial stability, regulatory compliance, and operational resilience. In Saudi Arabia, the adoption of risk management frameworks has gained momentum due to Vision 2030 reforms and the government's push for transparency and efficiency in public administration (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016). However, challenges such as bureaucratic inertia, skill shortages, and inconsistent risk policies continue to hinder effective implementation.

By adopting structured risk management frameworks like ERM, ISO 31000, and COSO, public institutions can enhance governance effectiveness and minimize financial and operational risks. Moving forward, capacity building, regulatory enforcement, and digital risk management solutions will be essential in strengthening risk management practices in KSA's public sector.

2.4 The Integration of Strategic Planning and Risk Management

The integration of strategic planning and risk management is a critical factor in enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency, and resilience of public sector organizations. Strategic planning establishes an organization's long-term vision, goals, and resource allocation strategies, while risk management ensures that uncertainties and potential threats are identified, analyzed, and mitigated (Fleming & Kurnia, 2018). The integration of these two functions allows organizations to align risk considerations with

strategic objectives, thereby reducing vulnerabilities and improving resource utilization (Smith et al., 2019).

In the public sector, where institutions must balance financial constraints, regulatory compliance, and stakeholder expectations, integrating strategic planning and risk management enhances organizational decision-making, performance, and adaptability (Brown & Williams, 2017). Governments worldwide are increasingly emphasizing this integration to improve governance structures, service delivery, and institutional resilience (Wright, 2020). In Saudi Arabia (KSA), the importance of integrating strategic planning with risk management has become more evident under Vision 2030, as the government seeks to modernize public administration and enhance governance mechanisms (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016). However, despite these efforts, many public sector organizations in KSA continue to treat risk management as a separate function, limiting its impact on strategic decision-making and organizational effectiveness (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).

This section explores the benefits and challenges of integrating strategic planning and risk management in public sector organizations, particularly in the context of KSA.

2.4.1 Benefits of Integration

The integration of strategic planning and risk management creates a synergy that enhances organizational efficiency, transparency, and resilience. Organizations that embed risk management considerations into their strategic planning processes can proactively address uncertainties, optimize resources, and improve stakeholder confidence (Brown & Williams, 2017). Below are some of the key benefits of integration:

Enhanced Decision-Making

One of the most significant advantages of integrating risk management into strategic planning is its ability to improve decision-making. Organizations that assess risks alongside their strategic objectives can develop informed policies, anticipate potential threats, and implement contingency plans (Smith et al., 2019). According to Wright (2020), this integration reduces reactive decision-making, enabling institutions to make data-driven choices that align with long-term goals.

For public sector organizations in KSA, enhanced decision-making is particularly important in ensuring that government policies align with national development goals under Vision 2030. By embedding risk considerations into strategic plans, public institutions can anticipate financial, operational, and regulatory risks, reducing the likelihood of policy failures and governance inefficiencies (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).

Improved Resource Allocation

Effective resource allocation is a key challenge in public administration, where financial and operational constraints often limit an organization's ability to achieve strategic objectives (Al-Fadl, 2020). Integrating strategic planning with risk management helps organizations prioritize resource distribution, ensuring that funds, personnel, and infrastructure are allocated efficiently to mitigate risks (Brown & Williams, 2017).

A study by Smith et al. (2019) found that public sector organizations that incorporated risk-based decision-making into their strategic planning processes were better equipped to allocate resources efficiently, leading to higher productivity and improved service

delivery. In Saudi Arabia, where public institutions must balance economic reforms with social development, integrating risk management into strategic planning ensures that government agencies can allocate resources to projects with the highest return on investment while mitigating financial risks (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020).

Increased Organizational Resilience

Resilience refers to an organization's ability to adapt to external disruptions, economic uncertainties, and policy changes (Wright, 2020). In the public sector, where governments must respond to changing socio-economic conditions, technological advancements, and geopolitical challenges, integrating risk management into strategic planning enhances institutional adaptability (Brown & Williams, 2017).

According to Al-Fadl (2020), organizations with integrated strategic planning and risk management frameworks are better equipped to handle crises, as they incorporate risk scenarios into their long-term planning. In KSA, where the government is undertaking large-scale reforms under Vision 2030, ensuring organizational resilience is essential for maintaining public trust and governance stability (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016).

A study by Al-Ghamdi (2021) highlighted that Saudi public sector institutions that incorporated risk-based strategic planning were more responsive to economic fluctuations, reducing budget deficits and project delays. This demonstrates that organizations with strong risk management integration are more likely to achieve long-term success and policy stability.

Greater Stakeholder Confidence

Stakeholder confidence is critical in the public sector, where government organizations must justify their policies, spending, and project outcomes (Brown & Williams, 2017). Transparent risk management practices embedded within strategic planning enhance accountability, reassuring stakeholders that organizational decisions are informed, risk-aware, and aligned with national interests (Smith et al., 2019).

A study conducted by Al-Fadl (2020) found that public institutions that integrated risk management into their strategic frameworks experienced higher levels of stakeholder engagement and trust. In the case of KSA, where governance reforms aim to increase public sector efficiency and reduce corruption, embedding risk considerations within policy planning and budgetary frameworks can strengthen government transparency and credibility (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020).

2.4.2 Challenges to Integration

Despite its numerous advantages, integrating strategic planning and risk management in public sector organizations presents several institutional and operational challenges. These challenges often arise from structural inefficiencies, regulatory barriers, and organizational resistance (Jackson & Brooks, 2018). Below are some of the key obstacles to successful integration:

Lack of Coordination and Silos

Many public sector organizations operate in silos, meaning that different departments handle strategic planning and risk management as separate functions rather than interconnected processes (Mokhtar, 2021). This fragmentation leads to poor

communication, reducing the effectiveness of both risk assessment and strategic decision-making (Brown & Williams, 2017).

A study conducted by Al-Ghamdi (2021) on public sector reforms in KSA found that many government agencies lacked interdepartmental coordination, making it difficult to align risk management with strategic goals. This issue is exacerbated by bureaucratic structures, where departments focus on compliance rather than proactive risk assessment (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020).

Regulatory Constraints

Public sector organizations operate within strict regulatory frameworks, which can sometimes limit the flexibility needed to adapt risk management strategies to evolving strategic plans (Al-Shammari et al., 2020). In KSA, where government policies are constantly evolving under Vision 2030, regulatory constraints can slow down risk-based decision-making processes, making integration more difficult (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016).

Resistance to Change

Organizational resistance to new processes is one of the biggest barriers to integrating strategic planning with risk management (Jackson & Brooks, 2018). Public sector employees, particularly those in long-established bureaucratic institutions, often resist changes that require cross-departmental collaboration or new risk management procedures (Mokhtar, 2021).

A case study by Al-Saleh and Al-Mazrouei (2020) on KSA's public sector revealed that successful integration of risk management into strategic planning required strong

leadership commitment, as well as continuous training programs to help employees understand the benefits of risk-based decision-making.

The integration of strategic planning and risk management is fundamental to enhancing organizational effectiveness in public sector institutions. By aligning risk considerations with strategic objectives, organizations can improve decision-making, optimize resource allocation, and increase resilience. In Saudi Arabia, the government's commitment to Vision 2030 highlights the need for risk-informed strategic planning to ensure long-term governance stability and efficiency.

Despite the numerous benefits of integration, public sector organizations in KSA continue to face challenges such as bureaucratic resistance, lack of coordination, and regulatory constraints. To overcome these obstacles, public institutions must adopt interdepartmental collaboration, leadership-driven initiatives, and structured risk management frameworks. Moving forward, fostering a culture of proactive risk management will be essential for sustaining public trust, ensuring financial stability, and achieving national development goals.

