

## Developing a model of transparency for the parliament of Iran based on the Right to Information and Open Data

- Hadi Berenjimarian**  Ph.D. Candidate in Public Management, Rasht Branch, Islamic Azad University, Rasht, Iran
- Hamid Reza Rezae Kalidbari** \* Associate Professor, Department of Public Management, Rasht Branch, Islamic Azad University, Rasht, Iran
- Karim Kiakojouri**  Department of Public Management, Bandar Anzali Branch, Islamic Azad University, Bandar Anzali, Iran

### Abstract

**purpose:** The purpose of this research is to provide a model of transparency in the Islamic Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran (with the approach of digital governance in the context of information technology).

**Method:** The type of research is based on the fundamental objective, which is a mixed approach (qualitative and quantitative) with an exploratory design. In this article, only the qualitative part is covered.

In the qualitative part with a phenomenological approach, the seven-step theoretical method of Kleizeri and the Delphi technique have been used. The statistical population of this research in the qualitative part includes experts in transparency, whose number is 24 people. The data collection tool of this research was applied in the qualitative part through individual, in-depth, semi-structured interviews, and then the data was processed.

\* Corresponding Author: hrezaee41@yahoo.com

**How to Cite:** Berenjimarian, H., Rezae Kalidbari, H. R., Kiakojouri, K. (2023). Developing a model of transparency for the parliament of Iran based on the Right to Information and Open Data, *International Journal of Digital Content Management (IJDCM)*, 4(7), 83-108.

**Findings:** The model of transparency in the Majlis of the Islamic Council of Iran consists of five main categories: informational, financial, supervisory and accountable, ethical and professional, which not only achieved the dimensions of transparency in the Islamic Council, but also the factors affecting the establishment the success of transparency, the consequences of establishing transparency, the obstacles to establishing transparency, as well as possible damages in the Islamic Council in case transparency is not established, will also be discussed.

**Conclusion:** The collective effort and desire in the field of transparency can be considered as a competitive advantage for the durability and stability of the government. The understanding and sense of the need for fitness is not hidden from any person or organization, and the obligation to use this strong and efficient tool is also felt more than ever in public institutions. Rectification in institutions does not happen by itself and requires basic measures and reforms, especially a collective demand. To achieve the category of ethical governance, people must concretely understand transparency so that public trust, accountability, and a clear sense of oversight dominate officials.

**Keywords:** Transparency, Information Technology, Electronic Government, The Right to Information and Open Data, Phenomenology.

## **Introduction**

The data should be provided, in due course, in a proper format, with an acceptable quality, in the right place, and it should be addressed to the right audience. Therefore, when all these conditions are met, transparency has been achieved. More and less there is lack of transparency. Therefore, transparency does not necessarily mean providing all information to all people (1). Various terms have been proposed in line with the use of information and communication technology in governments, such as online government, digital government, and network government, and now the term electronic government has been accepted by the public. Despite the importance of the role of information and communication technologies on good governance, developing countries have not yet realized this necessity, and less attention has been paid to the role of information and communication technologies in these countries. Information and communication technology have a great role and importance in good governance (2). From the point of view that information and communication technology strengthen the foundations of democracy and democratic life in terms of its abilities to boost the public sphere and expand information resources, electronic communication channels and networking capacity for many organized interest groups, non-governmental organizations, policy networks. Transnational, political parties, technical knowledge and organizational flexibility help in adapting to the new tool (3). Transparency means free flow and easy access to information for all stakeholders (4). The transparency of the all-round circulation of information is up to the border of national security, and it is used in the face of secrecy and concealment (5). In democratic systems, members of the society can demand clear and transparent answers from the government regarding the fulfillment of civil and social responsibilities according to the constitutional structures (6).

People are considered as the basic pillar of any government, especially in democratic governments. Even in governments with a non-democratic nature, people have special status; Because the durability and survival of any government depends on their will, cooperation and all-round support. In Islam, the key role of the people is also according to the vision that exists towards humans; in a way that Islam considers humans as trustees, successors and bearers of the divine spirit; It considers serving the people as the duty of the rulers,

and It has considered consulting, asking for opinions and making them partners among the duties of the rulers (7). Communication and information technology plays an important role in supporting the implementation of laws, processes and behaviors that define good governance. One of the tools that departments and organizations can use to improve their governance within the organization, as well as their efficiency and effectiveness outside the organization and their relationships with stakeholders, is the use of information and communication technology. On the other hand, by using this technology, the level of participation and democracy in organizations is also improved (8).

It seems that the term electronic government was used for the first time in the United States in 1995. Electronic government is a complex socio-technical system that requires a high level of maturity of skills and policy and legal frameworks and also requires special emphasis on socio-cultural conditions (9). E-government means setting conditions for governments to provide their citizens with services 24/7. In recent years, this issue has been seriously placed on the agenda of governments and smart statesmen have mobilized their forces to realize such conditions and have tried to reform political, economic and social processes with the help of modern communication and information technology and to provide services to citizens in a more efficient way. In the new era, good governance is accessible governance, and the requirement for better governance is quick and easy access of citizens to reliable information and services. Good governance is characteristic of a government that provides its services to a wider range of citizens with more speed, less cost and more efficiency. Definition of e-government runs as application and expansion of e-government often aimed at making changes in government processes such as decentralization, improving efficiency and effectiveness. One of the roles of civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, is to develop the capacities of local communities in the form of empowerment and attracting participation to link with the official institutions of society (10). Another main role of non-governmental organizations is decentralization of power. Management of participation with non-governmental organizations in planning, decision-making and service delivery is one of the main manifestations of decentralization of power (11). The decentralization

of local government power and the growth of capacities and stability of community-oriented non-governmental organizations increases the potential ability of local residents to control their own destiny and various aspects of their lives, as well as to improve their communities, hence identifying and strengthening social capital in the form of diverse capacities of non-governmental organizations. Voluntary memberships increase the level of cooperation of members in social groups and society, and thus lead to an increase in the level of communication, supervision and control at the level of public social institutions. As a result, it can be used to prevent issues such as social harms or other problems (12).

