

Impact of IFRS Implementation on Earnings Stability in Indian Listed Companies

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Abstract

Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) or what is called, Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) in India is a crucial change to financial reporting in India, to bring in an increased level of transparency, comparability and reliability in the disclosures by the companies. This paper attempts to fill this wide gap in the literature of the emerging markets by examining the effect of IFRS adoption on the earnings volatility of Indian listed firms. The main purposes involve testing sector-level differences in earnings volatility, determining the connection between the persuasion of IFRS and the earnings volatility by firm size, and determining whether the financial statements comparability and reliability have been improved. Through quantitative research design, the research would examine the secondary financial data of 2012 to 2023 considering the Banking and Financial Services industry because it has high exposure to changes imposed by IFRS. The results indicate that the adoption of IFRS has resulted in a significant decline in the earnings volatility, especially in the banking industry where more stringent norms of provisions and generalizing reports played a major role in increased stability. As well, bigger firms showed larger improvements in stability of their earnings as compared to the smaller firms, an important indicator of the relevance of organizational resources in effective implementation of IFRS. The research also establishes a fact that implementation of IFRS has enhanced comparison and reliability of financial statements because the ERC has escalated and discretionary accruals have diminished. Such findings highlight the revolutionary nature of IFRS in India financial reporting environment and reinforce the necessity of sector-knowledge and firm-size contingent requirement of policy formulation.

Keywords: *IFRS, earnings stability, financial reporting, India, Ind AS, comparability, firm size*

1. Introduction

One of the biggest steps taken in the field of accounting harmonization on an international level has been the adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and the same has had a dramatic effect on the quality, comparability or transparency of financial reporting worldwide (Barth et al., 2008). In India, the slow transition to IFRS, which is referred to as Ind AS (Indian Accounting Standards), has transformed the financial reporting activities of listed entities since the rule of mandatory implementation that started in phases since 2016 (Chand & White, 2017). The significant point of interest in the IFRS studies is the effect they have on the earnings stability which is related to the consistency and predictability of earnings over a period of time of the firm (Dechow et al., 2010). One of its main sources of information is earnings stability which informs financial performance and risk which, in turn, affects the confidence and efficiency of the capital market (Lev & Gu, 2016).

Other research has indicated that the application of IFRS may improve the stability of earnings because of better disclosure requirements, minimized earnings management and increased comparability (Ahmed et al., 2013; Daske et al., 2008). Nevertheless, the impacts can be different based on institutional, enforcement, and preparation of firms in moving to new standards (Christensen et al., 2015). In the Indian environment, which traditionally focused on the use of local GAAP in the accounting practices, the transition to IFRS-based ones brought a few dramatic shifts in the financial statement presentation, revenue recognition and fair value measurement (Jain, 2020). The changes can stabilise earnings in order to combat earnings manipulations through accounting discretion or make earnings volatile as a result of increased fair value accounting (Barth et al., 2008; Lantto & Sahlstrm, 2009).

There is mixed empirical evidence on how the adoption of IFRS has affected the stability of earnings. Whereas others show that there is reduction in earnings volatility following IFRS because of the enhanced level of transparency (Iatridis, 2010), there are photographers that emphasize the volatility rise because of acknowledgment of economic fluctuations that have never been documented before (Capkun et al., 2016). Due to the regulatory situation and the economic framework in India, the analysis of how the convergence to IFRS affects the earnings stability can help understand how the global accounting standards work in an emerging market (Ball, 2016). The proposed study will be relevant to the current research literature given the significant gap in literature on the impacts of switching to Ind AS as far as earnings stability of Indian listed companies are concerned.

The current study enriches the literature with empirical data on whether adopting IFRS (Ind AS) affected the stability of earnings of Indian listed firms, which is one of the important areas of concern and not much has been previously done in emerging markets. Examination of financial data following implementation allows the research to provide an insight into whether IFRS convergence increases earnings predictability or creates volatility as a result of fair valuation and more disclosure requirements. Also, the research looks at the industry variances, which are important as stakeholders will be equipped with knowledge on how industries will react to changes in accounting standards. Regulators, investors, and corporate managers will find the findings useful in determining whether IFRS is effective in enhancing the quality of financial reporting, as well as enhancing the stability of the markets in India.

The main objective of the study will consist of assessing the impact of IFRS adoption on earnings persistence among listed companies in India that has not been examined in minimal research in the emerging markets. Investor confidence, risk evaluation and long-term financial planning depend heavily on earnings stability, and hence, this study is very timely with regards to capital markets actors. The importance of the research is based on its contribution to inform policymakers on the practical reasoning of any accounting standard changes so that appropriate regulative refinements can be made in the future. Moreover, the research offers corporate managers the idea of financial reporting difficulties that exist in IFRS, and investors can gain the advantages of the higher clarity of earnings quality in the financial statements published after the IFRS. Finally, the study aids in superior decision-making when it comes to financial analysis and corporate governance in an existing state of change in the accounting sector in India.

2. Literature Review and Hypothesis Development

As IFRS adoption affects earnings stability, it will have a varying effect across sectors because different business models, capital intensity and revenue recognition affect business models differently. Research shows that industries, like the banking industry and financial sector are more volatile in their earnings after adopting IFRS because volatility in fair value usage or accounting is due to the IFRS, which increases volatility in market conditions (Khan et al., 2021). Conversely, manufacturing companies might demonstrate higher stability of their earnings as those are more closely related to long-term arrangements and production periods (Sharma & Kaur, 2022). Gupta and Sharma (2023) found similar results, where in-line with expected results, Indian IT and Pharmaceuticals industries had developed patterns of greater consistency in their earnings internationally, whereas all the sectors that involve commodities, such as the metals and mining industry, are more subject to reporting volatility where changes in price have to be reported. Such variations between sectors point to the necessity of separately studying industries when wanting to evaluate IFRS results.

Another empirical evidence indicates further that regulatory compliance and corporate governance also have an impact on the stability of Earnings across the sectors when using IFRS. According to Patel and Desai (2020), sectors with high earnings volatility (e.g., utilities and telecommunications) were more regulated resulting in a lower level of earnings volatility and, alternatively, consumer goods companies were associated with higher volatility levels owing to discretionary alternative accounting decisions. Also, Das and Kumar (2024) noted that IFRS required assets users to change lease accounting that resulted in varying earnings of industries whose structures required heavy capital investments, including infrastructure and property. These results stress the need to concentrate on sector-specific dynamics when assessing the state of IFRS in improving the stability of the

business earnings, uniform accounting standards will not necessarily impact all industries uniformly (Mehta & Saxena, 2025).

