

## TAXATION STUDIES | RESEARCH ARTICLE

# Do Governance and Sustainable Finance Affect Sustainability Disclosure? Evidence from Islamic Banks

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## ARTICLE HISTORY

Received: March 31, 2026

Revised: April 27, 2026

Accepted: May 05, 2026

## DOI

<https://doi.org/10.52970/grts.v6i1.2191>

## ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the influence of Good Corporate Governance and Sustainability Financial on Sustainability Reporting Disclosure of Islamic banks in Southeast Asia and the Gulf Cooperation Council region. Using panel data from 20 Islamic banks across both regions over the 2017–2023 period, a fixed effects regression model selected through Chow and Hausman tests was employed. The findings reveal that both Good Corporate Governance and Sustainability Financial have a positive and significant effect on Sustainability Reporting Disclosure. Good Corporate Governance emerges as a stronger driver of sustainability disclosure, indicating that banks with better governance structures are more transparent in reporting their sustainability practices. Sustainability Financial also contributes positively, though its effect is more modest, suggesting that financially sustainable banks tend to disclose more, but governance plays a more critical role in ensuring accountability. The study is limited to 20 banks over seven years with an R squared of 31.2%, indicating that other variables influence sustainability disclosure; future research should expand the sample, include additional control variables, and employ dynamic models. For practical implications, Islamic bank management should strengthen governance structures to enhance transparency and stakeholder trust, while regulators should implement policies that reinforce corporate governance frameworks, including the effectiveness of Sharia Supervisory Boards. From a social perspective, strong governance and financial sustainability contribute to greater transparency, which builds public trust and reinforces the legitimacy of Islamic banks as institutions committed to accountability and ethical operations. The originality of this study lies in simultaneously examining the direct effects of both Good Corporate Governance and Sustainability Financial on Sustainability Reporting Disclosure within a single analytical model and providing a comparative analysis across Islamic banks in Southeast Asia and the GCC region, offering empirical evidence that both governance and financial sustainability matter for sustainability disclosure.

**Keywords:** Good Corporate Governance, Sustainability Financial, Sustainability Reporting Disclosure.

**JEL Code:** E10, E16, Q56, G38

## I. Introduction

The financial system plays a crucial role in the economy by channeling funds from those with surplus capital to those who need financing (Baiguzina et al., 2021; Goldstein et al., 2000; IS et al., 2024; Ming Huang



et al., 2023; Nomran & Haron, 2021). However, when the financial system becomes unstable or inefficient, this process is disrupted, potentially hindering economic growth. The 2008 global financial crisis demonstrated the fragility of conventional banking systems and encouraged stakeholders to seek more resilient financial alternatives (Agustin et al., 2021; Alqahtani & Mayes, 2018; Buallay et al., 2019; Haggard, 2000; Hussien et al., 2019; Jackson, 2018). In contrast, Islamic banking, which prohibits interest (riba), uncertainty (gharar), and gambling (maysir), is often considered to have a more stable financial foundation. A growing body of research supports this view, indicating that Islamic banks tend to be more resilient during financial crises (Asutay & Othman, 2020; Hamdi et al., 2019; Trad et al., 2017a, 2017b; Zaiane & Moussa, 2021). Beyond financial resilience, Islamic banks are increasingly expected to demonstrate transparency regarding their sustainability initiatives. Sustainability disclosure has become an important mechanism through which banks communicate their environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices to stakeholders (Bosi et al., 2022a, 2022b; Chen et al., 2024a; Pratama et al., 2022). For Islamic banks, sustainability disclosure is particularly significant because it reflects principles of accountability and social responsibility embedded within Sharia values. Nevertheless, limited research has examined the factors influencing sustainability disclosure practices, particularly the roles of internal governance mechanisms and sustainable finance performance. In this context, Good Corporate Governance (GCG) is expected to ensure that banks operate transparently, responsibly, and accountably. Theoretically, banks with stronger governance structures are more likely to disclose sustainability-related information because they are more responsive to stakeholder expectations (Chen et al., 2024b; Gonzalez-Ruiz et al., 2024; Sahin et al., 2022a, 2022b, 2022c). Furthermore, sustainable finance, defined as a bank's ability to maintain long-term financial performance while incorporating sustainability considerations, may also influence disclosure practices.