Since social responsibility creates the power of citizens against the authorities, it is a political process that gives the power of making demands to citizens (13). Social accountability strategy tries to improve organizational performance by supporting citizen participation and accountability of policymakers in public and private sectors (14). The existence of an efficient system of accountability and transparency, on the one hand, preserves the legitimacy and acceptability of the political system, and on the other hand, it can prevent the corruption of governments, therefore, accountability is a basic prerequisite for preventing abuse of power. It is a guarantee for the power to move with the highest possible degree of efficiency, influence, proportionality, foresight and measure to achieve the accepted national goals (15). Public accountability exposes decision makers' options to public scrutiny to be discussed and criticized in public. If a person is responsible, he is responsible for his decisions and actions (16).

Today, one of the important concerns of governments in the field of governance and policy making is achieving ethical governance, efficiency and fighting against various corruptions, including extravagance and wastage. For this purpose, governments are trying to achieve these goals by using new approaches, methods and tools, less expensive and more efficient. One of the most modern approaches and tools that governments use for ethical governance is healing (17). In articles 18 and 19 of the general policies of the administrative system, the discussion of transparency and clarification of processes is also mentioned. In these two paragraphs, which are in charge of Shafafit/transparency, it is stated that: Clarifying and raising awareness about the mutual rights and duties of the people and the administrative

system, emphasizing the easy and regular access of the people to the correct information. (Article 18). The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a democratic system, which was founded by the people for the people and took its current form, is no exception to this. Considering the existing high-handed laws and the general demands of the people, as well as the existence of successful examples of transparency in developed countries, as well as the explicit orders of the Islamic religion and the imams regarding healing, the present study intends to use a qualitative approach in order to present the model of healing/rectification in the Islamic Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It aims to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the factors affecting the successful establishment of transparency in the Islamic Council in the Islamic Republic of Iran?
2. What are the consequences of establishing transparency in the Islamic Council in the Islamic Republic of Iran?
3. What are the possible damages in the Islamic Council in the Islamic Republic of Iran if transparency is not established?
4. What are the characteristics of a suitable model of healing/rectification in the Islamic Parliament, and what steps does it take to determine these characteristics with a qualitative approach?

### **Methodology**

The type of research is based on the fundamental objective, which is a mixed approach (qualitative and quantitative) with an exploratory design. In the first step, a qualitative method was used to identify and collect the opinions of experts in the discussed field, so that they would provide us with their perceptions and experiences regarding the components of transparency in the Islamic Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the first step, interviews with experts were conducted. A list of their views and opinions was prepared, repeated comments were removed, and components were extracted from the points of view presented. The participants of the research at this stage were the experts of the Islamic Council, the criteria for whose elections included at least having one period of work experience in the Islamic Council, or people who have life experience with the phenomenon of transparency, including researchers, journalists, etc. and having an educational background related to management and law.

Since the phenomenological method (16) has been used to determine the sample size, due to the complexity of data collection and the expected nature of time, the sample size is small, therefore the number of participants in the first stage of this research is 24.

It was assumed that if information saturation was not achieved, the interviews would continue with new people. The researcher achieved information saturation in the 18th interview, but to be sure, the interview continued with the rest of the people.

Data collection of this research was done in the first stage through individual, in-depth, semi-structured interviews.

In this way, the interviewer has the research questions to a large extent in the form of a few key questions and a few more detailed questions, and the interviewer has the right to ask the interviewee the questions that come to his mind and are related to the subject of the research. As the method of data analysis the researcher employed the seven-step method of Kleizeri.

Claizey's (1978) method is also known as the 7-step method. The researcher has also used this method to analyze qualitative data.

- 1- Overview of all the information
- 2- Extracting ambiguous sentences .
- 3- Creating formulated meanings (which is also called regularized meanings or concepts).
- 4- Placing the formulated meanings inside the category and forming the themes inside a different category .
- 5- Creating a brief narrative description
- 6- Formulating the essential structure of the phenomenon
- 7- Going back to determine validity (15).

Claisey encourages researchers to be flexible about these steps. For example, instead of giving the final report to the participants, provide comprehensive explanations, because it is clearer and also guarantees accuracy (9).

### **Research findings**

The participants in the qualitative part of the present research in the first stage, the number of 24 people with demographic characteristics including gender, educational qualification, age, work experience and organizational position are given in Table 1.

**Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the participants in the qualitative part of the research extracted from the findings of the researchers**

Row	Gender	Degree	Age	work experience
1	Man	Master's degree	39	15
2	Man	Master's degree	40	18
3	Man	Master's degree	43	20
4	Man	Master's degree	39	18
5	Man	Master's degree	41	18
6	Female	PhD	62	15
7	Man	Master's degree	46	25
8	Man	PhD	59	26
9	Man	Master's degree	47	23
10	Female	PhD	41	15
11	Female	PhD	40	16
12	Female	Master's degree	37	15
13	Female	Master's degree	40	18
14	Man	Master's degree	37	15
15	Man	Master's degree	40	20
16	Man	PhD	61	15
17	Man	Master's degree	37	15
18	Man	Master's degree	40	18
19	Female	Master's degree	38	15
20	Female	PhD	52	15
21	Man	Master's degree	39	17
22	Man	Master's degree	45	25
23	Man	Master's degree	45	17
24	Man	Master's degree	51	30

Table 1 shows the demographic characteristics of the interview participants. Of the 24 people in the statistical sample, 17 were men and 7 were women, 17 were senior experts, and 7 were PhDs.

### **The first step: implementing the content and coding the respondents**

At this stage, the information related to the interviews was read several times and its general content was understood. This work was done along with reviewing the interview notes, all of which were carefully read and important phrases and sentences were extracted from them. The interviewees were coded in English, first person (p1), (p2), (p3) to person (p24). Table 2-4 shows the important statements extracted from the interview along with the interviewees.



### The second step: extracting the important statements that have emerged

At this stage, the important statements extracted in the first stage were reread and important terms and phrases for the model of transparency in the Islamic Council were identified and a code was assigned to each of them, the total number of codes obtained at the end was 158 .

**Table 2: Part of the important statements extracted from the interview (not all statements from the entire interview)**

Excerpts from the interview text	Descriptive Codes
<b>P1</b>	
Governmental or national documents or any document that was cited and discussed in the commission meeting	In providing the list of duties and objectives of the formation of each of the parliamentary factions
1- Note "2" of this article has tried to consider some privileges for factions: "In the public forum, the speaker or the elected representative of each political faction, in proportion to the number of members, is given the opportunity to discuss impeachment, vote of confidence, general program And the budget and referendum demand should reflect the opinions of the factions. The main features of the commission's report can be summarized in five items: 1. recognition of factions within the parliament; Identifying two types of factions under the title of political factions and non-political or specialized factions 2 . Delegating the description of duties, powers and scope of activity of factions to the executive instructions of the Presidium of the Parliament and approving of it in the Internal Regulations Commission 3. Determining the quota of at least 70 people to form political factions 4. Prohibition of membership of representatives in more than one political faction 5. Giving the opportunity to express the views of the faction on the floor of the parliament, to the speaker or its elected representative in proportion to the number of members, regarding impeachment, vote of confidence, general program and budget, and the request for a referendum, but there is no republishing.	In supplying the number, summary and programs of each of the factions
<b>P2</b>	
Determining the request for investigation about each	In providing

Excerpts from the interview text	Descriptive Codes
representative and their reasons, the results of investigation are not published, and in some cases, they are published with a very long delay.	information on the supervisory performance of commissions to executive bodies
In the presentation of questions by commissions and different topics on the website of the parliament, each commission supervises one or more executive bodies in accordance with its specialized work. The supervisory performance of commissions on executive bodies should be reported.	In presenting the results of the parliamentary investigation
A clear example, is that most representatives entered the parliament with the promise of transparency, but do you see transparency? So, they should publish comprehensively and if they do not act, the reasons for not acting should be specified. If they are not satisfied, then in the next term, his incompetence should be confirmed.	In offering and registering promises of parties and candidates for parliamentary elections

### **The third step: compiling and formulating the important statements that have emerged**

At this stage, the important statements extracted in the second stage were reread and the important terms and phrases for the study of presenting the model of transparency in the Islamic Council were identified and a code was assigned to each of them. The total number of codes obtained from the interview at the end was 158 . However, the problem that received attention according to Claizi's method is that the redundant and repetitive codes should be identified at the end of terms extraction, so by putting the important statements of the samples together, additional codes were identified and finally 64 codes were extracted.

**Table 3 extracted codes based on experts' opinions**

Row	Code
1.	In offering the rights and benefits of representatives
2.	What do the representatives do after finishing with reason?
3.	Gifts received
4.	Transparency of representatives' votes
5.	In offering the rights and benefits received by representatives from non-representative places
6.	In providing information about the property and assets of the representatives

Row	Code
7.	Presenting the current and previous jobs of the representative
8.	Determining any political and party factions of the representatives in the parliament
9.	
10.	In providing travel information, travel benefits and travel costs
11.	In providing cost information
12.	Recording and public announcement of positions, conversations, orientations, official speeches (in parliament)
13.	In presenting the plans presented by the representative to the parliament
14.	In presenting the presence and absence and lateness of the representative in the public forum and commissions
15.	Registering and publishing the names of representative guests
16.	In the presentation of the participation rate of the representative in the votes of the public forum and commissions
17.	In providing the information of representatives' advisors in different fields
18.	In offering financial resources for party and candidate advertising expenses
19.	Registering and publishing all the correspondence of the representative office
20.	Submitting the budget document
21.	The transparency of the Parliament's negotiations regarding the budget
22.	(Commissions and public forum)
23.	In the supply of six-month budget realization documents
24.	In providing the list and specifications of the guests of the commission meetings
25.	In providing the details of the deliberations of the meetings of the commissions
26.	Live broadcasting (television and internet) and video archives of commission meetings
27.	In presenting the votes of the representatives to the plans and bills
28.	In presenting and explaining the functions and powers of each of the parliamentary commissions
29.	In providing membership criteria and indicators to each parliamentary committee
30.	In presenting the reasons for the membership of each representative in the relevant commission
31.	In providing relevant documents and documents to every meeting of the parliamentary commissions
32.	In providing the official summary of the meetings of the commissions
33.	In providing the list of duties and objectives of the formation of each of the parliamentary factions
34.	In supplying the number, summary and programs of each of the factions
35.	in the supply of facilities and the allocated budget of each of the factions
36.	In the supply of placing the report of the financial performance of each faction