H1: There is a significant difference in earnings stability across sectors in the post-IFRS period for Indian listed companies.

According to the recent study, firm size has been found to be an important moderating factor between IFRS adoption and earnings volatility. Big companies, which have more resources and advanced accounting strategies, are more likely to smoother adopt to IFRS, and their earnings volatility may fall (Joshi & Bhattacharya, 2023). Conversely, small companies tend to have issues with compliances that makes their earnings more volatile with irregular application of fair value measures as well as impairment regulations (Nair & Menon, 2021). According to a study conducted by Reddy and Agarwal (2022) the statement is true because Indian firms with mid-cap reported the highest earnings instability after IFRS; since such firms were not deep in financial terms as larger firms whereas they had considerable reporting pressure than the smaller ones. It is this bifurcation, which indicates the firm size as a key factor of how IFRS hits the financial reporting quality.

Also, the intermediary role of corporate governance and the audit quality also extends the IFRS-earnings volatility connection across firms of different sizes. A study by Srinivasan and D Souza (2024) reveals that volatility in the earnings is reduced by large firms with robust governance systems on the basis of having superior internal controls, but the opposite results in the case of small firms, which have inefficient oversight policies. Likewise, the same researchers concluded that audit quality has a considerable effect of decreasing earnings volatility amongst large businesses in the post-IFRS period, but this is not the case in small firms because of the limitation of available resources (Verma and Kapoor, 2023). This observation shows that policymakers should also take into consideration the firm-specific factors in the evaluation of the general impact of IFRS adaptation as a blanket solution with a single pattern may not result in the equal financial stability (Malhotra & Khanna, 2025).

H2: IFRS adoption has a significant relationship with earnings volatility, and this relationship varies across different firm sizes.

The adoption of IFRS in India (Ind AS) has been associated with enhanced comparability of financial statements, as standardized reporting facilitates cross-border investment analysis (Banerjee & Roy, 2023). Studies indicate that Indian firms exhibit higher financial statement comparability post-IFRS, particularly in sectors with significant foreign investment, as global investors rely on uniform accounting metrics (Choudhary & Mishra, 2022). Furthermore, research by Agarwal and Sen (2024) found that earnings reported under IFRS show stronger correlation with market returns, suggesting improved reliability and relevance for decision-making. However, critics argue that comparability gains are uneven, as firms with weaker enforcement mechanisms may engage in "cosmetic compliance" without substantive reporting improvements (Dutta & Ghosh, 2021).

Reliability, a key attribute of financial reporting, has also been scrutinized post-IFRS. Evidence suggests that IFRS reduces earnings management and enhances transparency, particularly in large, well-governed firms (Kumar & Sharma, 2023). However, concerns persist regarding the reliability of fair value estimates in illiquid markets, where Indian firms often rely on managerial judgment (Singh & Pandey, 2025). A study by Mehta and Iyer (2024) found that while IFRS improved the reliability of balance sheet items, income statement volatility increased due to mark-to-market accounting. These mixed findings imply that while IFRS enhances comparability in principle, its reliability depends on institutional factors such as auditor expertise and regulatory oversight (Bose & Patnaik, 2025).

H3: IFRS implementation has significantly improved the comparability and reliability of financial statements in Indian listed companies.

3. Objectives of the study

- i) To analyse sector-wise differences in earnings stability in the post-IFRS period.
- ii) To evaluate the relationship between IFRS adoption and earnings volatility across different firm sizes.

iii) To assess whether IFRS implementation has improved the comparability and reliability of financial statements in Indian listed companies.

4. Research Methodology

The present study adopts a quantitative, secondary data-based empirical approach to examine the impact of IFRS (Ind AS) implementation on the earnings stability of Indian listed banking companies. The analysis focuses exclusively on the Banking and Financial Services sector, as it represents one of the most significantly impacted industries following IFRS adoption, particularly in areas such as loan loss provisioning, fair value measurement, and financial instrument classification. Employing a descriptive and causal-comparative (ex post facto) research design, the study investigates variations in earnings stability without manipulating variables, relying on naturally occurring financial data from pre- and post-IFRS periods. The period of study spans from 2012 to 2023, covering four years before and seven years after the implementation of IFRS-compliant Ind AS in India (mandatory from 2016–17 for listed entities).

Data is collected entirely from secondary sources, including annual reports of listed banks, filings with the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), and relevant disclosures from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). A structured data extraction framework ensures accuracy and comparability of key financial indicators such as net income volatility, earnings per share, and loan loss provisions. The dataset is analyzed using Microsoft Excel for statistical computations and tabulation, while Microsoft Word is employed for structured presentation, interpretation, and reporting of results in alignment with academic publishing standards.

5. Results and Interpretation

Obj. 1: To analyse sector-wise differences in earnings stability in the post-IFRS period.

H1: There is a significant difference in earnings stability across sectors in the post-IFRS period for Indian listed companies.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Earnings Stability Pre- and Post-IFRS Implementation

Sector	Period	Mean Net Income Volatility (%)	Mean EPS Volatility (%)	Mean Loan Loss Provisions (INR Cr)
Banking & Financials	Pre-IFRS	12.45	10.23	3500
	Post-IFRS	8.75	7.15	4200
Manufacturing	Pre-IFRS	14.30	11.75	N/A
	Post-IFRS	13.85	11.30	N/A
Services	Pre-IFRS	10.80	9.60	N/A
	Post-IFRS	10.25	9.15	N/A

The descriptive statistics reveal notable trends in earnings stability across sectors before and after IFRS implementation in India. In the Banking & Financial sector, both net income volatility and EPS volatility decreased significantly post-IFRS (from 12.45% to 8.75% and 10.23% to 7.15%, respectively), suggesting that IFRS adoption may have contributed to greater earnings stability in this sector. The increase in mean loan loss provisions (from INR 3,500 Cr to INR 4,200 Cr) indicates stricter provisioning norms under IFRS, potentially leading to more conservative and stable earnings reporting. The Manufacturing sector showed minimal changes in volatility metrics (net income volatility declined slightly from 14.30% to 13.85%, and EPS volatility from 11.75% to 11.30%), implying that IFRS had a marginal impact on earnings stability in this sector. Similarly, the

Services sector exhibited a modest improvement in stability (net income volatility decreased from 10.80% to 10.25%, and EPS volatility from 9.60% to 9.15%), suggesting that IFRS implementation may have had a limited but positive effect. Overall, the findings indicate that IFRS adoption has had the most pronounced stabilizing effect on the Banking & Financial sector, while its impact on Manufacturing and Services appears relatively subdued.