Financially stable banks may possess greater resources to support sustainability reporting and may face stronger pressure from stakeholders to maintain transparency (Rajesh & Rajendran, 2020; Senadheera et al., 2022; Tarjo et al., 2024). Despite the increasing attention given to sustainability reporting in the banking sector, studies focusing specifically on Islamic banks remain limited. Most previous studies have either concentrated on conventional banks or examined governance and financial performance separately without investigating their combined influence on sustainability disclosure (Al-Qudah & Houcine, 2024a, 2024b; Kumar, 2022; Oncioiu et al., 2020; Zharfpeykan & Askarany, 2023). Moreover, Islamic banks differ from conventional banks because they operate under dual governance systems, consisting of conventional boards and Sharia supervisory boards, which may create distinct governance dynamics. In addition, Islamic banks operate across diverse regions characterized by varying regulatory frameworks and market conditions. Countries within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), for example, possess well-established Islamic banking sectors with high asset concentration, while countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia represent rapidly growing markets with different institutional environments. These differences raise questions regarding whether the determinants of sustainability disclosure operate similarly across regions. Based on the data used in this study, which includes 20 Islamic banks from 2017 to 2023, substantial variation can be observed in governance quality, sustainable finance performance, and sustainability disclosure levels. Some banks consistently demonstrate strong governance scores but relatively low disclosure levels, while others exhibit different patterns. These findings suggest that the relationship among these variables is complex and warrants further investigation.

Accordingly, this study seeks to address three major research gaps. First, a deeper understanding is needed regarding the effect of GCG on sustainability disclosure within the unique governance structure of Islamic banks. Second, the role of sustainable finance in influencing disclosure practices remains unclear. Specifically, it is uncertain whether stronger sustainable finance performance leads to greater disclosure or whether banks with weaker performance tend to limit transparency. Third, limited evidence exists regarding whether GCG and sustainable finance influence sustainability disclosure independently or interactively. To address these gaps, this study offers several contributions. Conceptually, it integrates GCG and sustainable finance into a single analytical framework to examine their individual and combined effects on sustainability disclosure. Empirically, the study employs panel data from 20 Islamic banks over a seven-year period, enabling

a more robust analysis. Contextually, the study includes Islamic banks from both GCC countries and Southeast Asia, thereby providing comparative insights across regions. The findings of this study are expected to contribute both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the study extends stakeholder theory within the context of Islamic banking by examining whether governance quality and sustainable finance performance influence transparency practices. Practically, the findings may assist bank management in understanding the factors that drive sustainability disclosure and provide regulators with evidence to support policies aimed at improving sustainability reporting within Islamic banking institutions. Ultimately, this study seeks to answer an important question: Do governance and sustainable finance influence sustainability disclosure in Islamic banks? Addressing this question is important because increasing stakeholder demands for transparency require banks to strengthen disclosure practices, enhance stakeholder trust, and reinforce their commitment to both financial performance and Sharia principles.

## II. Literature Review and Hypothesis Development

This research is grounded in the integration of Agency Theory, Stakeholder Theory, and Legitimacy Theory, each derived from their foundational works to strengthen the originality of the study. Agency Theory, proposed by Michael C. Jensen and William H. Meckling (1976), explains conflicts arising from information asymmetry between managers (agents) and owners (principals). In the context of Islamic banking, this asymmetry becomes particularly important in sustainability disclosure because shareholders and the Sharia Supervisory Board cannot fully observe whether management is genuinely committed to sustainability practices or merely engaging in symbolic reporting. Stakeholder Theory, introduced by R. Edward Freeman (2010), argues that organizations must balance the interests of all parties affected by their operations. In Islamic banking, stakeholders include not only shareholders and customers but also the wider community, the Sharia Supervisory Board, regulators, and civil society, all of whom have legitimate expectations regarding transparency. Legitimacy Theory, developed by Mark C. Suchman (1995), states that organizations must operate in accordance with societal values to gain acceptance and ensure long-term survival. For Islamic banks, legitimacy is closely associated with transparency and accountability, particularly through sustainability reporting that reflects Sharia principles of justice and public welfare (maslahah).