Row	Code
37.	Announcement of meeting agenda and work calendar
38.	In the presentation of the detailed discussion of the public forum
39.	In the supply of supporting documents for each plan
40.	A comprehensive list of the state of plans and bills (map of laws)
41.	In providing financial information, expenses and budget of the parliament
42.	In providing the organizational chart of the parliament and responsibilities
43.	In providing effective communication path guide with all agents
44.	In presenting the goals and development plans of the parliament
45.	In the supply of information on the contracts of the parliament
46.	In providing structural documents and internal procedures of the parliament
47.	Existence of training mechanisms for representatives and providing information on the training level of each representative
48.	Transparency in the law enforcement mechanism for monitoring the behavior of representatives
49.	Citizens' access to parliament information is not expensive
50.	Existence of specific policies for transparency of data and information of the parliament and confidentiality policies
51.	In providing information about the parliament in standard and machine-readable formats
52.	The existence of services in the provision of news and developments in the parliament
53.	A summary of the rules in plain language
54.	Existence of open data portal of Majlis
55.	The possibility of asking people's opinions in drafting, amending and completing draft laws
56.	The existence of an institution for training citizens to participate in the parliament
57.	Existence of electronic petition writing system
58.	Registering and placing on display the text and specifications of the representative's remarks in the court and the commission, as well as registering and placing on the supply the text and specifications of the representative's questions on the court and the commission, as well as registering and placing on the supply the text and specifications and purpose of the representative's research request and investigation
59.	In providing information on the supervisory performance of commissions to executive bodies
60.	In presenting the results of the parliamentary investigation
61.	In offering and registering promises of parties and candidates for parliamentary elections
62.	In providing summaries of meetings of representatives and lobbyists
63.	In supplying lobbyists with documents to influence legislative processes
64.	The existence of a mechanism for registration and monitoring of lobbyists in the parliament

Based on the opinions of experts, a number of codes was removed and finally 64 codes were selected to provide a model of transparency in the Islamic Council.

#### **Fourth step: clustering (components)**

In this section, the simple concepts that were obtained in the previous stage (stage 3) were organized in categories of the same concept based on their codes. This classification was done with the opinion of the supervisor and consultant and consultation with university professors in the field of public administration. After this process, 14 components appeared including Transparency of information on conflicts of interests of representatives, transparency of parliament commissions and transparency of parliament factions, transparency of the parliament public forum, parliament research center, transparency of officials' promises and positions, transparency of lobbying, transparency of parliament administrative affairs, transparency of parliament elections and quality of parliamentary information, participation, citizens and Monitoring, transparency of the budget, transparency in recommendation letters and transparency of financial sponsors of representatives we as shown in table 4.

