

Review of: "Examining Sustainable Survival Tactics for Small-Scale Bakeries: A Case Study in Lagos State"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper deals with a pertinent problem which is clearly stated, and dealt with based on a descriptive statistical analysis, arriving at sound policy recommendations. Specifically, the empirical strategy anchored on a set of tests of independence is well undertaken and the results are discussed based on stylized facts of the bakery sector in Lagos. From the standpoint of its form, the paper is well written and made quite easy to read throughout. But a number of precisions are required to improve the content of the paper. Some of the concerns follow.

1. The literature review is rather too short, and limited to the discussion of the various definitions of Small Scale Industries. It would have been interesting to insert a whole section for such a discussion and devote the literature review to a critical discussion of similar studies, leading to the need for the current study, highlighting its contributions.
2. The database comprised 34 enterprises. One would like to know how the sample was selected and how representative it is; what would have best supported the recommendations of this study. Which bakeries have been sampled? In other words, what makes up the population from which the sample has been drawn?
3. Besides, the year of the database is not clearly indicated. The table on the **Distribution of Bakers by Their Educational Qualification** indicates "Field survey, 2022", as the source. Yet, the figure on "Marketing Strategies Adopted By Bakers" compares changes between 1986 and 1989. A section on the sampling and questionnaire would have cleared up the apparent confusion on the year of the survey and the period of the analysis. Should Bakers have been asked to state their strategies way back in the 1980s, it would have been informative to indicate the age of the considered bakeries.
4. The considered tests of independence do not clearly bring out the concern under the first specific objective, that of "Examining the extent to which the sources of raw materials for bakeries have a significant impact on the profitability of bakeries". The 3 major tests concerned: i) operation changes; ii) marketing strategies, and iii) financial strategies. One needs to know how the 3 tests allowed to achieve specific objective 1.
5. Not all the recommendations derive from the results of the study. That is especially the cases of recommendations 4 & 5.
6. In the discussion on Small scale industries, the values defining those industries in the case of Nigeria should be converted to dollars in parentheses to allow non-Nigerian readers of the paper to appreciate those values without resorting to some currency converters.
7. The references are too old for a paper to be published in 2023. The youngest reference is dated 1989.

Thank you.