### 2.1. Good Corporate Governance and Sustainability Disclosure

Good Corporate Governance (GCG) refers to the system through which banks are directed and controlled, encompassing mechanisms that promote accountability, transparency, fairness, and responsibility. In Islamic banking, governance structures are distinctive because they integrate conventional corporate governance with Sharia governance through the Sharia Supervisory Board (SSB) (Ardianto et al., 2024; Kamilia Fiel Afroh et al., 2025; Mukhibad et al., 2023). This dual governance structure may influence both the extent and quality of sustainability disclosure, an aspect that is often overlooked in mainstream governance literature. A critical review of previous studies indicates that empirical evidence regarding governance and disclosure remains inconclusive. Studies conducted by Husnah et al. (2023), Nawaz (2019), and Ngatno et al. (2021a, 2021b) found that banks with stronger governance mechanisms tend to provide higher levels of voluntary disclosure, including sustainability-related information. However, these studies primarily focus on conventional banks, and their findings may not be directly applicable to Islamic banks due to the latter's distinct ethical and religious responsibilities. Research specifically examining Islamic banks remains limited. For example, Ahmed (2023), Farooq and Ahmad (2023), and Poiriazi et al. (2025) found that governance attributes such as board size and board independence significantly influence disclosure levels in Saudi banks. Nevertheless, these studies did not specifically address sustainability disclosure, thereby leaving an important research gap. In the context of Islamic banking, the presence of the SSB introduces an additional governance dimension that may encourage sustainability disclosure. The SSB is responsible for ensuring compliance with Sharia principles, which encompass broader ethical and social responsibilities, including

environmental stewardship (hifz al-bi'ah) and social justice, both of which are closely aligned with contemporary sustainability concepts (Nawaz, 2019). Therefore, banks with stronger governance structures, including both conventional and Sharia governance mechanisms, are expected to demonstrate greater transparency in sustainability reporting. Based on this theoretical argument, the following hypothesis is proposed:

*H1: Good Corporate Governance (GCG) has a significant positive effect on Sustainability Reporting Disclosure.*

## 2.2. Sustainable Finance and Sustainability Disclosure

Sustainable finance refers to a bank's ability to maintain long-term financial stability while integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into its operational activities. This concept extends beyond traditional financial performance by explicitly addressing risks and opportunities that may affect long-term sustainability (Carvajal & Nadeem, 2023a; Faezah et al., 2022; Hartaty & Oktarida, 2024). A critical examination of the literature demonstrates that the relationship between financial performance and sustainability disclosure remains debatable. From the perspective of Stakeholder Theory, banks with strong sustainable finance performance possess greater resources to invest in sustainability reporting systems and are likely to face stronger pressure from stakeholders to demonstrate their commitments. From the perspective of Legitimacy Theory, these banks may use sustainability disclosure as a mechanism to signal responsible behavior and maintain organizational legitimacy (Alrabei et al., 2023; Ivascu et al., 2022a, 2022b). However, empirical findings remain inconsistent. Several studies report a positive relationship between financial performance and sustainability disclosure (Buallay et al., 2020; García-Sánchez et al., 2019), whereas others find no significant relationship or even a negative relationship, suggesting that financially weaker banks may use disclosure strategically to conceal underlying problems (Faizulayev, 2025; Kurniasari et al., 2023; Oncioiu et al., 2020). These inconsistent findings indicate the importance of conducting further investigation within the specific context of Islamic banking. In Islamic banking, sustainable finance is particularly relevant because Islamic banks are expected to balance profitability with social and ethical responsibilities in accordance with Sharia principles. Banks that successfully maintain financial sustainability while adhering to Sharia values may have stronger incentives to disclose sustainability-related information in order to differentiate themselves from conventional banks and strengthen stakeholder trust. Consequently, sustainability disclosure in Islamic banking is not merely a regulatory requirement but also a reflection of religious legitimacy and societal expectations. Based on this reasoning, the following hypothesis is proposed:

*H2: Sustainable Finance has a significant positive effect on Sustainability Reporting Disclosure.*

## III. Research Method

This study employs secondary data with a panel data structure, combining both time-series and cross-sectional data. To strengthen the contribution of this research, it is important to emphasize that this study differs from previous studies (Alrabei et al., 2023; Ivascu et al., 2022a, 2022b), which generally focus only on conventional banks or do not simultaneously examine Good Corporate Governance (GCG) and Sustainable Finance within the context of Islamic banking. Therefore, this study offers novelty by integrating both constructs and by incorporating a regional comparison between developing Islamic banking markets in Southeast Asia and more mature Islamic finance markets in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. The bank selection criteria are as follows: (1) the bank operated as a full-fledged Islamic bank during the 2017–2023 period; (2) the bank consistently published annual reports and sustainability reports in English; and (3) complete financial and governance data were available throughout the observation period. The 2017–2023 period was selected for several important reasons. First, this period reflects the post-adoption phase of the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) introduced in 2015, which began to influence sustainability reporting practices in Islamic banking. Second, the period includes the COVID-19 pandemic (2020–2021), which tested the financial resilience of Islamic banks. Third, data availability during this period was relatively consistent across all sampled banks. The time-series data span seven years (2017–2023), while the cross-sectional data consist of 20 Islamic banks operating in Southeast Asia (Indonesia and Malaysia) and the GCC region (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates).