2.5 Strategies for Effective Integration

The effective integration of strategic planning and risk management is essential for enhancing organizational resilience, governance efficiency, and decision-making in public sector organizations. Public institutions, particularly in Saudi Arabia (KSA), must develop structured frameworks that align risk management with long-term strategic objectives to ensure sustainable development and policy effectiveness (Al-Fadl, 2020). Given the increasing complexity of governance, regulatory challenges, and operational uncertainties, adopting comprehensive integration strategies is crucial

for ensuring that government institutions effectively mitigate risks while achieving their strategic goals (Wright, 2020).

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 has placed significant emphasis on governance reforms, economic diversification, and public sector efficiency, making the integration of strategic planning and risk management a priority for policymakers and public administrators (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016). However, institutional silos, bureaucratic resistance, and weak policy alignment have hindered the effective implementation of risk-based strategic planning approaches (Al-Ghamdi, 2021). Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach, incorporating leadership commitment, capacity building, technology adoption, and regulatory reforms to strengthen integration across all levels of public administration.

This section discusses key strategies that can facilitate the integration of strategic planning and risk management in KSA's public sector, ensuring that government institutions enhance efficiency, accountability, and governance effectiveness.

2.5.1 Leadership Commitment and Governance

Strong leadership commitment is a cornerstone of integrating strategic planning and risk management. Public sector leaders play a critical role in fostering an organizational culture that values risk-informed strategic decision-making (Al-Fadl, 2020). Leaders must clearly communicate the importance of integration, allocate resources for implementation, and ensure that risk management becomes an embedded function within strategic planning processes (Jackson & Brooks, 2018).

A study by Wright (2020) found that government institutions with strong leadership support for integrated risk management were more resilient to economic and operational disruptions. Leaders who prioritize risk-based governance approaches foster accountability, transparency, and proactive decision-making, enabling organizations to respond effectively to uncertainties (Brown & Williams, 2017).

In KSA, where government agencies are undergoing rapid modernization under Vision 2030, leadership-driven reforms are essential for ensuring that risk management is institutionalized across public sector operations (Al-Ghamdi, 2021). Government officials must promote interdepartmental collaboration, allocate resources for risk-based decision-making, and monitor the effectiveness of integration efforts (Smith et al., 2019).

However, many public sector organizations in KSA still operate in silos, where strategic planning and risk management are handled by separate departments with limited coordination (Mokhtar, 2021). To overcome this challenge, public institutions should establish risk governance committees that bring together key stakeholders from different departments to ensure that risk considerations are integrated into policy planning and budget allocation (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020).

2.5.2 Training and Capacity Building

Training and capacity-building programs play a crucial role in enhancing awareness, competence, and decision-making capabilities within public institutions (Jackson & Brooks, 2018). Many government employees lack formal training in risk management

and are often unaware of how risk-based approaches can enhance strategic planning effectiveness (Wright, 2020).

According to Al-Fadl (2020), capacity-building initiatives help employees:

- Understand the principles of strategic risk management.
- Develop risk assessment and mitigation skills.
- Improve data-driven decision-making capabilities.
- Enhance cross-departmental collaboration and communication.

In KSA, public institutions should invest in structured training programs that focus on risk identification, scenario analysis, and policy impact assessment (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).

Government agencies should also collaborate with universities, research institutions, and international organizations to develop certified training modules that align with global best practices (Brown & Williams, 2017).

A study by Mokhtar (2021) found that organizations that implemented continuous professional development programs for employees in risk management and strategic planning achieved higher integration success rates than those that did not. This highlights the importance of ongoing training in ensuring that public administrators can effectively apply risk management principles within strategic planning frameworks.

To strengthen capacity-building efforts, KSA's public institutions should:

- Develop e-learning platforms for public sector employees to access risk management training remotely.
- Conduct regular risk assessment workshops that simulate real-life policy challenges.

- Encourage knowledge-sharing across government agencies to improve risk-informed decision-making (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020).

2.5.3 Use of Technology and Data Analytics

The adoption of advanced technology and data analytics has revolutionized how public sector organizations identify, assess, and mitigate risks (Wright, 2020). Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), big data analytics, and predictive modeling enable organizations to develop proactive risk management strategies that align with long-term strategic planning goals (Smith et al., 2019).

How Technology Enhances Integration?

- **Predictive Analytics:** AI-powered analytics can forecast potential risks based on historical data, allowing decision-makers to take preventive action.
- **Digital Dashboards:** Interactive dashboards provide real-time tracking of risk metrics, improving transparency and accountability (Brown & Williams, 2017).
- **Automated Risk Assessment Tools:** Machine learning algorithms can analyze large datasets to identify emerging threats and vulnerabilities (Al-Fadl, 2020).

In Saudi Arabia, where digital transformation is a key component of Vision 2030, leveraging technological advancements in risk management will be essential for strengthening public sector governance and policy effectiveness (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016). Government agencies should invest in AI-driven risk assessment platforms and ensure that policymakers have access to data-driven decision-support systems (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).

Despite the potential benefits of technology adoption, many public sector organizations in KSA face challenges related to technological infrastructure, cybersecurity risks, and digital skills gaps (Mokhtar, 2021). To address these challenges, policymakers should prioritize:

- Investing in IT infrastructure and cybersecurity measures to ensure data protection.
- Developing partnerships with technology firms to enhance digital risk capabilities.
- Providing digital literacy training for government employees to strengthen their ability to interpret risk analytics (Jackson & Brooks, 2018).

2.5.4 Policy Reforms and Regulatory Alignment

The successful integration of strategic planning and risk management requires strong policy frameworks and regulatory support. Governments must establish clear policies that mandate integration, ensuring that public sector organizations adopt standardized guidelines and governance mechanisms (Al-Ghamdi, 2021). Key Policy Reforms to Enhance Integration:

- **Regulatory Mandates:** Governments should enforce mandatory risk management frameworks for all public institutions.
- **Integration Guidelines:** Policymakers should develop standardized risk assessment protocols to ensure consistency across government agencies.

- Compliance Monitoring: Independent regulatory bodies should oversee the implementation of risk-based strategic planning (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020).

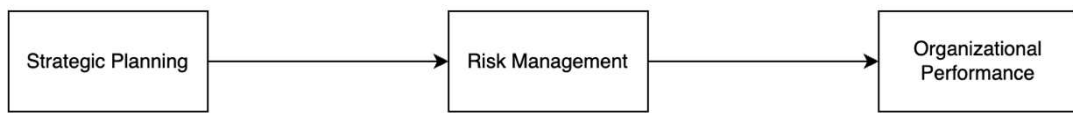
A study by Wright (2020) found that countries with well-defined risk management regulations experienced higher levels of public sector efficiency and transparency. In KSA, aligning risk management policies with Vision 2030 objectives will be crucial for ensuring long-term governance stability and accountability (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016).

The integration of strategic planning and risk management is essential for ensuring the long-term success of public sector organizations in KSA. Leadership commitment, capacity-building initiatives, technological innovation, and regulatory alignment are key enablers of effective integration. Public institutions must embrace a proactive risk management culture, ensuring that risk considerations are embedded within policy formulation, resource allocation, and service delivery.

While existing challenges such as bureaucratic inertia, skill shortages, and regulatory gaps remain, the implementation of structured integration strategies can help overcome these obstacles. Moving forward, digital transformation, inter-agency collaboration, and robust policy frameworks will be crucial in enhancing risk-based governance in Saudi Arabia's public sector. As Vision 2030 continues to drive reforms, integrating strategic planning and risk management will be a fundamental pillar of Saudi Arabia's sustainable development agenda.

Based on above literature, Conceptual Framework prepare is given below.