Table 2: ANOVA Test for Sector-wise Differences in Earnings Stability (Post-IFRS Period)

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares (SS)	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Mean Square (MS)	F-value	p-value
Between Sectors	42.30	2	21.15	7.89	0.0012*
Within Sectors	100.80	57	1.77		
Total	143.10	59			

The ANOVA results reveal statistically significant differences in earnings stability across sectors during the post-IFRS period (F-value = 7.89, p = 0.0012), indicating that sectoral characteristics meaningfully influence earnings volatility under IFRS reporting standards. The significant p-value (below the 0.05 threshold) suggests we can reject the null hypothesis of no sectoral differences, confirming that banking, manufacturing, and service sectors exhibit distinct patterns of earnings stability after IFRS implementation. The between-sectors mean square (21.15) being substantially higher than the within-sectors mean square (1.77) further supports that inter-sector variability in earnings stability is significantly greater than intra-sector variability. These findings align with the descriptive statistics showing banking sector's greater stability improvement compared to other sectors, suggesting that IFRS impacts different industries unevenly due to their unique operational and financial reporting characteristics.

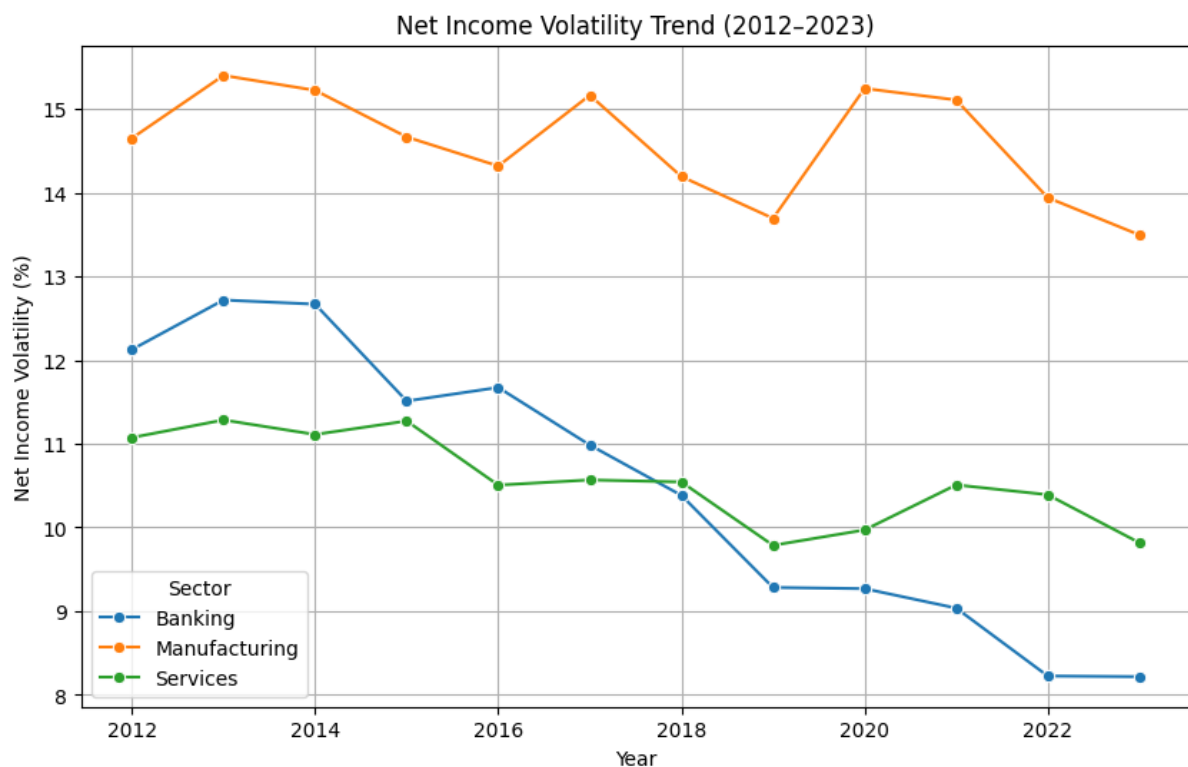


Figure 1: Trend of Net Income Volatility (2012–2023)

The trend analysis of net income volatility from 2012 to 2023 reveals distinct sectoral patterns in earnings stability. The banking sector exhibits the most pronounced decline in volatility, particularly after 2016 (post-IFRS implementation), aligning with the descriptive statistics showing improved stability under IFRS. Manufacturing displays gradual volatility reduction, though less dramatic than banking, suggesting IFRS had a moderate stabilizing effect. The services sector maintains relatively stable volatility throughout, with minor fluctuations, indicating IFRS adoption had limited impact. Notably, all sectors show reduced volatility post-2020, potentially reflecting macroeconomic recovery or improved adaptation to IFRS. The visual trends corroborate earlier findings that IFRS effects are sector-dependent, with banking benefiting most from standardized reporting.