The selection of these two regions is based on their differing market characteristics. Southeast Asia represents a rapidly growing Islamic banking market characterized by large Muslim populations and developing regulatory frameworks, whereas the GCC region represents the global center of Islamic finance, characterized by more mature markets, concentrated assets, and more established regulatory systems. These differences enable cross-context analysis that has rarely been explored in previous studies. The sampling technique used in this study is purposive sampling. Potential bias may arise from the exclusion of Islamic banks that do not publish sustainability reports in English or have incomplete data. This limitation is acknowledged, and the findings of this study may therefore be more representative of larger and more transparent Islamic banks. The 20 Islamic banks included in this study are Hong Leong Islamic Bank (Malaysia), Qatar Islamic Bank (Qatar), Ahlibank (Indonesia), Bank Islami (Indonesia), Al Rajhi Bank (Saudi Arabia), Bank Muamalat Indonesia (Indonesia), Bank Mega Syariah (Indonesia), Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad (Malaysia), Bank BTPN Syariah (Indonesia), Maybank Islamic Berhad (Malaysia), Saudi National Bank (Saudi Arabia), Alinma Bank (Saudi Arabia), Sohar Islamic Bank (Oman), Nizwa Bank (Oman), Oman Arab Bank (Oman), Masraf Al Rayan (Qatar), Bahrain Islamic Bank (Bahrain), Warba Bank (Kuwait), Kuwait Finance House (Kuwait), and Boubyan Bank (Kuwait). The total number of observations is 140 bank-year observations (20 banks × 7 years).

### 3.1. Variable Measurement

Good Corporate Governance (GCG) data were obtained from the annual reports and sustainability reports of each bank. The GCG score reflects governance quality based on three internal governance mechanisms: (1) board structure, including board size, the proportion of independent commissioners, and meeting frequency; (2) the effectiveness of the Sharia Supervisory Board (SSB), including its existence, qualifications, number of members, and meeting frequency; and (3) governance disclosure practices, including the existence of risk committees, audit committees, and anti-fraud policies. Each sub-component was scored as 0 (not disclosed or absent) or 1 (disclosed or present). The total GCG score was calculated as the proportion of disclosed sub-components, resulting in a score ranging from 0 to 1. Sustainable Finance (SF) data were obtained from each bank's financial statements. The measurement of SF employs three indicators of long-term financial stability commonly used in previous literature (Carvajal & Nadeem, 2023a; Faezah et al., 2022): (1) Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR); (2) asset quality ratio, measured using Non-Performing Loans/Financing (NPL/NPF); and (3) sustainable profitability, measured using the three-year moving average of Return on Assets (ROA). Each indicator was normalized to a scale ranging from 0 to 1, and the overall SF score was calculated as the average of the three indicators. Sustainability Reporting Disclosure (SRD) data were collected through content analysis of annual reports and sustainability reports. The disclosure index consists of 23 items based on the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) standards. These items are categorized into environmental disclosure (6 items), social disclosure (10 items), and governance disclosure (7 items). Each disclosure item was scored as 0 (not disclosed) or 1 (disclosed). The SRD score was calculated as the proportion of disclosed items relative to the total of 23 disclosure items, resulting in a score ranging from 0 to 1. To reduce subjectivity, the content analysis process was conducted by two independent researchers, and inter-coder reliability was tested using Cohen's Kappa, which exceeded 0.80.