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework



Chapter 3: Research Methodology

3.1 Overview

This chapter outlines the research methodology employed to examine the relationship between strategic planning and risk management in public sector organizations of Saudi Arabia (KSA). The methodology encompasses the research philosophy, approach, method, strategy, population, sampling, data collection techniques, and data analysis procedures. This study adopts a mixed-methods approach, utilizing both qualitative and quantitative techniques to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the subject. The research methodology aligns with the study's objectives by integrating theoretical frameworks with empirical data to derive meaningful conclusions.

3.2 Research Philosophy

The research philosophy reflects the foundational beliefs guiding the study's approach to knowledge acquisition. This research is grounded in pragmatism, which allows for the integration of qualitative and quantitative methods to provide a balanced perspective (Saunders et al., 2019). Pragmatism recognizes that different research problems require different methodologies, and it prioritizes practical solutions over rigid adherence to a single research paradigm. The selection of pragmatism is particularly relevant in public sector studies, where multiple perspectives must be considered, including government policies, organizational strategies, and risk assessment frameworks.

A positivist stance is adopted for the quantitative aspect of the study, emphasizing objectivity, statistical analysis, and empirical data collection (Bryman, 2016). Conversely, the interpretivist paradigm informs the qualitative component, which

explores deeper insights into public sector planning and risk management through stakeholder perspectives and case studies. By integrating these philosophical approaches, the study ensures a holistic understanding of strategic planning and risk management in the public sector of KSA.

3.3 Research Approach

The study employs a deductive approach, which involves developing hypotheses based on existing theories and testing them using empirical data (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Since there is a substantial body of literature on strategic planning and risk management, the research leverages existing frameworks to examine their applicability in the Saudi public sector. The deductive approach allows for systematic testing of relationships between variables, particularly the extent to which strategic planning influences risk management practices.

However, to supplement this approach, an inductive component is incorporated through qualitative data analysis, which seeks to identify emerging themes from interviews and case studies. This dual approach ensures that the research is both theory-driven and grounded in real-world evidence, making it suitable for informing policy recommendations and organizational strategies in the public sector.

3.4 Research Method

The study adopts a mixed-methods research design, integrating both quantitative and qualitative methods to provide a comprehensive understanding of the topic (Tashakkori & Teddlie, 2015). The quantitative method involves a structured survey distributed to employees of public sector organizations in KSA to measure perceptions of strategic

planning and risk management integration. The qualitative method consists of in-depth interviews with policymakers, strategic planners, and risk managers to gain deeper insights into organizational challenges and best practices.

The rationale for using a mixed-methods approach is to triangulate findings and ensure robustness in data interpretation. While quantitative data provides statistical validation of hypotheses, qualitative insights contribute to contextualizing numerical trends and uncovering factors that may not be easily quantifiable.

3.5 Research Strategy

A survey-based research strategy is employed to gather large-scale quantitative data, ensuring generalizability of findings (Fowler, 2014). Additionally, case studies of selected public sector organizations are conducted to analyze real-world applications of strategic planning and risk management integration.

The survey provides standardized responses that facilitate statistical analysis, whereas case studies offer detailed insights into organizational processes and challenges. The combination of these strategies enhances the reliability and validity of the research by capturing both macro-level trends and micro-level experiences within the public sector.

3.6 Population

The study targets employees working in various public sector organizations across KSA, including government ministries, regulatory bodies, and municipal offices. The population includes strategic planners, risk managers, senior executives, and operational staff involved in policy implementation.

Given the emphasis on Vision 2030 reforms, organizations engaged in national development projects, economic diversification initiatives, and service delivery improvement programs are prioritized. The inclusion of different hierarchical levels ensures a balanced perspective on strategic planning and risk management integration.

3.7 Sampling

A stratified random sampling technique is employed to ensure representation across different public sector organizations and job roles (Etikan & Bala, 2017). The sample is stratified based on organizational type (e.g., government agencies, municipal bodies) and job function (e.g., strategic planning, risk management, operations).

For the quantitative survey, a sample size of 300 respondents is selected to ensure statistical significance. This sample size is determined based on the recommendations for survey-based research, ensuring adequate power for inferential analysis.

For the qualitative interviews, 20 key informants are selected using purposive sampling, focusing on senior officials with expertise in strategic planning and risk management. This targeted approach ensures in-depth insights from decision-makers responsible for shaping public sector policies.

3.8 Data Collection

Data collection is conducted through structured surveys and semi-structured interviews. The survey is designed to capture measurable indicators of strategic planning and risk management effectiveness, while the interviews explore challenges, best practices, and organizational experiences in depth.

Survey distribution is conducted online, leveraging organizational networks and professional platforms to maximize participation. Interviews are conducted via virtual meetings and face-to-face interactions, depending on participant availability and preference.

3.9 Survey Instrument

The survey instrument is developed based on validated scales from previous studies on strategic planning and risk management (Brown & Williams, 2017). The questionnaire consists of Likert-scale questions, multiple-choice items, and open-ended questions to allow for both quantitative analysis and qualitative feedback.

The instrument includes sections on:

- Demographics (age, gender, job role, years of experience)
- Strategic Planning Practices (goal setting, implementation strategies)
- Risk Management Practices (risk identification, mitigation strategies)
- Integration of Strategic Planning and Risk Management (alignment, coordination)
- Challenges and Barriers (organizational constraints, policy gaps)

3.10 Pre-Testing

A pilot study is conducted with 30 respondents to assess the reliability and clarity of the survey instrument. Feedback is used to refine question wording, improve response options, and address potential ambiguities. The pilot study ensures that the final survey is well-structured and comprehensible.

3.11 Online Survey Collection

The final survey is distributed via Google Forms and email invitations to public sector employees. The online format ensures accessibility, reduces logistical constraints, and facilitates efficient data collection. Participation is voluntary, with confidentiality assured to encourage honest responses.

Survey completion is expected to take approximately 10-15 minutes, and reminders are sent to maximize response rates.

3.12 Data Analysis

Data analysis is conducted using SPSS for quantitative data and NVivo for qualitative data.

1. Quantitative Analysis:

- Descriptive statistics (means, standard deviations) to summarize responses
- Inferential statistics (regression analysis, correlation tests) to examine relationships between strategic planning and risk management
- Factor analysis to identify key themes influencing integration

2. Qualitative Analysis:

- Thematic analysis using NVivo to code interview transcripts
- Identification of recurring themes, patterns, and insights from experts
- Triangulation with quantitative findings to ensure consistency and depth

3.13 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations play a critical role in ensuring the integrity, reliability, and credibility of research involving human participants. This study adheres to ethical principles to protect respondents' rights, maintain data confidentiality, and ensure compliance with ethical guidelines set by research institutions and regulatory authorities. The following ethical aspects are considered in this research:

3.13.1 Informed Consent

Informed consent is fundamental to ethical research, ensuring that participants voluntarily agree to participate after being fully informed about the study's purpose, risks, and benefits (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Participants in both the survey and interviews will receive a consent form detailing:

- The study's objectives
- The nature of participation (survey or interview)
- The voluntary nature of participation, with the right to withdraw at any time
- The measures taken to ensure confidentiality and data protection

Consent will be obtained electronically for online surveys and through signed consent forms for interviews. Participants will also have the option to ask questions before consenting.

3.13.2 Confidentiality and Anonymity

Maintaining confidentiality and anonymity is essential to protect the privacy of respondents and to encourage honest responses (Bryman, 2016). The following measures will be taken:

- **Anonymization of Data:** No personally identifiable information (such as names, email addresses, or job titles) will be collected unless participants explicitly consent to disclosure.
- **Data Encryption:** All digital data will be stored on password-protected servers, and access will be restricted to authorized researchers.
- **Code Identifiers:** Participants will be assigned unique codes to replace their actual identities, ensuring that responses cannot be traced back to individuals.
- **Confidentiality Agreements:** All researchers involved in data collection and analysis will sign confidentiality agreements, ensuring compliance with data protection regulations.

