

# Review of: "Determinants of Women Entrepreneurs' Business Performance: Evidence from Micro and Small-Scale Enterprises in Arba Minch Town, Southern Ethiopia"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

SECTION	COMMENT
Title	<p>The title is not precise. The study investigates the effects of predetermined factors (access to finance and land premises, technology, communication and training, legal and administrative factors) on the performance of MSEs.</p> <p>A suggestion along these lines would capture the study better: <i>Assessing the effects of selected factors on the performance of women-owned small businesses.</i></p>
Abstract	<p>The first statement claims the factors behind the performance of women's businesses. If the determinants are already known, what is the use of carrying out the study? <i>Rather indicate that the businesses are affected by various factors, which in this case, are the reason for your study.</i></p> <p>Having read the objectives, the purpose of the study is not to <b>identify</b> factors but to determine the <b>effect</b> of selected factors on the performance of women-run MSEs. The purpose of the study in the abstract needs adjustment.</p> <p>MSEs and entrepreneurs seem to be used interchangeably throughout the study. These are not necessarily the same; otherwise, if they are to be used interchangeably, this needs to be indicated somewhere in the manuscript.</p> <p>Stratified sampling is, in other cases, referred to as stratified random sampling, and when it is used, there is no need to mention random sampling as it forms part of stratified sampling. Mentioning stratified sampling alone is enough.</p> <p>Instead of mentioning the means, rather indicate the meaning, i.e., ATF had a major influence on performance, etc. Indicating the means without expressing the meaning would not send the message intended.</p>
	<p>The numbering of sections can be improved - there is no consistency in the numbering.</p> <p>I am not sure it is necessary to specify women in the definition of business performance as I do not think the definition will change if you are defining it for a different gender. Business performance would remain the same regardless of who owns or runs it.</p> <p>There is a suggestion for scholars to take a different direction, but there is no indication of which direction. Indicating suggested directions</p>

Introduction	<p>would add value.</p> <p>There are a number of claims made without referencing, i.e., 'This is why women entrepreneurship is increasingly recognized as an important driver of economic growth, productivity, innovation, and employment.'</p> <p>When it comes to in-text referencing, only the surnames and years – at times page numbers – are required, not full names as appearing in paragraph four of this section.</p>
Objectives	<p>The action terms used in the objectives include analyse, examine, investigate, but in actual sense, the results show that you just identified the relationship between the factors and business performance. You might need to change the wording of your objectives to be aligned with what was done.</p> <p>The term promise in Objective 1 should be premise.</p>
Research Hypothesis	The term 'hypothesis' should be 'hypotheses.'
Determinants of business performance	The line spacing needs to be consistent.
Access to finance	<p>Unless they mean the same, it is cash or cash flow that is the lifeblood of businesses, and not finance.</p> <p>Whenever a town is mentioned, I suggest you add the country unless all towns being mentioned are from the same country, in which case, that should be specified in the introduction or earlier sections.</p> <p>There seem to be some repetitions. The following sounds similar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Finance is the lifeblood of every business enterprise ....'</li> <li>• Financial resources are the backbone of any business .....</li> </ul> <p>Instead of using 'women businesses,' would using '<i>women-owned businesses</i>' not sound better?</p>
Land facilities	<p>This is a bit confusing. There is a need to explain what is meant by land facilities. Is it similar to infrastructure? Is it land or space - space could be open space or a building. Having land does not necessarily mean MSEs will be able to operate as, in most cases, the land would need developing.</p> <p>Based on the content of the section, I do not think 'land premises' is the best way to describe what was discussed – infrastructure might be better suited. Land would be appropriate for agriculture MSEs, which are a very small proportion of your sample.</p>
Access to technological resources	<p>The following statement was repeated:</p> <p><i>'If the company is manufacturing a particular high-tech product, technological know-how will be significant. The primary resource will be engineers and the designs created (Bygrave, 2008). If the company is manufacturing a particular high-tech product, technological expertise will be significant. It can .....</i></p>
Increase in tax amount	I think talking about the tax rate makes more sense than the amount of tax. There is also mention of regulations here; if they are not part of the tests, then there is no need for including them in this section.
Conceptual Framework of	There is a need to explain the relationship between the identified variables and how they feed into the framework. I do not think it is enough to

Summary of the study	just highlight and leave it like that.
Sources of data	It was indicated here that data would include primary and secondary, BUT I did not see where the secondary data was presented and analysed. This needs to be addressed; otherwise, secondary data needs to be removed from the sources of data.
Methods of data collection	Were the questionnaires self-administered? How were the questionnaires distributed?
Reliability	What about the validity of the measurement instrument? This was not discussed.
Table 3.3	I do not think this table is necessary in the report - maybe as an appendix.
Model 3.1	This is not the usual way of expressing an econometric model. The same goes for all the other models.
Table 4.1	What do average mean, low mean, etc., mean in your study? These need further explanation.
Summary of descriptive statistics	Readers are not interested in the means and SD but the meaning of those values in relation to the study. Does it mean there is low performance or what? Discussion of the meaning is missing and needs to be included.
Table 4.2	The output presentation here can be improved. It is (Table 4.2) difficult to read in its current form.
Table 4.4	I couldn't see where the contents of this table were discussed.
Regression results	There is a discussion that unstandardised coefficients of, let's say, 0,325 means a 1% change in ATF leads to a 32,5% change in performance. Please check how correct this is. It should be 1% change in ATF results in a 0,325% change in performance and not 32,5%.

## General comments

1	The factors that were identified and the effects may be similar to those for businesses owned by men. There is no literature indicating why these factors affect women differently from men, and there is no theory supporting that. As it stands, the same effects could be found with men-owned businesses. There is, therefore, in the literature, a need to explain or justify why the effects of these factors could be different for different genders.
2	The discussion section is completely missing. This should discuss the results and compare them with other similar studies carried out, and maybe illuminate the differences between male-owned businesses and female-owned businesses. No mention of prior studies was made here, which limits the value of the study.
3	It seems you are using different font sizes and line spacing. You have to be consistent in your typography.
4	Spelling and grammar need checking.
5	I suggest having a section or paragraph that summarises the findings of the study.
6	It is not clear how performance was measured.
7	There is a need for consistency in the use of terms. In the manuscript, terms such as "Women MSEs" and "entrepreneurs"; "general objective" and "overall objective"; "research" and "researchers" are used interchangeably. Pick one term and consistently use that.
8	Referencing, both in-text and in the list, needs to be improved.