**Table 4. Components extracted from experts' interview codes**

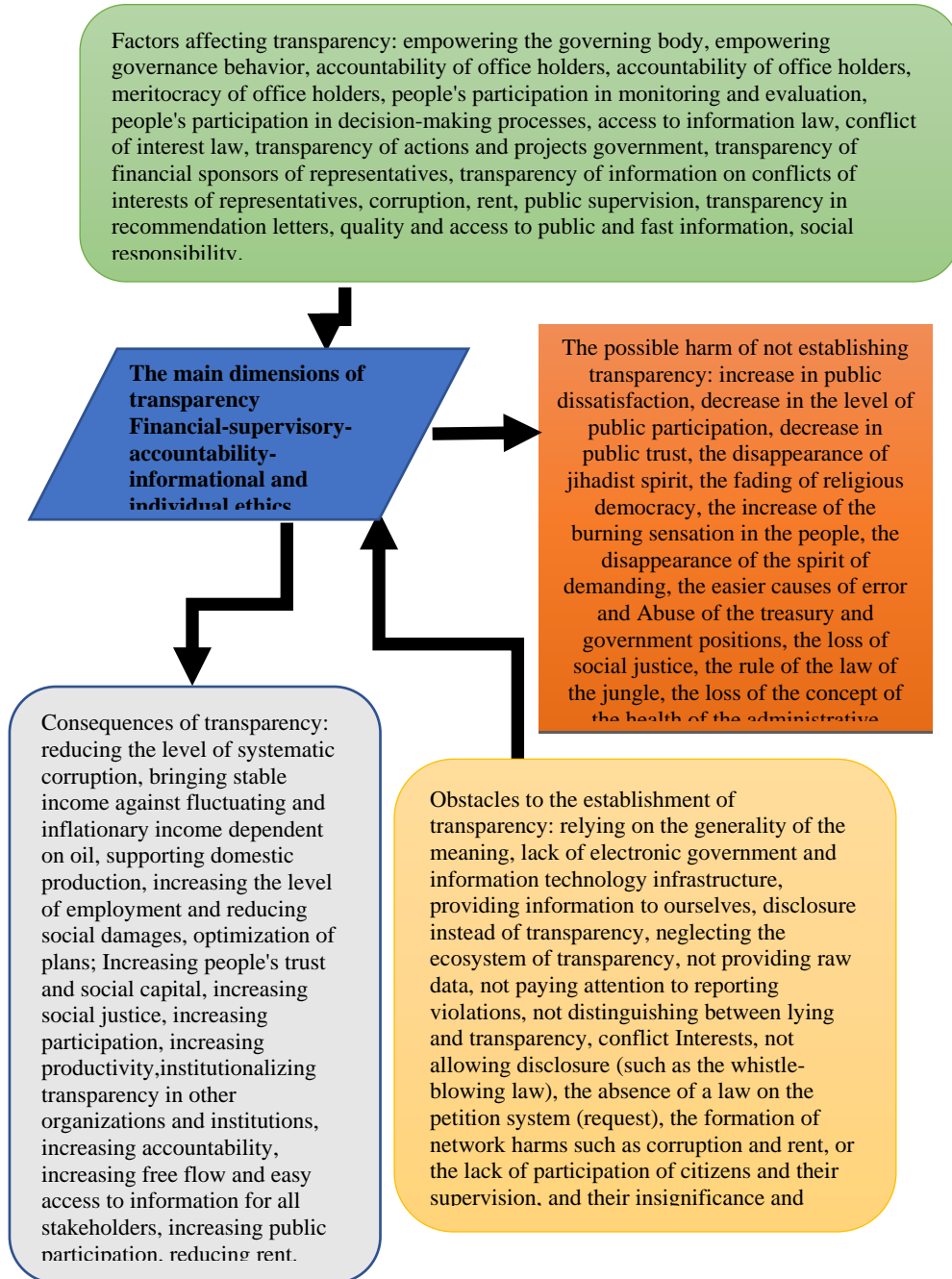
<b>Row</b>	<b>Components</b>
1-	Transparency of information on the conflict of interests of representatives
2-	Transparency of parliament commissions and transparency of parliament factions
3-	Transparency of the public hall of the Majlis
4-	Majlis Research Center
5-	Transparency of officials' promises and positions, transparency of lobbying
6-	Corruption, rent and gifts received by the representative
7-	Transparency of administrative affairs of the parliament
8-	Receipts, rewards, souvenirs
9-	Transparency of parliamentary elections and quality of parliamentary information
10-	Citizen participation and lobbying supervision
11-	Budget transparency
12-	Transparency in recommendation letters
13-	Transparency of representatives' sponsors
14-	Transparency of professional ethics

The fifth step: integrating the results for a comprehensive description of the subject under study by using meaningful insight (Claize), a comprehensive explanation of the investigated phenomenon should be classified in an orderly and unambiguous/crystal-clear structure.

**The sixth stage: Formulating the basic structure of the phenomenon**

In the fifth stage regarding transparency, the researcher extracted the aforementioned fourteen components (fourth stage) in five general and basic dimensions (financial-supervisory-accountability-informational and individual ethical) using the opinions of the supervisor and consultant. At this stage, to describe each basic concept of the phenomenon, the researcher has referred to the interview texts to find key words for a comprehensive description of a basic structure in coordination with the professors.

Figure 1. The main dimensions of healing/ rectification fit extracted from the interview



**Figure 2 Transparency model in the Islamic Council**

### The seventh step: validation

Finally, for validation, the participants evaluate the results of the analysis, "Are the present findings similar to the experiences they have had?" So the employment of a technique such as the Delphi used in the current research, is inevitable.

### Delphi method

The Delphi method is one of the qualitative research methods that is used to achieve consensus in group decisions. In practice, the Delphi method is a series of questionnaires or consecutive rounds with controlled feedback that tries to reach a consensus among a group of experts on a specific issue. In the first stage, according to the fact that each of the previous researchers introduced different indicators in their cases, it was identified with the Kleizer method. In this stage, the number of 25 components of in-depth exploratory interviews and the first stage of theoretical foundations related to the research topic have been extracted. Then these 25 components were designed as a Delphi questionnaire with a 5-point Likert scale and provided to the experts. To evaluate and screen the findings, fuzzy Delphi technique was applied to select indicators. Of course, it should be mentioned that similar cases were removed during several stages and the initial model should be judged by experts and its correctness, accuracy, practicality and inclusion should be revised and independent experts from any organization or specific institution should re-examine the components, so that with their group agreement, the model can be modified and possible biases can be removed. In addition, some factors may be effective only in a specific case, so screening factors and factors that are more comprehensive should be selected. The factors that were asked in the questionnaire of this stage are the output of the designed model. These indicators were used verbally with a Likert scale from very low to very high, and in the next steps, fuzzy values were used as presented in Table 5.