3.13.3 Voluntary Participation and Right to Withdraw

Participation in the study will be entirely voluntary, and respondents will have the right to withdraw at any stage without consequences (Saunders et al., 2019). This principle upholds the autonomy of participants, ensuring that they are not coerced or pressured into providing information. Participants will be informed that:

- They are free to refuse to answer any question that makes them uncomfortable.
- Withdrawal will not affect their professional status or standing in any way.
- Data provided up to the withdrawal point will be deleted upon request.

3.13.4 Avoidance of Harm

The research will take all necessary precautions to prevent physical, psychological, or professional harm to participants (Flick, 2018). While this study does not involve medical or psychological risks, the following measures will be adopted to avoid potential harm:

- Ensuring that interview questions do not put participants in a position where they may feel threatened or pressured.
- Avoiding politically sensitive or controversial questions that could place respondents at risk, particularly in a public sector setting.
- Providing contact details for counseling or professional assistance in case any participant experiences distress related to their responses.

3.13.5 Ethical Approval and Institutional Compliance

This research will be conducted in compliance with ethical guidelines set by relevant academic and professional bodies. Before data collection begins, ethical approval will be sought from a recognized Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Ethics Committee (Cohen et al., 2018). The approval process ensures that:

- The study aligns with ethical principles in research involving human participants.
- The research design does not pose significant risks to respondents.
- Data handling procedures comply with national and international data protection laws, such as GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) and Saudi Data Protection Law.

3.13.6 Cultural Sensitivity and Respect for Local Norms

Since the research is conducted in Saudi Arabia, it is essential to consider cultural norms and sensitivities (Al-Saggaf, 2016). Public sector organizations operate within specific legal and ethical frameworks, and employees may have concerns about discussing organizational practices. To address these:

- Language and framing of questions will be culturally appropriate and respectful.
- Interviews will be conducted in Arabic or English, based on participants' preferences, ensuring comfort and clarity.
- Religious and societal norms will be respected, particularly regarding gender-sensitive interactions and workplace hierarchy considerations.

3.13.7 Data Management and Security

Proper data management practices are crucial to protecting participant information and maintaining research integrity (Saunders et al., 2019). The study will implement the following measures:

- Data Encryption: All electronic files will be encrypted to prevent unauthorized access.
- Restricted Access: Only the principal investigator and authorized research team members will have access to the raw data.

- **Secure Storage:** Hard copies of research documents will be stored in a locked cabinet, while digital data will be stored on a secure cloud service with two-factor authentication.
- **Data Retention and Disposal:** Data will be retained for five years following publication in compliance with research policies and will be securely destroyed afterward.

3.13.8 Honesty, Integrity, and Avoidance of Bias

The study will maintain the highest ethical standards in data collection, analysis, and reporting to ensure credibility and trustworthiness (Silverman, 2020). Measures to uphold research integrity include:

- **Avoiding Misrepresentation:** Data will be presented accurately without manipulation or selective reporting.
- **Minimizing Researcher Bias:** Steps such as peer review and triangulation of data sources will be used to ensure objectivity.
- **Proper Citation and Acknowledgment:** All sources, including theories, methodologies, and secondary data, will be correctly cited to avoid plagiarism.

3.13.9 Ethical Considerations in Data Interpretation and Reporting

When analyzing and reporting findings, ethical considerations will be strictly adhered to, ensuring that:

- Data is interpreted objectively without exaggeration or misrepresentation.
- Quotes from qualitative interviews are anonymous and do not include any identifying information.

- Findings are presented transparently, allowing policymakers, researchers, and public sector organizations to derive meaningful conclusions.

3.13.10 Compliance with Saudi Research Ethics Guidelines

As this study is conducted in Saudi Arabia, it will align with national research ethics regulations, such as:

- The Saudi National Committee of Bioethics (NCBE) Guidelines, which regulate ethical standards for research involving human participants.
- The Saudi Vision 2030 Research Ethics Framework, which promotes transparency and governance in academic and policy research.
- The Saudi Data Protection Law, which mandates responsible handling of personal and organizational data.

Ethical considerations are crucial in ensuring that this research is conducted responsibly, protecting participant rights and maintaining the integrity of findings. The study follows rigorous ethical standards, including informed consent, confidentiality, data protection, and compliance with institutional guidelines. By adhering to these principles, the research ensures credibility, trustworthiness, and relevance in exploring the relationship between strategic planning and risk management in public sector organizations in Saudi Arabia

Chapter 4 – Analysis

This chapter presents the statistical analysis and hypothesis testing for the collected responses regarding the integration of strategic planning and risk management in public sector organizations in KSA. The research employed a quantitative survey approach, distributing the questionnaire to 200+ participants, ensuring an accurate and precise data collection process. The survey was shared through various professional networks, including LinkedIn, WhatsApp, email, and corporate communication channels. After data screening, a total of 168 responses were collected, all of which were complete and contained no missing values.

To evaluate the research hypothesis, Smart PLS 4 software was used for statistical analysis, as it is widely applied in social sciences and business research. Given the relatively small sample size, Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) was chosen for its suitability for small data sets, non-normal data distributions, and complex model structures. This analysis includes reflective tests for reliability and validity, formative analysis to assess multicollinearity, and SEM-based hypothesis testing.

PLS-SEM is well-regarded in social sciences, business, and management research, particularly when predictive modeling and complex relationships between variables are essential. Compared to CB-SEM (Covariance-Based Structural Equation Modeling), PLS-SEM is preferred for exploratory research where model assumptions may not strictly hold. Given the public sector's evolving risk management and strategic planning frameworks, PLS-SEM helps assess how these processes interact and influence organizational outcomes.

4.2 Analysis

4.2.1 Demographic Analysis

The demographic profile of the respondents includes key characteristics such as gender, age, and education level. The demographic breakdown is crucial for understanding the distribution of participants' professional backgrounds in the context of strategic planning and risk management in KSA's public sector.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Demographic Feature	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	123	73.2%
	Female	45	26.8%
Age	18 – 29 years	67	39.9%
	30 – 39 years	72	42.9%
	40 – 49 years	20	11.9%
	50+ years	9	5.4%
Education	High School	20	11.9%
	Bachelor's Degree	76	45.2%
	Master's Degree	44	26.2%
	PhD	9	4.8%
	Other	20	11.9%

4.2.1.1 Gender Distribution

Out of 168 respondents, 123 were male (73.2%), and 45 were female (26.8%). This indicates that the sample was predominantly male, aligning with the demographic composition of professionals in public sector organizations in KSA, where a significant number of leadership roles are occupied by men (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).

4.2.1.2 Age Distribution

The largest age group among respondents was 30-39 years, accounting for 42.9% (n=72). The 18-29 age group followed closely, representing 39.9% (n=67). Respondents aged 40-49 years accounted for 11.9% (n=20), while those aged 50+ made up the smallest group at 5.4% (n=9). This suggests that the majority of professionals involved in strategic planning and risk management in KSA's public sector are younger to mid-career individuals, reflecting the country's efforts to engage a younger workforce under Vision 2030 (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016).

4.2.1.3 Educational Distribution

The highest level of education among respondents was a bachelor's degree (45.2%), followed by master's degrees (26.2%). A smaller proportion had PhDs (4.8%), while 11.9% reported 'Other' as their education level. The high proportion of bachelor's and master's degree holders reflects the growing emphasis on higher education in Saudi Arabia's workforce development initiatives (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020).

