

# Review of: "The Role of Financial Literacy on Sustainable Development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Africa"

Malisah Latip<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universiti Putra Malaysia

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

## 1 - Introduction:

Comment: The introduction provides a comprehensive overview of the significance of financial literacy for MSMEs in Africa. However, it would benefit from the inclusion of recent statistics or examples to underscore the current relevance of the issue.

Suggestion: Consider incorporating recent case studies or success stories of MSMEs in Africa that have benefited from improved financial literacy. This could add a practical dimension to the introduction.

## 2 - Financial Literacy and MSMEs:

Comment: The article highlights the importance of financial literacy for MSMEs, but it would be helpful to provide more specific examples or anecdotes to illustrate how improved financial literacy has directly impacted individual businesses.

Suggestion: Include brief case studies or real-world examples showcasing how financial literacy training has led to positive outcomes for MSMEs, such as increased access to funding, better financial planning, or successful expansion.

## 3 - Challenges and Research Gap:

Comment: The challenges faced by MSMEs are briefly mentioned, but it would be beneficial to delve deeper into specific challenges related to financial literacy. Identifying and addressing these challenges could enhance the effectiveness of financial literacy programs.

Suggestion: Expand on the challenges faced by MSMEs in acquiring financial literacy, providing more details on specific obstacles they encounter. This could provide a clearer roadmap for policymakers and practitioners aiming to address these challenges.

## 4 - Review of Literature:

Comment: The review of literature is well-structured, providing a comprehensive understanding of financial literacy and the role of MSMEs in Africa. However, there is a slight imbalance in the depth of coverage between financial literacy and MSMEs.

Suggestion: Consider adding more literature specifically focused on the impact of financial literacy on MSMEs in Africa. This could include studies or findings that highlight the unique challenges and opportunities faced by MSMEs in the African context.

## **5 - Empirical Review and Hypothesis:**

Comment: The development of hypotheses is well-founded, connecting financial knowledge, skills, and attitude with the sustainable development of MSMEs. However, there is a need for clarity on how these variables will be measured or assessed in the empirical study.

Suggestion: Provide more details on the methodology and instruments used to measure financial knowledge, skills, and attitude. This will strengthen the research design and enhance the validity of the study.

## **6 - Conceptual Framework:**

Comment: The conceptual framework visually represents the relationships between variables, but there is room for more explicit connections and explanations of how each variable influences the sustainable development of MSMEs.

Suggestion: Add more detailed explanations or pathways in the conceptual framework to illustrate how financial knowledge, skills, and attitudes directly contribute to sustainable development outcomes for MSMEs.

## **7 - Materials & Methods**

### **Research Design:**

Your choice of a co-relational research design is appropriate for exploring relationships between variables. However, consider adding a brief rationale for why this design suits the study's objectives. Including a real-world example where this design has been successful could provide more context for your readers.

### **Research Approach:**

The explanation of the quantitative research method is clear. To enhance this section, consider adding a sentence on why a quantitative approach was chosen over qualitative methods. Providing a brief comparison could help readers understand the decision-making process.

### **Data sources and collection tools:**

Your use of primary data from 850 MSME operators is well-founded. To strengthen this section, briefly explain why a structured survey questionnaire was chosen as the data collection tool. Mentioning its advantages, such as scalability and consistency, would add value.

### **Sampling Design:**

The explanation of the sampling design is clear. However, consider briefly addressing potential limitations or challenges

associated with purposive sampling, such as potential bias. This demonstrates an awareness of the study's limitations.

## 8 - Results

### Correlation analysis:

The correlation analysis is well-presented, and the interpretations are clear. To enhance this section, briefly discuss any unexpected findings or correlations that were contrary to initial expectations. This adds depth to the analysis.

### Regression Result:

The interpretation of the regression coefficients is informative. Consider adding a brief discussion on the practical implications of these findings for MSMEs. How can businesses leverage financial knowledge, skills, and attitude to achieve sustainable development? Providing a few practical insights would make your results more actionable.

## 9 - Discussion

Your discussion effectively presents the regression results and aligns them with existing research, providing valuable insights. However, consider enhancing the overall flow and structure. Start by introducing the main findings, and then delve into each variable's implications. This will help readers navigate your discussion more smoothly.

While your discussion on financial knowledge and skills is detailed, the explanation of financial attitude could benefit from further elaboration. Provide specific examples or scenarios to illustrate how a positive financial attitude contributes to MSMEs' sustainable development. This will make your argument more compelling and accessible.

While you reference Aduda & Ochieng (2019) and Buchdadi et al. (2020), consider citing a few more recent studies or diverse sources to strengthen the robustness of your argument. This will show a comprehensive understanding of the current literature on financial literacy and its impact on MSMEs.

Acknowledge any potential counterarguments or limitations to your findings. This adds depth to your discussion and demonstrates a nuanced understanding of your research. For instance, discuss situations where financial knowledge or skills may not directly translate to sustainable development and how external factors could influence these relationships.

*Practical Implications:* Take a step further in discussing the practical implications of your findings. How can MSMEs and policymakers leverage this information? Providing actionable insights adds real-world relevance to your research. Consider offering recommendations for interventions or programs aimed at enhancing financial knowledge, skills, and attitudes among MSMEs.

*Future Research Directions:* End your discussion by suggesting potential avenues for future research. What questions remain unanswered? What areas need further exploration? This not only adds academic value but also signals to readers that your research is part of an ongoing conversation in the field.

## 10- Conclusion

Your conclusion effectively summarizes the importance of financial literacy for MSMEs. To enhance this section, consider adding a sentence on the broader implications of your findings for policymakers, financial institutions, and educational bodies. This would highlight the significance of your study beyond the immediate context.

Overall, your research methodology is well-structured, and your results are presented clearly. The suggested additions aim to provide more context and practical insights for your readers. All the best!