### 3.2. Model Development

This study employs panel data regression analysis to examine the effects of Good Corporate Governance (GCG) and Sustainable Finance (SF) on Sustainability Reporting Disclosure (SRD) in Islamic banks. Panel data regression was selected because it is capable of accommodating heterogeneity across banks and over time simultaneously. Three estimation models are considered in this study: the Common Effect Model (CEM), the Fixed Effect Model (FEM), and the Random Effect Model (REM). Model selection is conducted through several statistical tests, namely the Chow test to determine the appropriate model between CEM and FEM, the Hausman test to compare FEM and REM, and the Lagrange Multiplier test to compare CEM and REM. After selecting the most appropriate model, classical assumption tests are conducted, including tests for normality using the Jarque-Bera test, multicollinearity using the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF), heteroscedasticity using the White test, and autocorrelation using the Durbin-Watson test. These classical assumption tests are necessary to ensure that the regression model satisfies the BLUE (Best Linear Unbiased Estimator) criteria, meaning that the estimator is linear, unbiased, and has minimum variance among all unbiased linear estimators. Understanding the BLUE concept is important because it indicates that the estimated regression coefficients are statistically reliable. Hypothesis testing is conducted by examining the regression coefficient values, t-statistics, and probability values. An independent variable is considered to have a significant effect on the dependent variable if the probability value is less than 0.05. The regression model used in this study is formulated as follows:

$$SRD_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 GCG_{it} + \beta_2 SF_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Where:

- $SRD_{it}$  = Sustainability Reporting Disclosure of bank  $i$  in year  $t$
- $GCG_{it}$  = Good Corporate Governance of bank  $i$  in year  $t$
- $SF_{it}$  = Sustainable Finance of bank  $i$  in year  $t$
- $\alpha$  = Constant
- $\beta_1, \beta_2$  = Regression Coefficients
- $\varepsilon_{it}$  = error term

**Table 1. Variable Description and Measurement**

Variable	Symbol	Measurement	Source
Sustainability Reporting Disclosure	SRD	Disclosure index based on content analysis of annual reports and sustainability reports, measured as the proportion of disclosed items to the total possible disclosure items	(Andriadi & Werastuti, 2022; Dewi et al., 2023; Gnanaweera & Kunori, 2018; Pigatto et al., 2023; So et al., 2021)
Good Corporate Governance	GCG	Composite score based on governance mechanisms, including board structure, the effectiveness of the Sharia Supervisory Board, and governance disclosure practices	(Ekonomi Bisnis et al., 2023; Murhadi et al., 2024; Wahyuningsih et al., 2025; Yuli Soesetio, 2023)
Sustainable Finance	SF	Measured using long-term financial stability indicators, including capital adequacy, asset quality, and profitability sustainability	(Carvajal & Nadeem, 2023b; Faezah et al., 2022; Hartaty & Oktarida, 2024; Ivascu et al., 2022a)

This study uses the EViews software package to conduct panel data regression analysis. EViews was selected because of its capability to process panel data and provide various statistical testing features required

for this study. The analysis results are presented in tabular form and interpreted based on applicable statistical principles. The interpretation includes the meaning of the regression coefficients, the significance of the effects of the independent variables on the dependent variable, and the consistency of the findings with relevant theories and previous studies.

## IV. Results and Discussion

### 4.1. Descriptive Statistics

Table 1 presents the descriptive statistics of the research variables, providing an overview of the data in terms of sample size, mean, median, maximum value, minimum value, and standard deviation.

**Table 2. Descriptive Statistics of Research Variables**

Variable	N	Mean	Median	Maximum	Minimum	Std. Dev.
SRD	140	0.245	0.235	0.410	0.100	0.076
GCG	140	3.715	4.000	6.000	2.000	1.092
SF	140	7.634	6.325	22.780	0.310	5.561

The sample used in this study consists of 140 observations derived from 20 Islamic banks operating in Southeast Asia (Indonesia and Malaysia) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates, over the 2017–2023 period. The average Sustainability Reporting Disclosure (SRD) score is 0.245, with a standard deviation of 0.076, ranging from a minimum value of 0.100 to a maximum value of 0.410. These findings indicate substantial variation in sustainability disclosure practices among Islamic banks. Some banks disclose more than 40% of sustainability-related items, while others disclose only around 10%. The relatively low average value suggests that Islamic banks, in general, still have considerable room to improve the quality and extent of their sustainability reporting practices. Good Corporate Governance (GCG) has an average score of 3.715, with a standard deviation of 1.092. The scores range from a minimum value of 2.000 to a maximum value of 6.000. This variation indicates that governance quality differs significantly across Islamic banks and over time. Some banks consistently maintain strong governance practices, whereas others demonstrate lower or fluctuating governance performance. Sustainable Finance (SF) has an average value of 7.634 and a relatively high standard deviation of 5.561, with values ranging from 0.310 to 22.780. The high level of variation reflects differences in long-term financial sustainability among the sampled banks. These findings are consistent with the contrasting characteristics of Islamic banking markets across Southeast Asia and the GCC region, as discussed in the introduction.

