

Research Issues RSC811 - Task 3

Prepared by
Abdulaziz Alarfaj



Part
01

Research Title

Assignment : Critique of Research Paper in Terms of
Research methodology, hypothesis and results

Article Chosen :

An Improvised Patchwork: Success and Failure in Cybersecurity Policy for Critical Infrastructure

Published in 2022

Clarity and Definition of methodology: وضوح و تعريف المنهجية

The paper does not explicitly define clear, testable research hypotheses in the traditional academic format (i.e., H1, H2, etc.). Instead, the study presents a conceptual framework where policy effectiveness varies by sector due to factors like regulatory pressure, perceived threat levels, and industry-government collaboration. A more structured hypothesis formulation would have strengthened the paper's analytical rigor..

قابلية الاختبار والتحقق التجريبي : Testability and Empirical Validation

The paper relies on qualitative assessments and case studies of different critical infrastructure sectors. While the findings align with the conceptual arguments, a lack of quantitative empirical testing limits the ability to rigorously validate the claims. The inclusion of statistical models or comparative case studies with measurable cybersecurity performance indicators would improve the robustness of the findings.

Generalizability of Hypotheses: تعميم الفرضيات

The hypotheses appear to be sector-specific, meaning conclusions drawn for financial services or energy may not apply to other industries like water or agriculture. The paper could benefit from a broader cross-sector analysis to determine whether the proposed factors are universally applicable or only relevant in certain regulatory environments.

Causal Relationships : العلاقات البحثية

The paper suggests that regulatory enforcement and perceived cyber threats drive cybersecurity effectiveness. However, correlation does not necessarily imply causation—other external factors (e.g., geopolitical threats, market competition) might also influence cybersecurity investment. A more detailed methodology, such as controlled comparisons across different regulatory regimes, would help establish stronger causal links.

Practical Implications and Policy Recommendations: التداعيات والتوصية

The hypotheses suggest that increased government intervention improves cybersecurity in some sectors. However, the paper does not explore potential negative consequences, such as regulatory burdens or industry resistance. A balanced discussion on both the advantages and drawbacks of different regulatory approaches would enhance the practical applicability of the findings.

Final Assessment : التقييم العام :

Strengths:

The paper presents well-argued conceptual hypotheses grounded in real-world cybersecurity challenges.

Weaknesses: The hypotheses lack formal empirical testing, structured formulation, and consideration of alternative explanations.

Recommendations for Improvement: A more explicit hypothesis structure, quantitative validation, and broader sectoral comparisons would enhance the study's academic and policy impact.