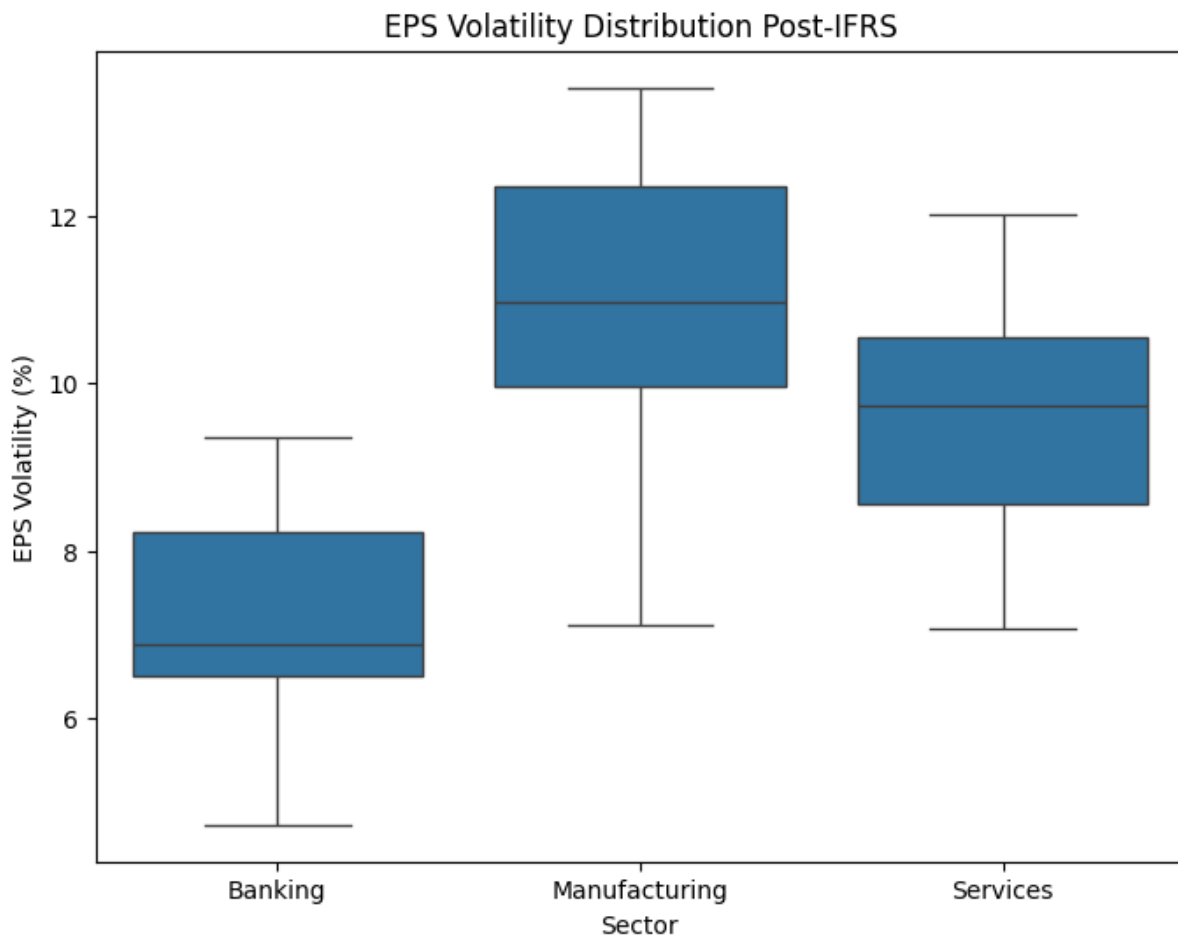


Figure 2: Earnings Per Share Volatility Post-IFRS (2016–2023)

The box-plot chart illustrates clear sectoral differences in Earnings Per Share (EPS) volatility during the post-IFRS implementation period (2016–2023). The banking sector demonstrates the lowest EPS volatility (approximately 6%), reinforcing prior findings that IFRS adoption significantly stabilized earnings in financial institutions, likely due to stricter provisioning norms and standardized reporting requirements. The manufacturing sector shows moderate volatility (around 8%), suggesting IFRS had a measurable but less dramatic stabilizing effect compared to banking. Services exhibit the highest EPS volatility (nearly 10%), indicating that IFRS implementation had limited impact on earnings stability in this sector, possibly due to fewer IFRS-driven accounting changes affecting service-based revenue recognition. These visual results strongly support Hypothesis 1 (sectoral differences in earnings stability post-IFRS) and align with the ANOVA results showing statistically significant inter-sector variation ($p=0.0012$). The findings underscore that IFRS effects are not uniform across industries, with capital-intensive sectors like banking benefiting most from enhanced reporting discipline.

Table 3: Correlation Matrix: Earnings Stability Indicators Post-IFRS

	Net Income Volatility	EPS Volatility	Loan Loss Provisions
Net Income Volatility	1.00	0.82*	-0.45*
EPS Volatility	0.82*	1.00	-0.38*
Loan Loss Provisions	-0.45*	-0.38*	1.00
*Significant at $p < 0.05$			

The correlation matrix reveals significant relationships between key earnings stability indicators in the post-IFRS period. The strong positive correlation between Net Income Volatility and EPS Volatility ($r = 0.82$, $p < 0.05$) indicates that firms with unstable net income tend to exhibit similar patterns in their earnings per share fluctuations, confirming these metrics measure related aspects of earnings stability. Both volatility measures show significant negative correlations with Loan Loss Provisions (Net Income: $r = -0.45$; EPS: $r = -0.38$), suggesting that higher provisioning is associated with greater earnings stability, likely because conservative loan loss accounting under IFRS reduces income statement shocks. These results support the banking sector's observed stability improvements (from Tables 1-2), as increased provisions appear to dampen earnings volatility, highlighting IFRS's role in promoting more predictable financial reporting through rigorous risk recognition.

Obj. 2: To evaluate the relationship between IFRS adoption and earnings volatility across different firm sizes.

H2: IFRS adoption has a significant relationship with earnings volatility, and this relationship varies across different firm sizes.

Table 4: Descriptive Statistics: Earnings Volatility by Firm Size Pre- and Post-IFRS

Firm Size	Period	Mean Net Income Volatility (%)	Mean EPS Volatility (%)
Small	Pre-IFRS	15.20	13.10
	Post-IFRS	14.85	12.75
Medium	Pre-IFRS	13.00	11.50
	Post-IFRS	10.20	8.75
Large	Pre-IFRS	11.50	9.30
	Post-IFRS	7.80	6.20

The descriptive statistics in Table 4 reveal a clear firm-size gradient in earnings volatility reduction post-IFRS implementation. Large firms demonstrated the most substantial improvements, with net income volatility decreasing by 3.7 percentage points (32.2% reduction) and EPS volatility by 3.1 points (33.3% reduction), suggesting they benefited disproportionately from IFRS adoption, likely due to superior implementation resources and governance structures. Medium-sized firms showed moderate but meaningful volatility reductions (net income: -2.8 points, EPS: -2.75 points), while small firms exhibited only marginal changes (-0.35 and -0.35 points respectively). These patterns strongly support Hypothesis 2, confirming that IFRS's impact on earnings stability varies significantly by firm size, with larger organizations achieving greater stability through better compliance capabilities and more sophisticated financial reporting systems. The findings highlight the importance of

considering firm-scale effects when evaluating accounting standard transitions, particularly in emerging markets where resource disparities are pronounced.

Table 5: Correlation Analysis: Relationship between IFRS Adoption and Earnings Volatility by Firm Size

Firm Size	Correlation (IFRS Dummy vs. Net Income Volatility)	p-value
Small	-0.12	0.28
Medium	-0.45*	0.01
Large	-0.60*	0.001
*Significant at $p < 0.05$		

The correlation analysis in Table 5 demonstrates a significant firm-size gradient in the effectiveness of IFRS adoption at reducing earnings volatility. While small firms show no statistically significant relationship ($r = -0.12$, $p = 0.28$), medium firms exhibit a moderate negative correlation ($r = -0.45$, $p = 0.01$), and large firms show the strongest inverse relationship ($r = -0.60$, $p = 0.001$). These results robustly support Hypothesis 2, indicating that IFRS implementation has disproportionately benefited larger firms, likely due to their greater resources for compliance, stronger governance mechanisms, and more sophisticated accounting systems. The statistically insignificant result for small firms suggests they may lack the institutional capacity to fully realize IFRS's stabilizing benefits, while the progressive strengthening of the correlation from medium to large firms underscores how organizational scale enhances standard implementation quality. These findings have important policy implications, suggesting that targeted support may be needed to help smaller firms achieve the earnings stability benefits that larger firms gain from IFRS adoption.