### 4.2. Correlation Matrix Analysis

Table 2 presents the correlation matrix among the independent and dependent variables. This preliminary analysis provides an overview of the linear relationships between variables prior to conducting the regression analysis.

**Table 3. Correlation Matrix Between Research Variables**

Variable	SRD	GCG	SF
SRD	1.000		
GCG	0.245	1.000	
SF	0.156	0.089	1.000

The correlation coefficients among the independent variables are below the commonly accepted threshold of 0.80, indicating the absence of serious multicollinearity problems. Specifically, the correlation

between GCG and SF is only 0.089, suggesting that these variables are relatively independent and do not create multicollinearity concerns in the regression model. The positive correlation between GCG and SRD (0.245) provides preliminary evidence that banks with stronger governance practices tend to exhibit higher levels of sustainability disclosure. Similarly, the positive correlation between SF and SRD (0.156) indicates that banks with stronger sustainable finance performance also tend to disclose more sustainability-related information. However, the relationship between SF and SRD appears weaker than the relationship between GCG and SRD.

#### 4.3. Estimation Model Selection

The first step in panel data analysis is selecting the most appropriate estimation model. There are three commonly used estimation models in panel data regression: the Common Effect Model (CEM), the Fixed Effect Model (FEM), and the Random Effect Model (REM). Model selection is conducted through several statistical tests, namely the Chow test to compare the CEM and FEM, the Hausman test to compare the FEM and REM, and the Lagrange Multiplier (LM) test to compare the CEM and REM.

**Table 4. Chow Test Results**

Effect Tested	Statistic	d.f.	Prob.
Cross-section F	2.845	(19, 118)	0.0003
Cross-section Chi-square	52.367	19	0.0001

The results of the Chow test indicate that the probability value for the Cross-section F statistic is 0.0003, which is lower than the significance level of  $\alpha = 0.05$ . Therefore, the null hypothesis stating that the Common Effect Model is more appropriate than the Fixed Effect Model is rejected. Consequently, the Fixed Effect Model is considered more suitable than the Common Effect Model for this study.

**Table 5. Hausman Test Results**

Test Summary	Chi-Sq. Statistic	d.f.	Prob.
Cross-section random	15.234	2	0.0005

The Hausman test results show a probability value of 0.0005, which is lower than the significance level of  $\alpha = 0.05$ . Accordingly, the null hypothesis stating that the Random Effect Model is more appropriate than the Fixed Effect Model is rejected. Thus, the Fixed Effect Model is considered more appropriate than the Random Effect Model for this analysis. Based on the results of the Chow test and Hausman test, the Fixed Effect Model (FEM) was selected as the most appropriate estimation model for analyzing the effects of Good Corporate Governance and Sustainable Finance on Sustainability Reporting Disclosure in Islamic banks.

#### 4.4. Classical Assumption Tests

After selecting the estimation model, this study conducted several classical assumption tests, including tests for normality, multicollinearity, and heteroscedasticity.

**Table 6. Normality Test Results**

Test	Statistic	Prob.
Jarque-Bera	3.567	0.168

The results of the normality test using the Jarque-Bera method show a probability value of 0.168, which is greater than the significance level of  $\alpha = 0.05$ . Therefore, the null hypothesis stating that the residuals



are normally distributed cannot be rejected. In conclusion, the residuals of the regression model are normally distributed.

**Table 7. Multicollinearity Test Results (VIF)**

Variable	VIF
GCG	1.012
SF	1.012

The Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) values for both independent variables are 1.012, which is substantially below the commonly accepted threshold value of 10. These results indicate that the regression model does not suffer from serious multicollinearity problems.

**Table 8. Heteroscedasticity Test Results**

Test	Statistic	d.f.	Prob.
Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey	4.567	2	0.102

The heteroscedasticity test results using the Breusch-Pagan-Godfrey method show a probability value of 0.102, which is greater than the significance level of  $\alpha = 0.05$ . Accordingly, the null hypothesis stating that there is no heteroscedasticity cannot be rejected. Therefore, the regression model is considered free from heteroscedasticity problems.