**Table 5 valuing the indicators in relation to each other**

Verbal variable	fuzzy number	L	M	U	The fuzzy number is determined
very little	(0,0,0/25)	0	0	0/25	0.083
low	(0,0/25,0/5)	0	0/25	0/5	0.21
medium	(0/25,0/5,0/75)	0/25	0/5	0/75	0.41
much	(0/5,0/75,1)	0/5	0/75	1	0.71
very much	(0/75,1,1)	0/75	1	1	0.92



In the above table, the determined fuzzy numbers are calculated using the average method as follows (Momeni, 2013):

$$\alpha = \frac{U + M + L}{3}$$

At this stage, the conceptual model presented along with the description of the components, standards and sub-standards was sent to the members of the expert group, and their level of agreement with each of the components was obtained, and their suggested points and corrections were summarized in the table below. According to the proposed options and linguistic variables defined in the questionnaire, the results of the examination of the answers provided are presented in Table 6.

**Table 6. The results of counting the answers of the survey stage for the indicators of the transparency model in the Islamic Council**

Row	Components	very high	high	medium	low	very low
1	Transparency of information on the conflict of interests of representatives	10	9	5	0	0
2	Transparency of parliament commissions and transparency of parliament factions	12	7	5	0	0
3	Transparency of the public hall of the Majlis	10	10	4	0	0
4	Majlis Research Center	9	8	6	1	0
5	Transparency of officials' promises and positions, transparency of lobbying	14	5	5	0	0
6	Corruption, rent and gifts received by the representative	10	8	6	0	0
7	Transparency of administrative affairs of the parliament	12	8	4	0	0
8	Receipts, rewards, souvenirs	12	9	3	0	0
9	Transparency of parliamentary elections and quality of parliamentary information	12	8	4	0	0
10	Citizen participation and lobbying supervision	21	3	0	0	0
11	Budget transparency	11	9	2	2	0
12	Transparency in recommendation letters	13	7	4	0	0
13	Transparency of representatives' sponsors	17	6	1	0	0
14	Transparency of professional ethics	15	5	4	0	0
15	Quality and access to public and fast information	12	7	5	0	0

Row	Components	very high	high	medium	low	very low
16	The amount of citizens' participation	12	5	5	2	0
17	social responsibility	15	8	1	0	0
18	Public supervision	14	10	0	0	0

According to the results of this table, the fuzzy average of each of the components has been calculated according to the following relationships and using the fuzzy number average method, it has become definite and the experts' definite average has been estimated for each component:

$$A_i = (a_1^i, a_2^i, a_3^i) \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, n$$

$$A_{ave} = \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n a_1^i, \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n a_2^i, \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n a_3^i \right)$$

In this regard, it represents the expert's point of view and the average point of view of the experts. The results of these calculations are shown in Table 7.

**Table 7 Fuzzy average of experts' views for transparency components with fuzzy Delphi approach**

Row	Components	Triangular fuzzy mean			De-fuzzified average
		L	M	U	
1	Transparency of information on the conflict of interests of representatives	0.57	0.86	0.96	0.71
2	Transparency of parliament commissions and transparency of parliament factions	0.60	0.85	0.96	0.80
3	Transparency of the public hall of the Majlis	0.53	0.78	0.93	0.74
4	Majlis Research Center	0.61	0.73	0.88	0.74
5	Transparency of officials' promises and positions, transparency of lobbying	0.63	0.88	0.96	0.82
6	Corruption, rent and gifts received	0.56	0.81	0.96	0.79

Row	Components	Triangular fuzzy mean			De-fuzzified average
		L	M	U	
	by the representative				
7	Transparency of administrative affairs of the parliament	0.53	0.78	0.93	0.74
8	Receipts, rewards, souvenirs	0.62	0.87	0.98	0.82
9	Transparency of parliamentary elections and quality of parliamentary information	0.57	0.82	0.95	0.76
10	Citizen participation and lobbying supervision	0.71	0.96	1.00	0.95
11	Budget transparency	0.59	0.71	0.87	0.73
12	Transparency in recommendation letters	0.68	0.93	0.98	0.87
13	Transparency of representatives' sponsors	0.57	0.82	0.95	0.75
14	Transparency of professional ethics	0.71	0.96	1.00	0.89
15	Quality and access to public and fast information	0.59	0.71	0.87	0.73
16	The amount of citizens' participation	0.63	0.88	0.96	0.82
17	social responsibility	0.56	0.81	0.91	0.78
18	Public supervision	0.57	0.82	0.95	0.73

The absolute average obtained shows the intensity of experts' agreement with each of the transparency indicators. In the following, with 18 indicators, the main research questionnaire will be prepared and distributed among the experts and the variables extracted by library studies and experts' opinions will be discussed.

To ensure the verifiability of the research, the simultaneous collection and analysis of data during the process, and continuous comparative coding were used. For this purpose, the researcher regularly recorded and maintained all the raw data, including the important points of the documents, recorded interviews, and his thoughts and analyzes so that they can be returned and reviewed at any time. In Table No. 8, validity and reliability of the research are briefly presented.

**Table 8 validity and reliability based on the method of Lincoln and Guba**

Indicator	Process
Credibility	Spending enough time on research and verifying the interview data in review by the participants
transferability	Obtaining the opinions of experts who did not participate in the research
Verifiability	Documenting and maintaining research steps and documentation in the research process
Reliability	Maintaining all raw data including important points of documents, interviews and analysis in the research process

Also, the process audit method can be used to evaluate reliability in qualitative research. The results can be audited when another researcher can clearly follow the decision process used by the main researcher during the interview and show the compatibility of the study. Therefore, in the current research, the decision implementation process as well as all data, codes, categories, study process, goals and questions are at the disposal of three experts who, in addition to being experts in the field of management, have also mastered content analysis and Delphi methods. It was placed and confirmed by a detailed audit of all the steps taken. In addition to the auditing method, the internal agreement method (within the subject) was also used. In this method, the considered experts were asked to code three randomly selected interviews as coders. The number of codes used in each interview and the amount of intra-subject agreement are shown in Table 9.