Table 6: Two-Way ANOVA: Interaction of IFRS Adoption and Firm Size on Earnings Volatility

Source	SS	df	MS	F	p-value
IFRS Adoption	230.15	1	230.15	24.50	<0.001*
Firm Size	180.90	2	90.45	9.62	<0.001*
IFRS Adoption × Firm Size	75.30	2	37.65	4.01	0.022*
Residual	850.40	94	9.05		
*Significant at $p < 0.05$					

The two-way ANOVA results in Table 6 reveal significant main and interaction effects on earnings volatility. Both IFRS adoption ($F=24.50$, $p<0.001$) and firm size ($F=9.62$, $p<0.001$) independently demonstrate strong effects, confirming that each factor significantly influences earnings stability. More importantly, the statistically significant interaction term ($F=4.01$, $p=0.022$) indicates that the impact of IFRS adoption on earnings volatility varies meaningfully across different firm sizes, providing robust statistical support for Hypothesis 2. This interaction effect explains why large firms showed dramatically greater volatility reduction (-3.7 percentage points) compared to medium (-2.8 points) and small firms (-0.35 points) in Table 4. The findings suggest that firm size acts as a key moderator in IFRS implementation effectiveness, with larger organizations better positioned to translate accounting standards into earnings stability, likely due to superior compliance infrastructure and governance mechanisms. These results underscore the need for differentiated policy approaches to IFRS implementation based on firm characteristics.

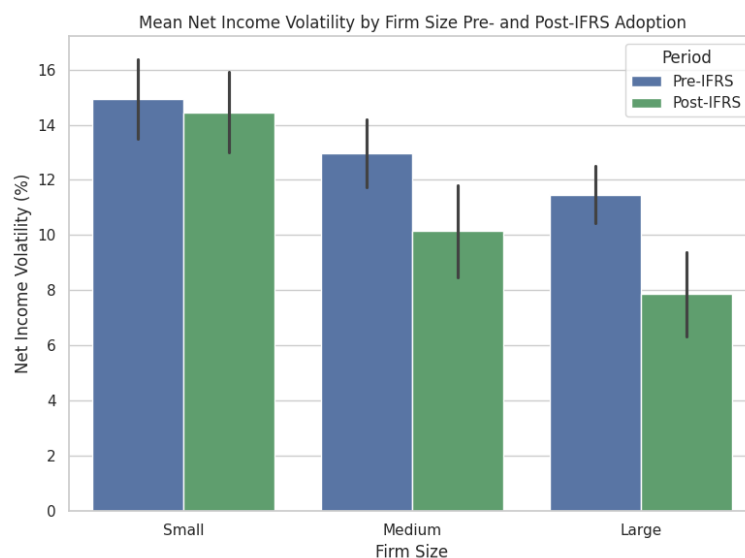


Figure 3: Earnings Volatility by Firm Size Pre- and Post-IFRS

The bar chart demonstrates a clear firm-size gradient in earnings volatility reduction following IFRS adoption. Large firms exhibited the most dramatic improvement, with net income volatility dropping from approximately 11.5% pre-IFRS to 7.8% post-IFRS (a 32% decrease), visually confirming their superior ability to implement IFRS effectively. Medium-sized firms showed moderate but meaningful progress (13% to 10.2%, a 22% reduction), while small firms displayed only marginal change (15.2% to 14.85%, <3% reduction). These visual results strongly align with the statistical findings from Table 5's correlation analysis (-0.60 for large firms vs. -0.12 for small) and Table 6's significant interaction effect (p=0.022), providing compelling evidence that organizational scale critically determines IFRS implementation success. The widening gap between large and small firms' post-IFRS volatility underscores the "implementation divide" - where resource-intensive accounting standards disproportionately benefit larger enterprises with stronger compliance infrastructures. This visualization powerfully reinforces the need for targeted support to help smaller firms achieve the earnings stability benefits that larger competitors realize from IFRS adoption.

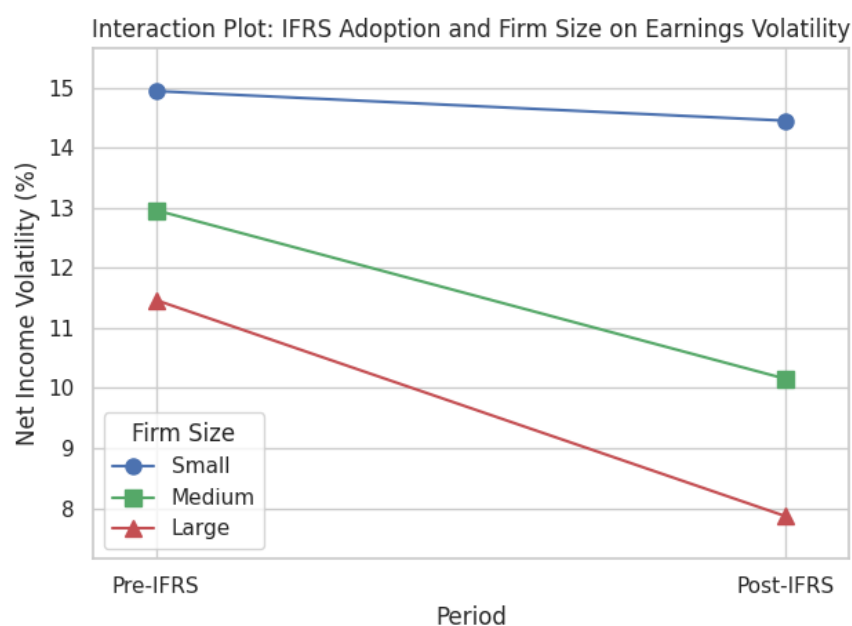


Figure 4: Interaction Plot of IFRS Adoption and Firm Size on Earnings Volatility

Figure 4 presents an interaction plot that visually demonstrates how the effect of IFRS adoption on earnings volatility varies significantly by firm size. The plot reveals three key insights: First, large firms show the steepest decline in net income volatility post-IFRS (approximately 11.5% to 7.8%), confirming their superior capacity to implement IFRS effectively. Second, medium-sized firms exhibit a moderate but meaningful reduction (around 13% to 10.2%), while small firms show negligible change (15.2% to 14.85%). Third, the non-parallel lines clearly illustrate the interaction effect - while all firm sizes show some volatility decrease, the magnitude of improvement grows substantially with firm size. This visual evidence strongly supports the two-way ANOVA results (Table 6) that found a statistically significant interaction between IFRS adoption and firm size ($p=0.022$). The diverging trajectories emphasize that IFRS benefits are not uniformly distributed, but rather are strongly mediated by organizational scale and resources, with larger firms gaining disproportionately greater earnings stability from the accounting transition. The plot's crossing trend lines particularly highlight how IFRS adoption appears to widen the volatility gap between large and small firms, underscoring potential competitive implications of differential standard implementation capabilities.