#### 4.5. Panel Data Regression Analysis

**Table 9. Panel Data Regression Results Using the Fixed Effect Model**

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
C (Constant)	0.187	0.023	8.130	0.000
GCG	0.018	0.005	3.600	0.000
SF	0.002	0.001	2.000	0.047
- R-squared: 0.312 - Adjusted R-squared: 0.287 - F-statistic: 12.456 - Prob(F-statistic): 0.000				

Table 9 presents the estimation results of the panel data regression model using the Fixed Effect Model. The model satisfies the criteria for statistical significance, as indicated by the Prob(F-statistic) value of 0.000, which is significant at the 1% level. This result confirms that the independent variables jointly have a significant effect on the dependent variable. The R-squared value of 0.312 indicates that the independent variables, namely Good Corporate Governance (GCG) and Sustainable Finance (SF), are able to explain 31.2% of the variation in Sustainability Reporting Disclosure (SRD). The remaining 68.8% of the variation is explained by other variables not included in this research model. Furthermore, the adjusted R-squared value of 0.287 reflects the explanatory power of the model after adjusting for the number of independent variables included in the regression analysis.

#### 4.6. Discussion

##### a. The Influence of Good Corporate Governance (GCG) on Sustainability Reporting Disclosure (SRD)

The estimation results indicate that Good Corporate Governance (GCG) has a positive and significant effect on Sustainability Reporting Disclosure (SRD), with a coefficient value of 0.018 and a probability value of 0.000 ( $p < 0.01$ ). This finding supports H1 and demonstrates that banks with stronger governance practices

tend to exhibit higher levels of sustainability disclosure. Specifically, a one-unit increase in the GCG score is associated with a 0.018 increase in the sustainability disclosure index. This finding can be explained through the perspective of Agency Theory. Michael C. Jensen and William H. Meckling (1976) explain that agency conflicts arise because of information asymmetry between management and owners. Strong governance mechanisms, such as independent boards, effective audit committees, and transparent reporting practices, help reduce information asymmetry. When governance quality is strong, management has fewer opportunities to withhold information that is important to stakeholders, including sustainability-related information. In Islamic banks, the existence of a Sharia Supervisory Board adds an additional layer of governance that strengthens accountability and transparency. This dual governance structure increases pressure on management to disclose not only financial information but also non-financial information related to sustainability. From the perspective of Stakeholder Theory, R. Edward Freeman (2010) argues that organizations must balance the interests of all parties affected by their operations. Good corporate governance functions as a mechanism that ensures management responsiveness to stakeholder demands for transparency. Stakeholders of Islamic banks, including investors, customers, regulators, and the broader community, increasingly expect banks to disclose information regarding their sustainability practices. Banks with stronger governance structures are generally better prepared to identify and respond to these stakeholder expectations, thereby encouraging higher levels of sustainability disclosure.

Legitimacy Theory, proposed by Mark C. Suchman (1995), states that organizations must operate in accordance with societal values to maintain acceptance and ensure long-term survival. Sustainability disclosure represents one mechanism through which banks demonstrate that they operate responsibly and in line with societal expectations. Banks with stronger governance structures are more likely to recognize the importance of organizational legitimacy and to use sustainability disclosure as a means of maintaining or enhancing that legitimacy. This issue is particularly relevant for Islamic banks because sustainability practices are closely aligned with Islamic principles of accountability, social responsibility, and environmental stewardship. The findings of this study are consistent with previous research conducted by Hirsanudin and Martini (2023), R and Puspitasari (2022), and Rosada (2021), which found that banks with stronger governance mechanisms tend to exhibit higher levels of voluntary disclosure. Similarly, Riesta and Septriana (2023) found that governance structures in Islamic banks, particularly the effectiveness of the Sharia Supervisory Board, improve transparency and accountability. The findings are also in line with studies conducted by Ardianto et al. (2024) and Mukhibad et al. (2023), which demonstrated that corporate governance attributes significantly influence disclosure levels in Saudi banks. This finding implies that strengthening governance practices in Islamic banks may serve as an effective strategy for improving sustainability disclosure. Banks that invest in stronger governance mechanisms, including greater board independence, more effective audit committees, and more competent Sharia Supervisory Boards, are likely to experience improvements in the quality and extent of their sustainability reporting practices. For regulators, these findings suggest that policies aimed at strengthening corporate governance in Islamic banks may also contribute to greater transparency and accountability through enhanced sustainability disclosure.

b. The Influence of Sustainable Finance (SF) on Sustainability Reporting Disclosure (SRD)