**Table 9 Reliability of the research instrument using the intra-subject agreement method**

Row	The title of the interview	Total number of codes	Number of agreements	Retest reliability (percentage)
1	Third	30	24	80%
2	the seventh	23	17	73%
3	twelfth	25	22	88%
Total		98	80	81%

According to the existing agreement, the internal agreement rate is above 60%, so it is a suitable indicator of the reliability of the tool.

### **Discussion and conclusion**

Governance in any society has an unbreakable link with the value system of that society, which requires information technology platforms. Transparency cannot be claimed without information technology and free access to information flow. When moral values are institutionalized in the society, the result is the enjoyment of moral governance. One of the most important factors to achieve ethical governance is transparency in different levels of government. The understanding and sense of the need for fitness is not hidden from any person or organization, and the obligation to use this strong and efficient tool is also felt more than ever in public institutions. Transparency is one of the most important factors of ethical governance. Healing/rectification in institutions does not happen by itself and requires basic measures and reforms, especially a collective demand. On the one hand, requirements such as drafting and approving legal infrastructures, activating supervisory units and health assessment and social and organizational culture, and on the other hand, creating an atmosphere of respect for freedom of expression and the right to express opinions and the right to answer. It is necessary to create a society based on participation. The collective effort and desire in the field of transparency can be considered as a competitive advantage for the durability and stability of the government. To achieve the category of ethical governance, people must concretely understand transparency so that public trust, accountability, and a clear sense of oversight dominate officials.

The present study was conducted with the aim of presenting a model of transparency in the Islamic Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran (with the approach of the right to information and open data in the context of information technology). The results show that the factors affecting the successful establishment of transparency in the Islamic Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran In this research, are as follows: empowerment of the governing body, empowerment of governance behavior, accountability of office holders, accountability of office holders, meritocracy of office holders, people's participation in monitoring and evaluation, people's participation in decision-making processes, access to information law, Conflict of interest law, transparency of government actions and projects, transparency of financial sponsors of representatives, transparency of information on conflicts of interest of representatives, corruption, rent, public

supervision, transparency in recommendation letters, quality and access to public and fast information, and finally social responsibility.

- The consequences of the establishment of transparency in the Islamic Council in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which were obtained in this research, are: reducing the level of systematic corruption, bringing stable income against fluctuating and inflationary income dependent on oil, supporting domestic production, increasing the level of employment and reduction of social damages, optimization of plans; Increasing people's trust and social capital, increasing social justice, increasing participation, increasing productivity, institutionalizing transparency in other organizations and institutions, increasing accountability, increasing free flow and easy access to information for all stakeholders, increasing public participation, and reducing rent

- Due to the lack of attention to transparency and establishment, the possible harms that can lie in wait for the rulers include: decrease in public participation, decrease in acceptability, loss of social justice, weakness in the government body, loss of rule of law, spread of social and political corruption, , the destruction of national and religious foundations, the increase of dissatisfaction and discrimination, the destruction of concepts such as accountability, responsibility and supervision.

Compared to previous researches in the field of transparency, the current model is a more comprehensive model for the Islamic Council, because the output of all previous researches using the phenomenological approach and the Claysey method was used, and on the other hand, the subcategories of the current model include more cases , moreover it is more complete for its statistical population.

According to the obtained results, the following suggestions are provided:

1. It is necessary for the policy of the transferor to be honest and transparent so that the executor and the beneficiary will not only be satisfied with the good performance of the work and its result, but also with the quality of the implementation method and the consequences. They have started to implement all aspects of transparency such as financial-supervisory-accountability-informational-professional and personal ethics to provide the best services to the people who are the main owners of this system.

2. In line with empowering the governing body, empowering governance behavior, accountability of office holders, accountability of office holders, meritocracy, people's participation in monitoring and evaluation, people's participation in decision-making processes, elimination of corruption and rent, increasing public supervision, increasing quality and access for public and quick information, raising the sense of social responsibility, it is suggested to the Parliament and other institutions that have a similar goal that they take the path of transparency.

3. In order to remove the obstacles to the establishment of transparency, it is suggested that the establishment of a comprehensive system of electronic services and the strengthening of the information technology infrastructure for the convenience of the public to access information in real time and quickly be adopted as initiatives of paramount importance.

4. It is suggested to the people in charge that they consider the people as their trustees and only consider themselves as the creditors of the people.

#### **Ethical considerations**

Moral issues such as plagiarism, informed consent; multiple releases and ..etc. have been taken into account in the present research.