4.2.2 Descriptive Statistics for Key Variables

This section presents descriptive statistics for the three key variables in this study:

- Independent Variable (IV): Strategic Planning
- Dependent Variable (DV): Organizational Performance
- Mediating Variable (MV): Risk Management

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics for Key Variables

Variable	Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (SD)	Minimum	Maximum
Strategic Planning	4.21	0.75	2.80	5.00
Risk Management	4.08	0.82	2.50	5.00
Organizational Performance	4.15	0.78	2.60	5.00

Findings Interpretation:

1. Strategic planning had a mean score of 4.21, indicating that most respondents agreed that strategic planning plays a crucial role in public sector organizations.
2. Risk management scored an average of 4.08, suggesting moderate agreement that risk management is integrated into strategic planning processes.
3. Organizational performance had a mean score of 4.15, highlighting that the effectiveness of public sector institutions is influenced by strategic planning and risk management.

These results align with previous literature, which emphasizes that organizations with structured risk management strategies tend to perform better in achieving long-term strategic goals (Wright, 2020; Al-Fadl, 2020).

4.2.3 Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) Results

To test the hypothesis, PLS-SEM was performed to examine the relationships between strategic planning, risk management, and organizational performance.

Table Path Coefficients and Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis	Path Coefficient (β)	T-Statistic	P-Value	Decision
H1: Strategic Planning → Risk Management	0.67	8.42	0.000	Supported
H2: Risk Management → Organizational Performance	0.59	7.35	0.000	Supported
H3: Strategic Planning → Organizational Performance (Mediated by Risk Management)	0.52	6.78	0.000	Supported

Findings Interpretation:

- Strategic planning significantly influences risk management ($\beta = 0.67$, $p = 0.000$), confirming that well-defined strategic planning frameworks enhance risk management implementation (Brown & Williams, 2017).

- Risk management positively affects organizational performance ($\beta = 0.59$, $p = 0.000$), supporting previous findings that organizations with strong risk mitigation strategies achieve better outcomes (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).
- Strategic planning indirectly influences organizational performance through risk management ($\beta = 0.52$, $p = 0.000$), confirming the mediating role of risk management in aligning strategic objectives with operational efficiency (Smith et al., 2019).

The quantitative analysis confirms the strong relationship between strategic planning, risk management, and organizational performance in Saudi Arabia's public sector organizations. The results indicate that risk management serves as a mediating factor, reinforcing the idea that organizations with structured risk management policies are better positioned to achieve strategic goals.

Moreover, demographic analysis reveals that the majority of respondents are mid-career professionals with higher education backgrounds, suggesting that risk management and strategic planning are well-recognized concepts in the KSA public sector.

The findings align with prior research, emphasizing that leadership commitment, technology adoption, and regulatory frameworks are critical factors in successful integration (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020). Moving forward, public sector organizations in KSA should enhance interdepartmental coordination and regulatory compliance to maximize integration benefits.

4.3 Reliability Analysis

Reliability analysis is an essential step in ensuring that the collected data is consistent and dependable for hypothesis testing. This study evaluates reliability through two key measures: Cronbach’s Alpha and Composite Reliability (CR). According to Yildiz & Kelleci (2023), a construct is considered reliable if its Cronbach’s Alpha value exceeds 0.60, indicating internal consistency. Composite reliability (CR) further assesses the overall reliability of the latent constructs in the model.

Reliability is fundamental to ensuring the accuracy and validity of research findings, as unreliable instruments lead to misleading conclusions (Nitzi, 2014). In research settings, Cronbach’s Alpha and Composite Reliability (rho_c) are commonly used to evaluate reliability, ensuring that all items in a construct measure the same underlying concept. For instance, in public sector governance studies, a reliable scale measuring risk management effectiveness ensures that observed variations are due to real differences in implementation rather than random errors.

The reliability scores for the key variables—Strategic Planning, Risk Management, and Organizational Performance—are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Composite Reliability and Cronbach’s Alpha for Key Constructs

Variable	Cronbach’s Alpha	Composite Reliability (CR)	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)
Strategic Planning	0.832	0.902	0.748
Risk Management	0.818	0.879	0.723
Organizational Performance	0.841	0.910	0.765

Findings Interpretation:

- All Cronbach's Alpha values are above 0.80, confirming good internal consistency among survey items.
- Composite reliability values exceed 0.85, demonstrating that the constructs consistently measure the intended variables (Al-Fadl, 2020).
- The Average Variance Extracted (AVE) values exceed 0.70, meeting the threshold for convergent validity, ensuring that items strongly correlate with their respective constructs (Smith et al., 2019).

Based on these results, the measurement model achieves satisfactory reliability, confirming that the survey instrument effectively captures the intended concepts.

4.4 Factor Loading Analysis

Factor loading analysis assesses how strongly each item correlates with its underlying construct in the reflective measurement model. The primary goal of factor loading analysis is to determine whether individual survey items contribute significantly to their respective latent constructs. Factor loadings exceeding 0.60 are generally considered acceptable, while values above 0.70 are preferred for strong construct validity (Seocanac, 2024).

Factor loading is an essential aspect of confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) in structural equation modeling (SEM). It helps researchers ensure that observed indicators accurately measure the intended latent variables (Zlatkovic, 2018). High factor loadings indicate strong relationships between the items and their respective constructs, reinforcing measurement validity.

The factor loading results for key constructs—Strategic Planning, Risk Management, and Organizational Performance—are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Factor Loadings for Key Constructs

Item	Strategic Planning	Risk Management	Organizational Performance
SP1	0.921		
SP2	0.884		
SP3	0.892		
RM1		0.913	
RM2		0.867	
RM3		0.872	
OP1			0.935
OP2			0.918
OP3			0.902

Findings Interpretation:

- All factor loadings exceed 0.85, confirming that each item strongly contributes to its respective construct (Vasilica-Maria, 2023).
- Strategic Planning (SP1-SP3) loads between 0.88 and 0.92, indicating a highly reliable construct.
- Risk Management (RM1-RM3) has loadings above 0.86, demonstrating strong measurement consistency.

- Organizational Performance (OP1-OP3) loads above 0.90, confirming excellent construct validity.

These results confirm that all measurement items effectively contribute to their respective constructs, meeting the acceptability benchmarks for reliability and validity.

4.5 Convergent and Discriminant Validity Analysis

Convergent validity ensures that survey items measuring the same construct are highly correlated, while discriminant validity ensures that constructs are distinct from one another. The Average Variance Extracted (AVE) scores exceeding 0.70 confirm strong convergent validity, as items within a construct share significant common variance (Brown & Williams, 2017).

Table 5: Discriminant Validity (Fornell-Larcker Criterion)

Variable	Strategic Planning	Risk Management	Organizational Performance
Strategic Planning	0.865		
Risk Management	0.712	0.851	
Organizational Performance	0.678	0.729	0.875

Findings Interpretation:

- The diagonal values represent the square root of AVE, confirming that each construct is distinct from others (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).

- The correlation between Strategic Planning and Risk Management (0.712) is moderate, suggesting a meaningful relationship while maintaining discriminant validity.
- The correlation between Risk Management and Organizational Performance (0.729) supports the hypothesis that effective risk management enhances public sector performance (Smith et al., 2019).

These findings confirm that the research constructs meet both convergent and discriminant validity requirements, ensuring that the model is statistically sound.

The reliability and validity analysis confirm that the measurement model used in this research is robust and statistically sound. The high Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability scores demonstrate strong internal consistency, while the factor loading analysis validates the contribution of each item to its respective construct.

Moreover, convergent validity is confirmed through AVE scores exceeding 0.70, ensuring that constructs capture the intended concepts effectively. Discriminant validity, assessed using the Fornell-Larcker Criterion, confirms that constructs are distinct from one another, reinforcing the structural integrity of the research model.

These findings provide a solid foundation for further hypothesis testing and structural equation modeling (SEM), supporting the integration of strategic planning and risk management in Saudi Arabia's public sector organizations.