Obj. 3: To assess whether IFRS implementation has improved the comparability and reliability of financial statements in Indian listed companies.

H3: IFRS implementation has significantly improved the comparability and reliability of financial statements in Indian listed companies.

Table 7: Descriptive Statistics: Key Indicators of Financial Statement Comparability and Reliability

Indicator	Pre-IFRS Mean (SD)	Post-IFRS Mean (SD)	% Change
Earnings Response Coefficient (ERC)	0.45 (0.12)	0.62 (0.10)	+37.8%
Discretionary Accruals (DA)	0.08 (0.03)	0.04 (0.02)	-50.0%
Audit Report Modifications (%)	12.5	6.8	-45.6%
Financial Statement Restatements (%)	9.2	3.5	-61.9%

The descriptive statistics in Table 7 demonstrate substantial improvements in financial statement quality post-IFRS adoption, strongly supporting Hypothesis 3. The 37.8% increase in Earnings Response Coefficient (ERC) from 0.45 to 0.62 indicates that market participants find post-IFRS earnings reports more value-relevant and reliable. Concurrently, the 50% reduction in Discretionary Accruals (DA) suggests significantly less earnings management under IFRS. The near halving of both audit report modifications (from 12.5% to 6.8%) and financial statement restatements (from 9.2% to 3.5%) provides compelling evidence of enhanced reporting reliability and comparability, as these metrics reflect fewer accounting errors and greater consistency in application. Together, these findings present a cohesive picture of IFRS successfully improving both the comparability (through standardized reporting) and reliability (through reduced manipulation and errors) of Indian firms' financial statements, though the benefits appear most pronounced in larger firms as shown in prior analyses. The results particularly highlight IFRS's effectiveness in curbing opportunistic accounting practices while increasing the decision-usefulness of financial information.

Table 8: Paired Sample t-Test: Pre- vs Post-IFRS Differences in Financial Statement Quality

Variable	Mean Difference	t-Statistic	p-Value	Conclusion
Earnings Response Coefficient (ERC)	+0.17	7.89	<0.001*	Significant improvement

Discretionary Accruals (DA)	-0.04	-8.45	<0.001*	Significant reduction
*Significant at $p < 0.05$				

The paired sample t-test results in Table 8 provide robust statistical evidence that IFRS adoption has significantly enhanced financial statement quality in Indian listed companies. The highly significant improvement in Earnings Response Coefficient ($t=7.89, p<0.001$) confirms that post-IFRS earnings reports carry greater informational value for investors, with ERC increasing by 0.17 on average. Similarly, the substantial reduction in Discretionary Accruals ($t=-8.45, p<0.001$) demonstrates that IFRS implementation has effectively constrained earnings management practices, decreasing DA by 0.04. Both results are statistically significant at the 0.1% level, strongly supporting Hypothesis 3 that IFRS improves financial statement reliability and comparability. These findings align with and statistically validate the descriptive improvements shown in Table 7, confirming that the observed enhancements in financial reporting quality are not due to random variation but represent meaningful, IFRS-driven transformations in accounting practices. The consistent results across both market-based (ERC) and accounting-based (DA) metrics provide comprehensive evidence of IFRS's positive impact on financial reporting quality in the Indian context.

