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REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: **IJAR-53219** Date: 11-08-2025

Title: The Impact of Financial Technology on the Financial Growth of a Sample of Commercial Banks Listed on the Iraq Stock Exchange for the Period 2017–2023

Recommendation:	Rating _	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Accept as it is Accept after minor revision Accept after major revision Do not accept (Reasons below)	Originality		✓		
	Techn. Quality			✓	
	Clarity		✓		
	Significance		✓		

Reviewer Name: Dr.P.Manochithra

Date: 11-08-2025

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

(To be published with the manuscript in the journal)

The reviewer is requested to provide a brief comment (3-4 lines) highlighting the significance, strengths, or key insights of the manuscript. This comment will be Displayed in the journal publication alongside with the reviewers name.

The manuscript provides a comprehensive and data-driven examination of the relationship between financial technology adoption and financial growth in Iraqi banks. Its integration of theoretical insights, empirical analysis, and practical recommendations makes it a valuable contribution to both academic literature and banking sector policy-making. The statistical rigor and relevance to emerging markets enhance its significance.

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Detailed Reviewer's Report

1. Title & Abstract

- The title is clear, specific, and directly reflects the scope of the study.
- The abstract effectively summarizes the research problem, methodology, key findings, and recommendations.
- The keywords are relevant and facilitate indexing.

2. Introduction & Research Problem

- The introduction provides strong contextual background on FinTech adoption globally and within Iraq.
- The research problem is clearly articulated, with precise sub-questions guiding the investigation.
- The importance of the study is justified by linking to gaps in local empirical research.

3. Literature Review & Theoretical Framework

- The manuscript demonstrates a wide coverage of relevant literature, incorporating both local and international perspectives.
- The theoretical framework clearly connects FinTech concepts to banking growth indicators.
- Prior studies are critically reviewed to highlight the research gap effectively.

4. Methodology

- The mixed descriptive-analytical and quantitative approach is appropriate for the research objectives.
- The choice of purposive sampling is justified, with clear criteria for bank selection.
- Financial indicators (ROA, ROE, profit, revenue, etc.) are relevant and measurable.
- Statistical tools (Pearson correlation, regression analysis) are appropriately applied, with significance levels reported.

5. Results & Analysis

- The data is presented systematically in well-structured tables.
- The statistical analysis is sound and supports the stated hypotheses.

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- Findings are linked to previous research, strengthening validity.
- The study demonstrates a clear positive relationship between FinTech adoption and financial performance, while also noting operational efficiency improvements.

6. Conclusions & Recommendations

- Conclusions are logically derived from the data and address all research objectives.
- Recommendations are practical, targeting both banks and policymakers, with emphasis on digital infrastructure, human capital, and regulatory support.

7. Strengths of the Manuscript

- Strong empirical foundation using multi-year data (2017–2024).
- Balanced integration of theory, data, and policy implications.
- Addresses a contemporary and under-researched area in the Iraqi context.

8. Areas for Improvement

- Language editing could further enhance clarity and flow in certain sections.
- Some financial tables could benefit from visual representation (graphs/charts) for better reader engagement.
- While the focus on four banks is justified, noting limitations of generalizability would strengthen transparency.

9. Overall Recommendation

The manuscript meets the academic and methodological standards for publication. Subject to minor language polishing and optional addition of visual data representation, it is suitable for acceptance.