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ABSTRACT

This paper presents results of a study to evaluate the effectiveness of contractor classification in reflecting the actual level of construction contractors in executing public projects in Saudi Arabia. Contract award procedures in public projects are normally accomplished in two steps. The first one involves qualifying contractors to insure that their technical, financial, and managerial capabilities are suitable for the project to be awarded. This qualification is accomplished by the Contractor Classification Agency- Ministry of Public Works- in which the contractor is classified according to his specialty and capabilities. In the second step, bids of the contractors who satisfy the required classification are evaluated to select the best bid. Since the contractor classification is the only screening method to disqualify incompetent contractors and the difficulty of dismissing a qualified contractor who submits the lowest bid, the contractor classification must be an actual measure for the contractor's capabilities.

To conduct this study a questionnaire has been prepared to evaluate the effectiveness of contractor classification in reflecting the actual level of construction contractors in executing public projects in Saudi Arabia. The questionnaire has been distributed to the project managers in different public ministries and agencies. The number of distributed questionnaire is 250 and only 198 are used for the analysis. In order to conduct an objective evaluation, a comparison has been conducted between performance of contractors who are awarded the projects based on contractor classification only with performance of the contractors who are awarded the projects based on contractor classification and qualification form the project owner. Results of the study reveals the weaknesses in award procedure and the major one was that it does not reflect the actual contractors level.