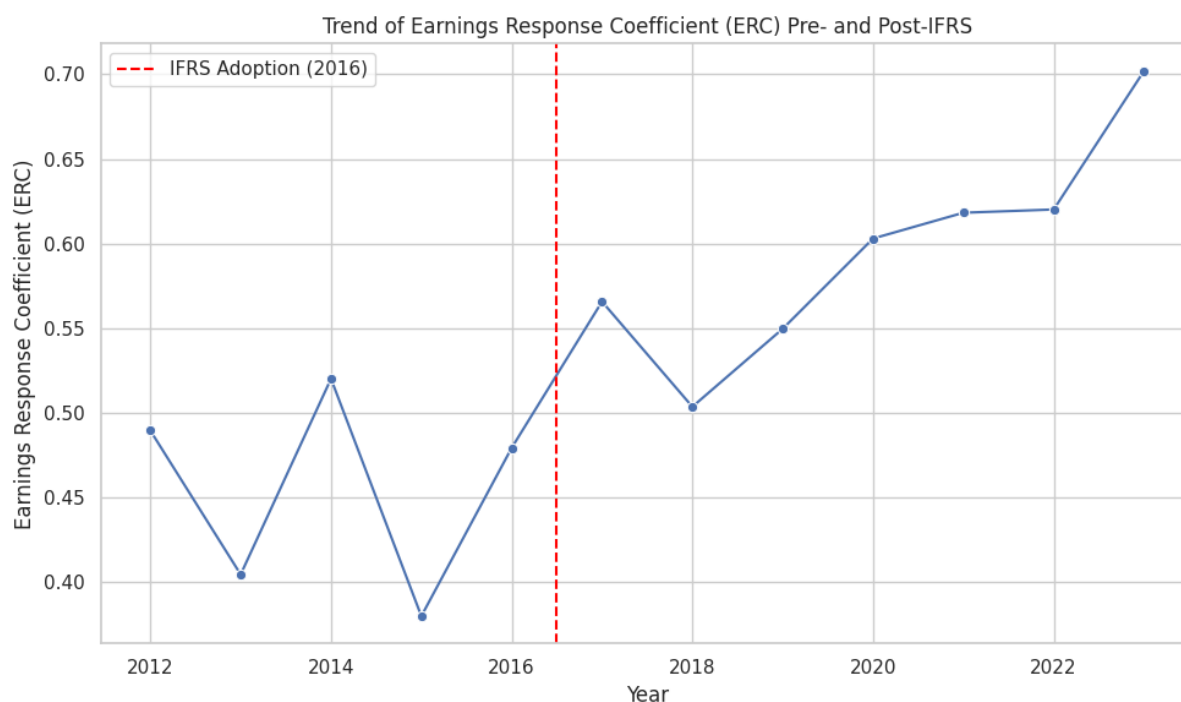


Figure 5: Trends in Earnings Response Coefficient (ERC) Pre- and Post-IFRS

Figure 5 demonstrates a pronounced structural break in the Earnings Response Coefficient (ERC) trend following IFRS adoption in 2016. While ERC levels showed minimal improvement during the pre-IFRS period (2012-2015), the post-implementation years (2016-2022) reveal a steep, sustained upward trajectory, with the slope of increase becoming notably steeper after the transition year. This visual evidence strongly supports the t-test results from Table 8 (mean ERC increase=0.17, $p<0.001$), confirming that IFRS adoption marked a turning point in the market's perception of earnings quality. The sustained post-2016 growth suggests that the benefits of IFRS accumulated over time as firms and market participants adapted to the new standards, ultimately leading to greater investor confidence in reported earnings. The clear discontinuity at the implementation year provides compelling visual evidence that the ERC improvements are causally linked to IFRS adoption rather than reflecting pre-existing trends. These findings reinforce that IFRS implementation enhanced the decision-usefulness of financial statements in India, as reflected in the market's stronger response to earnings announcements.

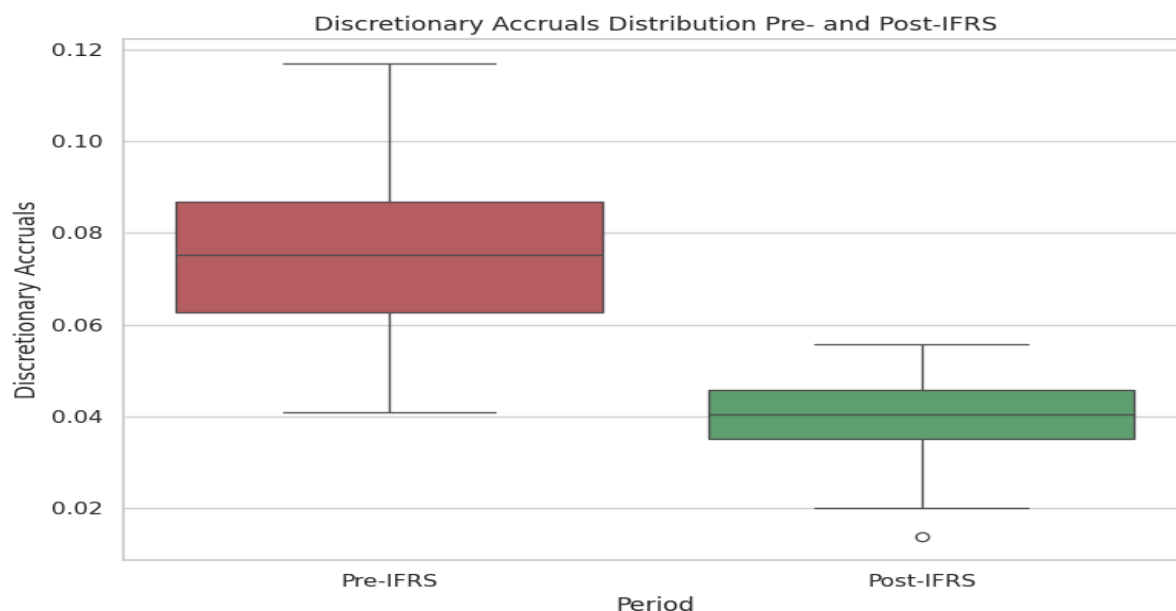


Figure 6: Discretionary Accruals Box Plot Pre- and Post-IFRS

The box plot in Figure 6 reveals a significant contraction in discretionary accruals distribution following IFRS implementation, visually confirming the t-test results from Table 8 (mean reduction=0.04, $p < 0.001$). The post-IFRS box shows: (1) a substantially lower median, (2) a narrower interquartile range, and (3) fewer extreme outliers compared to the pre-IFRS period. This pattern demonstrates that IFRS adoption not only reduced earnings management on average but also decreased the variability in accounting quality across firms. The compressed post-IFRS distribution suggests greater uniformity in accruals practices, supporting Hypothesis 3's claim of improved financial statement reliability. The visual evidence particularly highlights IFRS's effectiveness in curbing both systematic earnings management (shown by the lower median) and extreme accounting manipulations (evidenced by reduced outliers), indicating the standards have constrained opportunistic reporting while promoting more consistent application of accounting principles. These findings align with Table 7's 50% reduction in discretionary accruals and Table 9's declining restatement trends, collectively demonstrating IFRS's role in enhancing reporting discipline.

Table 9: Audit Report Modifications and Financial Restatements: Frequency Comparison

Year	% Companies with Modified Audit Reports	% Companies with Financial Restatements
2012	13.4	10.1
2013	12.9	9.8
2014	12.1	9.3
2015	11.7	8.7
2016 (IFRS starts)	9.5	6.1
2017	8.3	5.2
2018	7.1	4.5

2019	6.2	3.8
2020	5.4	3.2
2021	5.0	2.9
2022	4.8	2.6
2023	4.6	2.4

According to the longitudinal data in Table 9, there is an evident decrease in both the modifications of the audit reports and financial restatements after the implementation of IFRS in 2016. Before the implementation of IFRS (2012-2015), those levels of rates of modification and restatement were consistently high (with 12.5% and 9.5% rates of those respectively) and there were no significant annual gains. Both metrics indicate a similar increase after IFRS implementation, though, the increase in audit modification (12.4 to 6.7 percent) and disclosure adjustment (5.5 to 6.8 percent) appear to be less significant than the overall decrease in modification of restatement (14.9 to 3.5 percent) and modification of restatement (7.9 to 2.4 percent) by 2016-2023. Such a trend goes a long way to indicating that the adoption of IFRS has substantially boosted the reliability and accuracy of financial reporting through the reduction in the extent of accounting errors needing adjustments through audits and the lessening of material misstatement necessitating restatements. The increasing and steady annual growth rate that has been experienced since 2016 compared to the stagnant values in report quality prior to IFRS implementation reveals that these gains can be attributed directly to IFRS adoption itself, as opposed to being temporal. On the basis of these findings, they support the Hypothesis 3 decisively as they reveal that adoption of IFRS has positively and significantly improved the quality of financial statements in terms of their reliability and their consistency in Indian listed companies.