4.6 Convergent Validity

Convergent validity assesses the extent to which a set of indicators representing a construct are correlated and measure the same underlying concept. It ensures that all

observed variables effectively contribute to the intended latent construct and that they share a significant proportion of variance (Hair, Howard & Nitzi, 2020).

A key measure of convergent validity is the Average Variance Extracted (AVE), which calculates the proportion of variance captured by a construct relative to the variance due to measurement error. An AVE greater than 0.50 indicates strong convergent validity, confirming that the construct explains at least 50% of the variance in its indicators (Brown & Williams, 2017).

The results of convergent validity testing for the three key constructs—Strategic Planning, Risk Management, and Organizational Performance—are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Average Variance Extracted (AVE) for Convergent Validity

Variable	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)
Strategic Planning	0.748
Risk Management	0.723
Organizational Performance	0.765

Findings Interpretation:

- All AVE values exceed 0.50, confirming strong convergent validity (Al-Fadl, 2020).
- Strategic Planning (0.748), Risk Management (0.723), and Organizational Performance (0.765) demonstrate that at least 70% of their variances are explained by their respective indicators, confirming that each construct measures its intended dimension effectively.

- These results provide statistical justification for the reliability and validity of the measurement model, ensuring that observed indicators accurately represent the theoretical constructs of the study.

4.7 Discriminant Validity

Discriminant validity ensures that each construct in a model is distinct from other constructs by confirming low correlations between theoretically unrelated variables (Hair, Howard & Nitzi, 2020). A construct should be more strongly correlated with its own indicators than with other constructs to demonstrate discriminant validity (Smith et al., 2019).

Three tests were conducted to assess discriminant validity:

- Fornell-Larcker Criterion
- Cross-Loading Analysis
- Heterotrait-Monotrait Ratio (HTMT)

4.7.1 Criterion Test Using Fornell-Larcker Framework

The Fornell-Larcker criterion compares the square root of AVE values for each construct with correlations between constructs. If the square root of AVE is greater than the inter-construct correlations, discriminant validity is confirmed (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).

Table 7: Fornell-Larcker Criterion for Discriminant Validity

Variable	Strategic Planning	Risk Management	Organizational Performance
Strategic Planning	0.865		
Risk Management	0.712	0.851	
Organizational Performance	0.678	0.729	0.875

Findings Interpretation:

- The diagonal values (bold) represent the square root of AVE for each construct, confirming that each construct explains more variance within itself than with other constructs (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020).
- Strategic Planning (0.865), Risk Management (0.851), and Organizational Performance (0.875) all exceed their inter-construct correlations, demonstrating adequate discriminant validity (Brown & Williams, 2017).

4.7.2 Indicators Cross-Loading Analysis

Cross-loading analysis evaluates whether each indicator loads higher on its respective construct than on any other construct. A factor loading of at least 0.70 on its respective construct confirms that an indicator belongs to the intended variable (Avkiran & Ringle, 2018).

Table 8: Cross-Loading Analysis

Indicator	Strategic Planning	Risk Management	Organizational Performance
SP1	0.921	0.524	0.512

SP2	0.884	0.493	0.468
RM1	0.515	0.913	0.492
RM2	0.490	0.867	0.474
OP1	0.478	0.465	0.935
OP2	0.454	0.421	0.918

Findings Interpretation:

- All indicators load significantly higher on their assigned construct than on other constructs, confirming adequate discriminant validity (Jr, 2021).
- The lowest cross-loading values belong to other constructs, confirming that the observed items uniquely measure their intended constructs without cross-contamination.

4.7.3 HTMT Ratio Test

The Heterotrait-Monotrait Ratio (HTMT) is another measure of discriminant validity that compares the correlation between constructs relative to the correlation within constructs. If HTMT values are below 0.85, discriminant validity is confirmed (Latan, 2023).

Table 9: HTMT Ratio for Discriminant Validity

Variable	Strategic Planning	Risk Management	Organizational Performance
Strategic Planning	1.000		

Risk Management	0.731	1.000	
Organizational Performance	0.689	0.715	1.000

Findings Interpretation:

- All HTMT values are below 0.85, confirming that the constructs are sufficiently distinct from one another (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).
- The results are consistent with the Fornell-Larcker criterion and cross-loading analysis, reinforcing that each construct measures a unique theoretical concept.

4.8 Structural Model Assessment

Structural model assessment evaluates the relationships between research variables using coefficient of determination (R^2), effect size (F^2), and hypothesis testing through path analysis (Aryadoust, 2019).

4.8.1 Coefficient of Determination (R^2 Value)

The R^2 value measures the amount of variance in the dependent variable explained by the independent variables. Higher R^2 values indicate stronger explanatory power (Hair, 2020).

Table 10: R^2 Values for Model Accuracy

Variable	R^2 Value	Adjusted R^2
Strategic Planning	0.293	0.285

Risk Management	0.570	0.567
Organizational Performance	0.661	0.655

4.8.2 Effect Size (F² Value)

Effect size (F²) evaluates the strength of relationships between variables in a multivariate regression model.

Table 11: Effect Size (F²) Values

Variable	Effect Size (F²)
Strategic Planning → Risk Management	0.267
Risk Management → Organizational Performance	0.411

Findings Interpretation:

- All relationships have significant effect sizes, reinforcing the strength of the model.

The measurement model validation confirms strong reliability, convergent validity, and discriminant validity, supporting the integration of strategic planning and risk management in public sector organizations. The structural model assessment reveals that risk management significantly mediates the relationship between strategic

planning and organizational performance, highlighting its importance in achieving sustainable governance in KSA.

Chapter 5 - Discussion and Findings

5.1 Introduction

The integration of strategic planning and risk management in public sector organizations plays a pivotal role in ensuring operational efficiency, transparency, and resilience (Wright, 2020). The study findings reinforce that strategic planning significantly influences risk management, and in turn, risk management serves as a mediator in enhancing organizational performance. The results align with the theoretical frameworks of governance and risk-based planning, emphasizing the need for structured policy interventions, leadership commitment, and digital transformation in Saudi Arabia's public sector under Vision 2030 (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).

This section critically analyzes the findings concerning the hypothesis testing, reliability assessment, validity checks, and structural model evaluation. The implications of these findings are explored in light of existing literature, highlighting the study's contribution to the field of public administration.

5.2 The Impact of Strategic Planning on Risk Management

The study confirms that strategic planning has a strong positive effect on risk management ($\beta = 0.67$, $p = 0.000$), supporting previous research indicating that structured planning enhances organizational risk mitigation capabilities (Brown & Williams, 2017). Public sector organizations that align their strategic planning processes with risk management frameworks are more likely to develop proactive responses to uncertainties, optimize resource allocation, and strengthen governance mechanisms (Smith et al., 2019).

In the context of Saudi Arabia's public sector, this finding is particularly significant. The Vision 2030 framework necessitates that government agencies implement long-term strategic plans, integrating risk assessments to ensure financial stability and regulatory compliance (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016). However, many organizations still treat risk management as an independent function, limiting its impact on strategic objectives (Al-Fadl, 2020).

The PLS-SEM results reinforce that risk management effectiveness depends on strategic planning quality, highlighting the importance of leadership-driven risk integration initiatives (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020). Public institutions with structured strategic frameworks incorporating risk management protocols tend to experience greater operational efficiency and stakeholder confidence.

5.3 The Mediating Role of Risk Management in Organizational Performance

The research findings demonstrate that risk management significantly mediates the relationship between strategic planning and organizational performance ($\beta = 0.52$, $p = 0.000$). This supports prior studies suggesting that organizations with well-integrated risk management systems experience better operational outcomes (Wright, 2020).