## References

- Abdul Hosseinzadeh , M. and Sanai ,M. (2014). "Explaining the concept and application of transparency in the field of governance and administration of government affairs", the first national conference on public administration of Iran: *public policy*, pp. 1-9. .[In persian].
- Abdul Hosseinzadeh, M.( 2019). "Explaining the concept of transparency and its application in the field of governance and administration of government affairs" *Quarterly magazine of strategic and macro politics*, 8(2) : 178-206. .[In persian].
- Ameri , Z. (2014). "Political control over power and its use through the people in Iran's legal system", *Sepehr Tishat, second year*, number 3, spring 2014, pp. 115-174. .[In persian].
- Anwar, S.(2018)."Ranking Countries for Good Governance Using Public Opinion Surveys" *The Brookings Institution*, November 2018, DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-62707-6\_18. .[In persian].
- Arabi, S. M.; Budlai, H.( 2012), Phenomenological Research Strategy, *Scientific and Research Quarterly of Humanities Methodology*, Q17, No. 68, 1390.[In persian].
- Aryan,V.; Ghasemi , A.; Moinifar, Y., (2016)."Policy recommendations of obstacles to the realization of good governance in the administration of public affairs (case study: governorship and municipality of Minodasht city)" *Strategic Public Policy Studies Quarterly*, 7( 25) : 113-133. .[In persian].
- Boelen, CH.; Woollard, B.( 2019)." Social accountability and accreditation: a new frontier for educational institutions" *Medical Education*, 43(9) :234-251
- Dihimpur , M.(2018 )."Effect of organizational transparency on controversy management - result with the mediation of social capital" *Scientific Quarterly Journal of Management Studies (Improvement and Transformation)*, 28th year, No. 94, winter 98, pp. 39-62. .[In persian].
- Faizabadi , H., Ala'i , S.( 2017). "The effect of organizational transparency on administrative corruption with the mutual effects of organizational trust in medical centers of Tehran municipality", *Health and Treatment Management (Health System)*, 9(3): 47-54. .[In persian].
- FOX, J. A. (2015). "Social Accountability: What Does the Evidence Really Say?" *World Development* ,Vol. 72, Pp. 346–361



- Grosmana ,A; Leiponen,A.( 2018). "Organizational Transparency and Power in Firm Ownership Networks" *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 46(4) : 1158-1177.
- Guide, F. ; Alipour, E ; Dehdar, H; and Khalili; H. (2018). "*The framework of the relationship between the government and the people in Iran: an institutional approach*", Iranian Public Administration Quarterly, University of Tehran, pp. 3-9.
- Guide, F.; Bayatichashtri, T.; Tahirpur , H.; Manourian, A.( 2016 )."Responsiveness in the public policy network" *Development Management Process*, 30( 4): pp. 35-68.
- Heydari Sarban, A and Vakil,M. (2016). "Evaluation of the role of organizational transparency in the development of social capital (case study: municipalities in the west of Mazandaran)", *Social Capital Management*, 4(2): 284-289.
- Ibini, E.; Izims, T.( 2020). "Effect of Organizational Transparency on Organizational Performance: A Survey of Insurance Companies in Lagos State Nigeria" *Journal of Economics, Management and Trade*, 26(4): 52-62, .[In persian].
- Imami , M.;Shakri, H.( 2015). "Good Governance and the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran", *Research Journal of Comparative Law*,1(2): 27-75. .[In persian].
- Jashar i,M ; Pepaj,I.( 2018). " The Role of the Principle of Transparency and Accountability in Public Administration" *Acta Universitatis Danubius*, 10(1): 60-69.
- Karimi , Sh. and Zahorferande, J.( 2017). "Investigation of educational program needs of general practitioners for social accountability based on structural equation model" *Journal of Education Development in Medical Sciences*, 11( 23): 45-77. .[In persian].
- Lee, Y and Queenie Li, J-Y. ( 2021) "The Role of Communication Transparency and Organizational Trust in Publics' Perceptions, Attitudes and Social Distancing Behaviour: A Case Study of The Covid-19 Outbreak" *Wiley Original Article*, Doi: 10.1111/1468-5973.12354.
- Mulgan, R.( 2012)."*Transparency and Public Sector Performance*" Report Prepared for The Australia And New Zealand School of Government, July 2012.Creativecommons. Org/Licenses/By/3.0/.

- Pirannejad , C. And et al.( 2013). "*The role of transparency and free access to information in preventing and fighting economic corruption*", empowering governance and society.
- Pronoun, A. H.; Nasiri Hamed, R.( 2011) "Desirable governance and the role of transparency in its realization" *Journal of Social Sciences, Spring* 1389, 173-244.
- Qamoshi , Z.;Ezzati, M.; Mohseni Mehr, Z.( 2018)."The role of faculty members' professional ethics in organizational transparency (case study: Imam Khomeini University (RA))" *Higher Education Journal*, 12th year, No. 48, pp. 37-64. .[In persian].
- Sepharnia , R.; Al Barzi, M. ; Kermanshah, A.; Azar; A.; Sepharnia, R.( 2018). "Creative model of transparency of good governance for policy-making organizations in Iran" *scientific journal of innovation and creativity in human sciences*, 9(1) :77-102. .[In persian].
- Soltaninejad , A. and Guderzi , M.( 2016). "*Transparency of documents and the right to free access to information*", *Ganjineh Esna Quarterly*: 23rd Year, Volume I, (Spring 2016), pp. 116-134. .[In persian].

---

**How to Cite:** Berenjimarian, H., Rezae Kalidbari, H. R., Kiakojoori, K. (2023). Developing a model of transparency for the parliament of Iran based on the Right to Information and Open Data, *International Journal of Digital Content Management (IJDCM)*, 4(7), 83-108.

DOI: 10.22054/dcm.2022.70065.1154



International Journal of Digital Content Management (IJDCM) is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.