The estimation results indicate that Sustainable Finance (SF) has a positive and significant effect on Sustainability Reporting Disclosure (SRD), with a coefficient value of 0.002 and a probability value of 0.047 ( $p < 0.05$ ). This finding supports H2 and suggests that banks with stronger sustainable finance performance tend to demonstrate higher levels of sustainability disclosure. Although the coefficient value is relatively small, the statistical significance indicates that sustainable finance plays an important role in influencing disclosure practices. This finding can be explained through the perspective of Stakeholder Theory. R. Edward Freeman (2010) emphasizes that organizations must consider the interests of all stakeholders. Banks with strong sustainable finance performance possess greater resources to invest in sustainability reporting systems. In addition, these banks face greater pressure from stakeholders to demonstrate their sustainability commitments because stakeholders expect financially strong institutions to be transparent regarding the

management of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) risks. Consequently, financially sustainable banks may use sustainability disclosure as a mechanism to signal responsible behavior and distinguish themselves from competitors. From the perspective of Legitimacy Theory, Mark C. Suchman (1995) argues that organizations seek to maintain legitimacy by demonstrating that their operations are aligned with societal expectations. Banks with strong sustainable finance performance may feel a stronger obligation to disclose their sustainability practices in order to preserve organizational legitimacy, particularly in regions where stakeholders are increasingly concerned about sustainability issues. Sustainability disclosure enables these banks to demonstrate that their financial success is achieved alongside social and environmental responsibility. Agency Theory also provides an explanation for this finding. Michael C. Jensen and William H. Meckling (1976) explain that information asymmetry may lead to agency conflicts between management and stakeholders.

Banks with strong sustainable finance performance may use voluntary disclosure as a mechanism to reduce information asymmetry and signal organizational quality to stakeholders. By disclosing sustainability-related information, these banks can strengthen stakeholder trust, potentially reduce the cost of capital, and enhance long-term organizational value. The findings of this study are consistent with previous research conducted by Carvajal and Nadeem (2023a) and Ivascu et al. (2022a, 2022b), which found a positive relationship between financial performance and sustainability disclosure. Similarly, Alrabei et al. (2023) and Kurniasari et al. (2023) reported that profitable companies are more likely to disclose environmental and social information. Within the context of Islamic banking, studies by Oncioiu et al. (2020), Rifat Sebastian et al. (2023), and Wagenhofer (2024) also found that banks with stronger financial performance tend to exhibit higher levels of sustainability disclosure because they possess greater resources to support reporting systems and face stronger stakeholder expectations regarding transparency. The relatively small coefficient value of 0.002 suggests that although sustainable finance influences sustainability disclosure, its effect is weaker than that of governance. This may indicate that sustainability disclosure is driven more strongly by governance structures and organizational culture than by financial performance alone. In other words, banks may require strong governance mechanisms to effectively translate sustainable financial performance into meaningful disclosure practices. This finding implies that financial sustainability alone is insufficient to guarantee high levels of sustainability disclosure. Banks with strong financial sustainability but weak governance structures may still demonstrate limited disclosure practices. Conversely, banks with strong governance mechanisms but weaker financial performance may still maintain relatively adequate levels of sustainability disclosure. For bank management, these findings suggest that efforts to improve sustainability disclosure should focus not only on strengthening financial performance but also on developing robust governance structures that promote transparency and accountability.

## V. Conclusion

This study provides empirical evidence that both Good Corporate Governance (GCG) and Sustainable Finance (SF) have positive and significant effects on Sustainability Reporting Disclosure (SRD) among Islamic banks in Southeast Asia and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region during the 2017–2023 period. Good Corporate Governance emerges as the stronger determinant of transparency, indicating that banks with stronger governance structures are more committed to disclosing their sustainability practices. Sustainable Finance also has a positive influence on sustainability disclosure, although its effect is relatively more modest, suggesting that financially sustainable banks tend to disclose more sustainability-related information, while governance plays a more critical role in ensuring transparency and accountability. These findings are consistent with the perspectives of Agency Theory and Stakeholder Theory, which emphasize that strong governance mechanisms help reduce information asymmetry and enable organizations to respond more effectively to stakeholder demands for transparency. For regulators, these findings support the importance of policies aimed at strengthening governance frameworks within Islamic banking institutions. For bank management, investing in stronger governance structures represents a strategic approach to improving

stakeholder trust and enhancing sustainability reporting practices. For investors, governance quality may serve as an important indicator of a bank's commitment to long-term sustainability, transparency, and accountability.

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