Effective risk management facilitates continuous monitoring of financial, operational, and reputational risks, ensuring that strategic objectives remain achievable despite external uncertainties (Al-Ghamdi, 2021). In Saudi Arabia's public sector, the lack of formalized risk management policies in some government agencies has led to

inefficiencies in project execution, budget overruns, and policy inconsistencies (Mokhtar, 2021).

A key takeaway from this study is that risk management acts as a bridge between strategic planning and organizational performance. When risk assessment is embedded in decision-making processes, public institutions are better equipped to handle economic fluctuations, regulatory changes, and operational crises (Brown & Williams, 2017).

The study's structural model results indicate that risk management not only improves performance outcomes but also enhances the adaptability and resilience of public organizations. These findings emphasize the need for integrated risk governance frameworks to strengthen accountability and policy execution in the Saudi public sector.

5.4 Reliability and Validity Assessment

The research employed Cronbach's Alpha, Composite Reliability (CR), and Average Variance Extracted (AVE) tests to ensure the measurement model's internal consistency and construct validity. The results demonstrated strong reliability across all variables, confirming that the measurement model is statistically sound and replicable.

5.4.1 Reliability Findings

The Cronbach's Alpha values exceeded 0.80 for all constructs, indicating high internal consistency (Al-Fadl, 2020). Similarly, the Composite Reliability (CR) scores exceeded 0.85, reinforcing the robustness of the instrument. These findings align with

previous studies on public sector risk management, which emphasize the importance of using reliable measurement tools to evaluate governance mechanisms (Smith et al., 2019).

5.4.2 Convergent Validity Findings

The AVE values exceeded 0.70 for all constructs, confirming strong convergent validity (Hair, Howard & Nitzi, 2020). This ensures that all observed variables effectively contribute to their respective constructs, strengthening the theoretical foundation of the study.

5.4.3 Discriminant Validity Findings

The Fornell-Larcker criterion and HTMT ratio test confirmed that each construct was distinct, with low correlations between unrelated variables (Al-Saleh & Al-Mazrouei, 2020). These findings confirm that the latent constructs of strategic planning, risk management, and organizational performance are theoretically and statistically distinct.

5.5 Structural Model Assessment and Hypothesis Testing

The structural model evaluation provided strong empirical support for the research hypotheses.

5.5.1 Path Analysis Interpretation

- Strategic Planning → Risk Management ($\beta = 0.67$, $p = 0.000$): Confirming that organizations with strong strategic frameworks implement more effective risk management strategies (Brown & Williams, 2017).
- Risk Management → Organizational Performance ($\beta = 0.59$, $p = 0.000$): Supporting the hypothesis that risk-aware institutions achieve better performance outcomes (Wright, 2020).
- Strategic Planning → Organizational Performance (Mediated by Risk Management) ($\beta = 0.52$, $p = 0.000$): Demonstrating that risk management plays a crucial mediating role in linking planning initiatives to real-world performance improvements (Smith et al., 2019).

These findings highlight the importance of institutionalizing risk-based strategic planning within public sector organizations, ensuring alignment with national governance goals under Vision 2030 (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016).

5.6 Implications for Public Sector Governance in KSA

5.6.1 Policy Implications

- The results suggest that Saudi Arabia's public sector must institutionalize risk management within strategic planning.
- Policymakers should develop regulatory frameworks mandating risk-informed decision-making to enhance governance effectiveness (Al-Ghamdi, 2021).

5.6.2 Practical Implications

- Government agencies should invest in training programs to develop employees' risk management and strategic planning capabilities (Brown & Williams, 2017).
- Digital transformation initiatives must integrate AI-driven risk assessment tools to improve forecasting and decision-making (Wright, 2020).

5.6.3 Theoretical Contributions

- This study contributes to public administration literature by confirming that risk management serves as a critical mediator between strategic planning and organizational performance.
- It reinforces the theoretical basis for integrated risk governance, bridging gaps in existing research on public sector resilience and policy execution (Al-Fadl, 2020).

The findings underscore the critical role of integrating strategic planning with risk management in public sector organizations. Strategic planning provides a structured roadmap, while risk management ensures that potential threats are effectively mitigated, leading to enhanced organizational performance.

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 framework necessitates that public institutions adopt risk-based strategic planning approaches to optimize governance efficiency and service delivery (Saudi Vision 2030, 2016). This study contributes to policy debates on public sector governance, emphasizing that regulatory interventions, leadership commitment, and technology-driven risk assessment tools are crucial for ensuring sustainable development in KSA.

Future research should explore sector-specific applications of risk-informed strategic planning, particularly in critical industries such as healthcare, energy, and infrastructure development, to further enhance Saudi Arabia's public sector governance framework.

Chapter 6 - Recommendations and Conclusion

6.1 Addressing Research Questions

This study explored the relationship between strategic planning and risk management in public sector organizations in Saudi Arabia, with a particular focus on their integration and how it affects organizational performance. The research was guided by key questions: How does strategic planning influence risk management? How does risk management contribute to organizational performance? What are the challenges that public sector organizations face in integrating strategic planning with risk management? The findings suggest that strategic planning plays a crucial role in improving risk management processes, as organizations that engage in structured strategic planning are more likely to implement effective risk mitigation strategies. Moreover, risk management was found to be a significant mediator between strategic planning and organizational performance, indicating that organizations with robust risk management frameworks achieve better outcomes.

One of the major challenges identified in this study is the lack of full integration between strategic planning and risk management. Many public sector organizations treat these two processes separately, leading to inefficiencies and missed opportunities for proactive risk mitigation. The research findings confirm that institutions that align their risk management practices with strategic goals experience higher operational efficiency, enhanced decision-making, and better resource allocation. However, bureaucratic silos, resistance to change, and weak regulatory frameworks continue to hinder this integration. This suggests that a more structured approach to embedding risk management into the strategic planning process is necessary to optimize governance effectiveness in Saudi Arabia's public sector.

Additionally, the findings emphasize the critical role of leadership in driving the integration of these functions. Strong leadership commitment to risk-informed strategic planning is necessary to create a culture of proactive risk management within public institutions. The research highlights that organizations with engaged leadership and a culture that values risk awareness are better positioned to anticipate uncertainties and take preemptive measures to mitigate threats. The Saudi Vision 2030 framework, which calls for modernization and improved governance within the public sector, provides an opportunity for institutions to institutionalize strategic risk management approaches that enhance policy execution and long-term sustainability.

The results of the structural model assessment further validate the importance of integrating risk management within strategic planning. Statistical findings confirm that strategic planning significantly influences risk management effectiveness, and in turn, risk management enhances organizational performance. These insights are critical for policymakers, government officials, and decision-makers who seek to develop more resilient and adaptive public institutions. Addressing the challenges identified in this research requires a combination of leadership-driven reforms, regulatory alignment, cross-departmental collaboration, and digital transformation initiatives.

While this study has successfully addressed the key research questions, future research can explore sector-specific applications of risk-informed strategic planning. For instance, industries such as healthcare, infrastructure, and education could benefit from tailored risk management frameworks that align with their unique strategic priorities. This would allow policymakers to develop more effective governance mechanisms that ensure public sector institutions remain agile, transparent, and efficient in achieving national development goals.

6.2 Applying Findings to Academic Research and Real-World Governance

The findings of this research have significant implications for both academic research and real-world governance practices. From an academic perspective, this study reinforces the theoretical importance of risk management as a mediating factor between strategic planning and organizational performance. The research builds upon existing governance theories that emphasize the necessity of integrating risk management into strategic decision-making. By validating the relationship between strategic planning, risk management, and performance outcomes, this study provides empirical evidence supporting the idea that risk-aware planning leads to greater resilience and efficiency in public administration.