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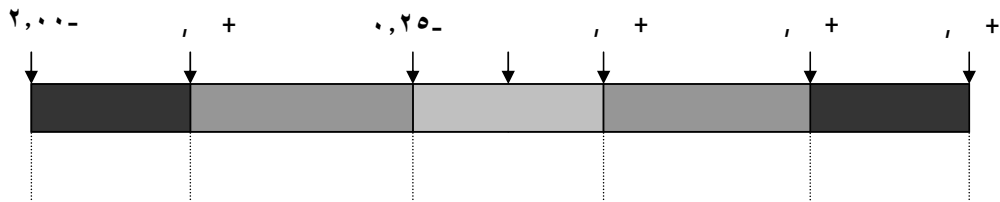
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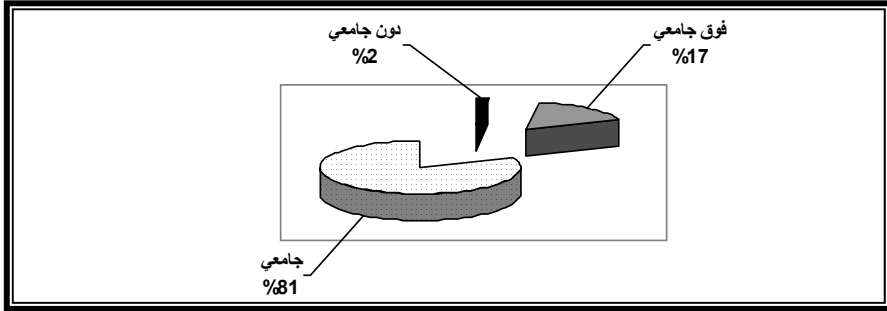
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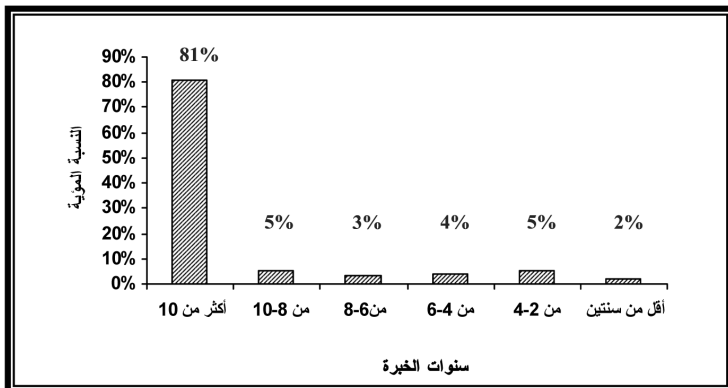
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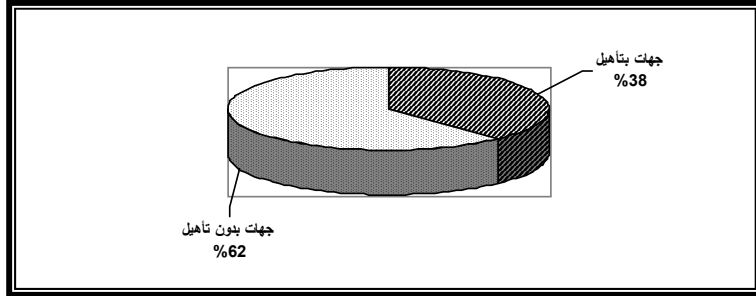
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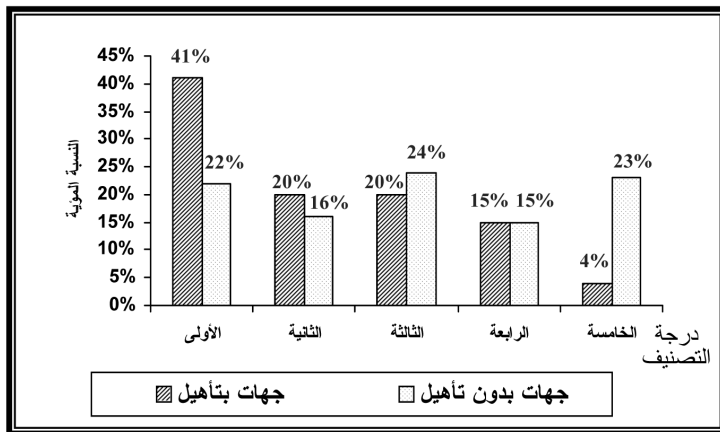
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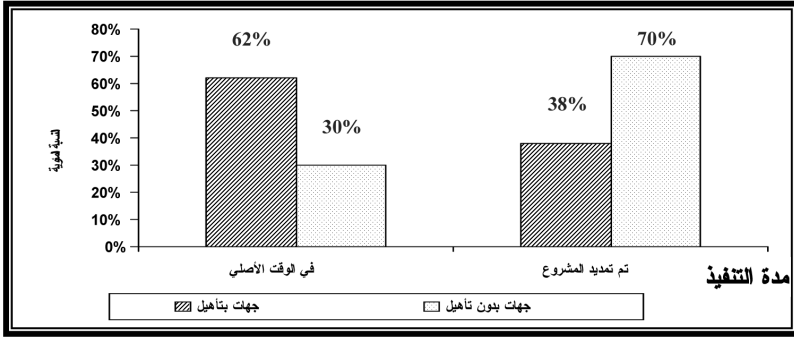