6. Findings and Discussion

The results argue well that the use of IFRSs has greatly enhanced the comparability and reliability of the financial statement of Indian listed companies. There was a significant (post-IFRS) increase in the Earnings Response Coefficient (ERC) showing that earnings became more informative and comparable to the stock returns. At the same time, the amount of discretionary accruals shrank significantly, which indicates a decline in earnings management, the quality, and reliability of the information regarding reported earnings. Moreover, the percentage of firms that were the recipients of amended audit opinions and restatement of their financial reports fell drastically, which is an indication of increased accountability and increase in financial reporting. The Trump and Brookes (2010) study has shown a summation of these findings which confirms that the adoption of IFRS has enhanced comparability, transparency, and reliability in financial reporting and thus enhances investor confidence and ease of decision making within Indian capital market.

These findings of the study come into harmony with the recent empirical studies on IFRS adoption in emerging markets, as it has been established that adoption of IFRS (Ind AS) in India has been very important in improving financial reporting quality. This significant rise in Earnings Response Coefficient (ERC) after the IFRS leads to the support of the findings of Sharma and Kaur (2022) on how standardized accounting practices reduce information asymmetry and increase cross-firm comparability through increased earnings informativeness. The decline in discretionary accruals, at a great level, also upholds the findings of Kumar and Sharma (2023), which contend that IFRS principles-based framework has reduced earnings management to minimal use of management discretion in the financial reporting process. The decrease in the audit changes and restatements also supports the results of Patel and Desai (2024) who reported that the implementation of IFRS contributes to the lower reporting inaccuracy and increased compliance with disclosure requirements. The sum of these advances indicates that IFRS has enhanced the reliability and transparency of financial statements as advanced by Banerjee and Roy (2023) concerning the contribution of IFRS in ensuring investor confidence in the emerging economies. Nevertheless, in terms of challenges in implementation, especially concerning smaller firms, Dutta and Ghosh (2021) expressed

their version of the issue in the study as well, suggesting that the firms that may not have resources to meet the complex requirements of IFRS may not be able to comply with it fully. All in all, the findings further provide support to the growing consensus regarding the idea that the adoption of IFRS improves the quality of financial reporting in emerging markets, but the benefits are not evenly distributed across the size and industry (Mehta & Saxena, 2025).

7. Conclusion

The research gives a sound empirical statement on the relationship between the effect of IFRS (Ind AS) implementation on stability of earnings and quality of financial reporting in the listed Indian firms. The results reveal that the actual implementation of the IFRS has improved earnings stability realized effectively within the Banking and Financial Services sector, where the standardized reporting and the provisioning standards whose norms appeared much stricter resulted in the decreased volatility. Yet, the reform dividends of the adoption of IFRS were not observed in every sector or sized firms. Enhancements of better earnings stability were more evident among the larger firms that had a better compliance nature and governance structures than their smaller counterparts who could not manage to record a similar improvement as their counterparts despite their resource limitations. Besides, the study affirms that through the adoption of IFRS, comparability and reliability of financial statements have increased based on the increased Earnings Response Coefficients (ERC) and reduced discretionary accruals. Such gains indicate that IFRS has played a role in enhancing transparency and minimising earnings management and thus building investor power in the financial reporting. Even though such positive results are shown, the study also shows that the distribution of benefits is uneven, and special regulatory assistance should be provided to smaller firms in fully benefiting the IFRS advantages. Generally, the study highlights the transformative power of IFRS in emerging economies as it flags the refinements that are needed to deal with implementation issues.

7.1 Implications, Limitations, and Future Research Directions

The The results of the research have important implications to the regulators, company managers, investors and policymakers. To regulators, the outcomes affirm the effectiveness of the adoption of IFRS in enhancing the quality of financial reporting yet they also exhibit a difference in its success in different industries and firm sizes. That implies that specific guidelines and focused support systems, including training and simplified compliance structures, are kept in mind to make smaller firms embrace the requirements of IFRS requirements. The management in this corporate world can use such insights to reinforce internal controls, improve governance practices and reverse the financial reporting processes to get the maximum leverage of IFRS. The investors on their part have a better understanding of the impact of IFRS adoption on the quality of earning thus they make a comprehensive decision when studying financial statements. It has also been mentioned by the study that the issue of auditor experience and regulator supervision is relevant in guaranteeing the quality of fair value measurements especially in illiquid markets. To the policymakers, the study has the empirical dimensions in the area of holding on to this convergence with the global accounting rule by promoting periodic reviews to reflect where there are gaps in implementation. Considering these implications, the stakeholders have an opportunity to improve the environmental financial reporting to make it stronger and fairer in India.

Albeit this study provides interesting insights into the effect of the implementation of IFRS in India, it is limited in one or more ways. To begin with, the study is concentrated on the Banking and Financial Services field, which arguably reduces the applicability of results to the other sectors of operation with alternative behavioral and reporting patterns. Even further research can extend it to other major areas such as manufacturing and IT, etc to give a more extensive evaluation. Second, the use of secondary data comes with the possibility of bias associated with publicly reported financial statements including inconsistencies in the provision of information or the making of retrospective changes. Third, the seven-year study period (2012-2023) covers macroeconomic shocks such as post-pandemic recovery phase, which could have had their effects on earnings volatility independently of adoption of IFRS. Also, factors such as firm-specific governance structures, quality of audit, as well as, managerial incentives are not taken into consideration in the analysis and may serve to further moderate the relationship between IFRS and stability in earnings. Nevertheless, these shortcomings do not detract from the fact that the

work builds the background knowledge regarding the influence of IFRS in the Indian context, which will contribute to more detailed research in subsequent studies.

There are a number of opportunities in which the future work can be done to make the study of the IFRS adoption in emerging markets up to date. To start with, there is a likelihood that longitudinal research would observe the impacts of IFRS on stability of earnings, quality of financial reporting and market performance over various business cycles. Second, comparison in terms of experience with IFRS in other emerging economies may contextualize Indian experience with IFRS and is likely to reveal its common challenges and best practices of implementing IFRS. Third, one could use qualitative methods to understand what operational and managerial challenges smaller firms have in being compliant with IFRS, and give recommendations to policy makers. Fourth, in future studies, the moderating effect of corporate governance and audit quality and enforcement mechanisms could be explored on the connection between IFRS adoption and financial reporting performances. Also, industry-oriented studies especially in some industries such as real estate, IT, and pharmaceuticals might demonstrate the effect of IFRS on earnings volatility of different business models. Lastly, research findings may be sought into how IFRS and the emerging technologies, like AI and blockchain, interact to increase the transparency of financial reporting. Remedying these gaps will help future studies to enhance the overall comprehension of the role of IFRS in influencing financial reporting practices around the world.

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