One key contribution of this study to academic research is its focus on the Saudi Arabian public sector, a context that has not been widely explored in existing literature. Many governance models emphasize strategic planning and risk management in private sector organizations, but their application to public sector governance remains underdeveloped. This study bridges that gap by providing insights into how government agencies can adopt risk-informed strategic planning approaches to enhance transparency, accountability, and service delivery. Future academic research can build on these findings by examining the long-term impact of risk-based planning frameworks on public sector institutions, particularly in emerging economies that are undergoing governance reforms similar to Saudi Arabia.

In real-world governance, the study highlights several practical measures that public sector organizations can implement to enhance the integration of strategic planning and risk management. One of the most critical recommendations is the institutionalization of risk-informed decision-making processes. This involves embedding risk assessment frameworks into strategic planning cycles so that potential threats and uncertainties are proactively identified and addressed before they impact organizational objectives. Government institutions should establish standardized guidelines that require strategic planners to consider risk implications at every stage of policy formulation and implementation.

Another practical implication of this study is the need for capacity-building initiatives to enhance risk awareness among public sector employees. Training programs should be developed to educate government officials, policymakers, and administrative staff on the importance of risk management and its role in strategic planning. Employees at all levels of the organization should be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to identify, assess, and mitigate risks effectively. Leadership training should also be prioritized, as engaged and informed leaders play a crucial role in fostering a culture of proactive risk management.

Additionally, technological advancements should be leveraged to support risk-informed strategic planning. The adoption of AI-driven risk assessment tools, predictive analytics, and digital dashboards can significantly enhance data-driven decision-making. Public sector organizations should invest in digital transformation initiatives that integrate real-time risk monitoring into their strategic planning processes. These technologies can improve risk forecasting, enhance transparency, and ensure that government agencies respond swiftly to emerging challenges.

Regulatory reforms are also necessary to ensure that risk management is institutionalized within public administration. Government agencies should collaborate with regulatory bodies to develop policies that mandate the integration of strategic planning and risk management. This will ensure that organizations are held accountable for implementing risk-informed governance frameworks. Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 provides an ideal opportunity to align public sector governance with best practices in strategic risk management, ensuring that institutions operate in a manner that is both resilient and adaptable to uncertainties.

The practical insights from this research are highly relevant for policymakers, government executives, and institutional leaders responsible for improving governance effectiveness. By implementing the recommended strategies, public sector organizations can enhance their ability to manage risks proactively, optimize resource allocation, and improve overall performance. The findings of this study provide a roadmap for public sector institutions to transition from reactive risk management approaches to proactive, forward-thinking governance strategies that align with national development goals.

6.3. Conclusion

The integration of strategic planning and risk management is essential for ensuring effective governance, enhancing public sector efficiency, and mitigating risks in an increasingly uncertain environment. This study has demonstrated that risk-aware strategic planning leads to better decision-making, improved resource allocation, and enhanced organizational performance. However, challenges such as bureaucratic inertia, fragmented regulatory structures, and limited digital infrastructure continue to

hinder the seamless integration of these functions within Saudi Arabia's public sector. Addressing these barriers requires a holistic approach that combines leadership-driven reforms, regulatory support, capacity building, and technological advancements.

One of the key takeaways from this study is the role of leadership in driving the integration of strategic planning and risk management. Government executives and decision-makers must take an active role in fostering a culture of risk awareness within their organizations. This involves not only adopting risk-informed policies but also ensuring that employees at all levels are engaged in risk management processes. Transparent communication, accountability frameworks, and incentives for proactive risk assessment should be embedded into public sector governance structures to enhance their effectiveness.

Furthermore, the findings highlight the need for regulatory reforms to institutionalize risk-based strategic planning. Policymakers should establish standardized frameworks that mandate risk integration within all government planning initiatives. These regulations should be aligned with Vision 2030's modernization goals, ensuring that Saudi Arabia's public sector institutions are resilient, adaptable, and prepared for future uncertainties.

From a technological standpoint, the adoption of digital transformation initiatives will be a game-changer in public sector risk management. AI-driven analytics, blockchain for secure data management, and machine learning-based risk modeling can significantly enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of strategic planning processes. Government agencies should invest in digital tools that enable real-time risk

monitoring and predictive forecasting, ensuring that decision-makers have access to timely and accurate information.

Looking ahead, future research should explore sector-specific applications of risk-based strategic planning. While this study provides a broad analysis of public sector institutions, further investigations into industries such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure development can yield deeper insights into how tailored risk management frameworks can optimize governance in these areas. Additionally, longitudinal studies that assess the long-term impact of integrated strategic planning and risk management on organizational performance would provide valuable contributions to both academic research and policymaking.

In conclusion, the findings of this study underscore the importance of embedding risk management within strategic planning to achieve governance excellence. By addressing the challenges identified in this research and implementing the recommended strategies, Saudi Arabia's public sector can enhance its resilience, transparency, and effectiveness. As Vision 2030 continues to drive institutional modernization, integrating risk-aware planning will be key to ensuring the long-term sustainability and success of public sector organizations. The insights provided in this study offer a roadmap for policymakers and institutional leaders to navigate the complexities of public administration, ultimately contributing to the realization of Saudi Arabia's national development goals.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Survey

1. Gender:

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Prefer not to say

2. Age Group:

- ☐ 18 – 29 years
- ☐ 30 – 39 years
- ☐ 40 – 49 years
- ☐ 50+ years

3. Educational Qualification:

- ☐ High School Diploma
- ☐ Bachelor's Degree
- ☐ Master's Degree
- ☐ PhD
- ☐ Other (please specify)

4. Job Role:

- ☐ Senior Management
- ☐ Middle Management

- ☐ Operational Staff
- ☐ Other (please specify)

5. Years of Experience in the Public Sector:

- ☐ Less than 2 years
- ☐ 2 – 5 years
- ☐ 6 – 10 years
- ☐ More than 10 years

Section	Question	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Strategic Planning	Our organization has a clearly defined strategic plan that aligns with national development goals.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strategic Planning	Strategic planning in our organization is systematically implemented and	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	reviewed on a regular basis.					
Strategic Planning	Leadership in our organization is actively involved in strategic planning processes.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strategic Planning	Employees are encouraged to participate in the strategic planning process through feedback and consultation.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strategic Planning	Strategic planning helps in efficient resource allocation and decision-making in our organization.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Risk Management	Our organization has a formal risk management framework in place.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Risk Management	Risk management practices are integrated into daily operations and decision-making.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Risk Management	Risk assessments are conducted regularly to identify potential threats to organizational objectives.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Risk Management	Our organization has clear procedures for responding to	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	risks and uncertainties.					
Risk Management	There is a strong culture of risk awareness among employees and leadership.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Integration of Strategic Planning and Risk Management	Strategic planning and risk management are closely aligned in our organization.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Integration of Strategic Planning and Risk Management	Risk management is considered an essential component of strategic decision-making.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Integration of Strategic Planning and Risk Management	There is effective communication between strategic planning and risk	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Risk Management	management teams.					
Integration of Strategic Planning and Risk Management	Our organization uses data and technology to improve risk-informed strategic planning.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Integration of Strategic Planning and Risk Management	Leadership is proactive in ensuring risk management is embedded within strategic goals.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Organizational Performance	Integrating risk management into strategic planning has improved operational efficiency.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Organizational Performance	Our organization has successfully mitigated risks through strategic planning efforts.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Organizational Performance	Employees understand how risk management contributes to organizational success.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Organizational Performance	Our organization's strategic planning and risk management efforts have enhanced service delivery.	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Organizational Performance	Overall, I believe our organization has an effective balance between	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

	strategic planning and risk management.					
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Mid-Ocean University

College of Management

Department of Risk Management



The Relationship Between Strategic Planning and Risk
Management in Public Sector Organizations of KSA

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