

## Review of: "Determinants of Internal Financing: Small and Medium Enterprises in Pakistan"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

First and foremost, I commend your efforts in conducting an in-depth analysis on the internal financing determinants for SMEs in Pakistan. The insights provided are undoubtedly invaluable to the existing literature. Nevertheless, there are specific areas that might benefit from further refinement to enhance the rigor and relevance of your study:

**SMEs Definition and Criteria.** The article employs specific criteria to classify SMEs, particularly based on sales revenue. It is pivotal to elucidate the rationale behind this choice, especially within the Pakistani context. Each nation might have divergent perspectives and benchmarks for SMEs, making the local context imperative for such research. By providing a robust justification for these criteria, you'll afford readers a more profound understanding of its relevance and the potential ramifications on your findings.

**Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic.** While the article acknowledges data limitations concerning the pandemic, the profound economic ramifications of COVID-19, especially on SMEs, warrant further discussion. For instance, delving into how the pandemic might have altered internal financing behaviors, especially for SMEs grappling with financial constraints during this period, could offer a richer layer of nuance to your analysis. Such a discourse can bridge the chasm between data limitations and the stark realities confronting numerous SMEs during your research timeline.

Incorporating these considerations will not only bolster the robustness of your findings but also augment their relevance in the broader academic discourse. I appreciate your contribution to this field and eagerly anticipate the subsequent iterations of your research.

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