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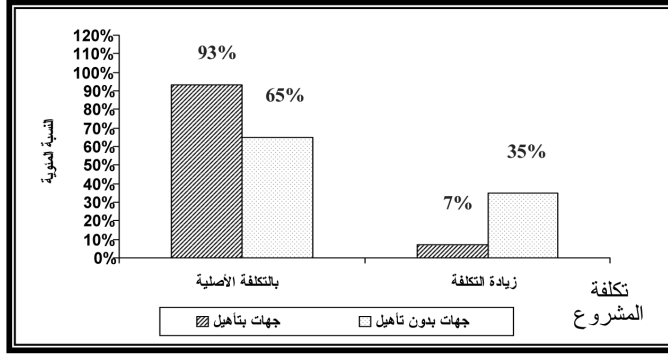
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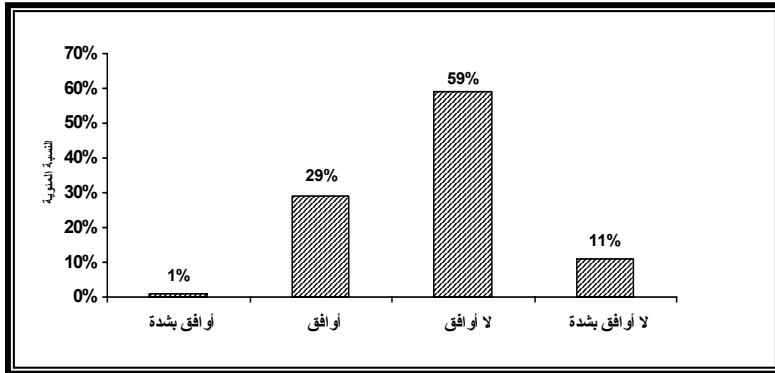
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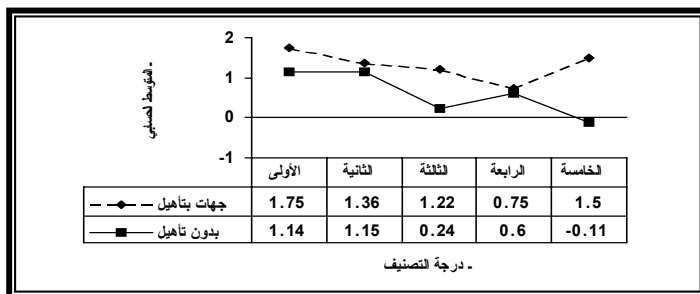
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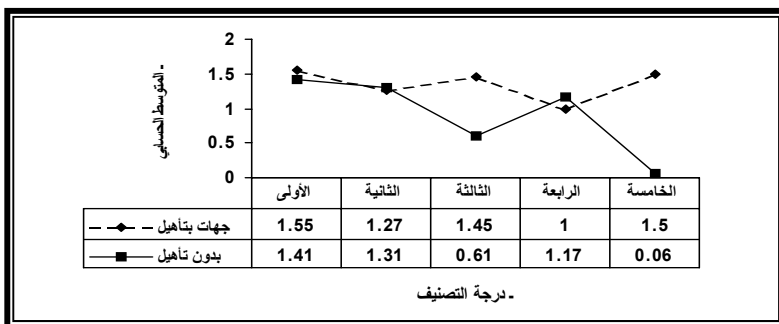
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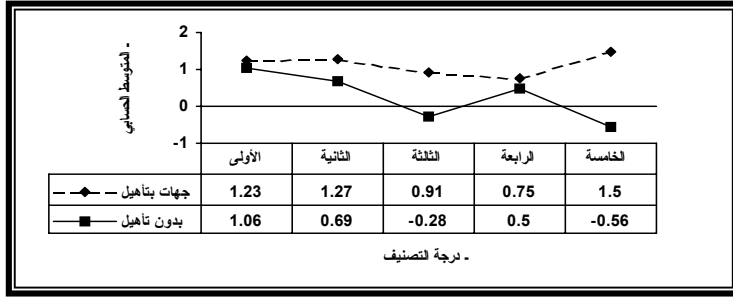
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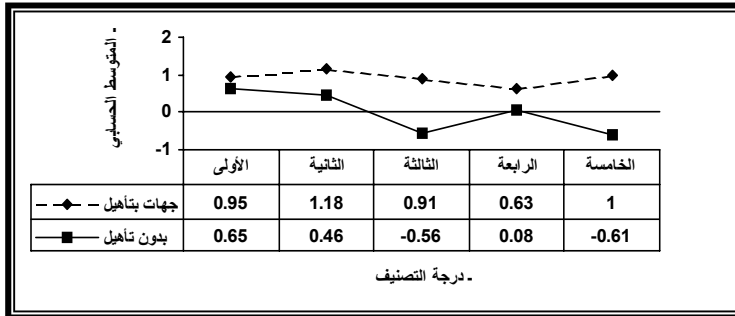


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