

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

Antti Ilmari Rautiainen<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Jyväskylä

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Review of

**Determinants of Women entrepreneurs' business performance: evidence from micro and small-scale enterprises in Arba Minch Town, Southern Ethiopia**

for **Qeios** Nov 2023

This nice article discusses an interesting and important topic about the determinants of female entrepreneurs' business performance in Southern Ethiopia. However, the introduction deserves some corrections and the contribution should be explained better. There are also a few other comments that need attention and so please find my detailed comments below.

1. About at the middle of the abstract, words "In other words" should be replaced with the word "However". Then in the last sentence of the abstract the word "least" should be replaced by word "weakest".
2. In the introduction, the first text paragraph should be deleted altogether. So the introduction would then just start with the current second paragraph, starting "Woman entrepreneurs..."
3. Yet, the definition of performance (now in the first text paragraph, which I suggest to cut) could be stated in section 2. Further, notice however that there can be several aspects of performance, such as financial performance and operational performance, e.g. improving the livelihood of the area (a possible reference about this might be e.g. "Urquía-Grande, E., Lorain, M. A., Rautiainen, A. I., & Cano-Montero, E. I. (2021). Balance with logic-measuring the performance and sustainable development efforts of an NPO in rural Ethiopia. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 87, 101944.")
4. The use of references must be checked throughout the paper because you use for example "Ezilda and David (2017)" but these are the first names of the authors. The actual reference is "Cabrera and Mauricio (2017)", related to reference Cabrera, E. & Mauricio, D. This kind of possible mistakes need checking in every reference and in the list of references too. For example, there are probably many first names used, e.g. in "Anna", "Karen & et al." (a wrong marking as well), "Susan and Dean" and "Tatiana and Galina (2010)" (which does not appear in the list of references in this form at all but probably is "Tsyganova, T. & Shirokova, G. (2010). Gender differences...").
5. Also check the journal names, volumes, page numbers etc. details from the list of references.

6. Add page numbers to the manuscript.
7. In the introduction you have a text paragraph starting “Among the researched studies above, only...” but replace the word “only” with the word “however, ”. Also at the end of the text paragraph say “...measured at least though a Likert scale and analyzed using multiple linear regression”.
8. The first specific objective of the study includes words “land promise” but this concept is not explained or used anywhere else in the text. All concepts should be defined. This is in the objective so it should be explained already before it appears in the objective.
9. However noting that the access to land is the most important variable also offers a practical or political implication. What should or could the government do to improve the access to land? Is there some “land promise” made? Also it may be more important nowadays to improve the access to land than just offer training, and so NGOs could focus less on training and more on affecting the access to land. However, the Ethiopian context and legislation related to the possibilities to access land should be explained better so that also a possible foreign reader can know why this is an important matter, or if there is some problem in this area about land use.
10. In title 1.2 you should have “hypotheses” because you have many hypotheses, not just one hypothesis.
11. Check the font sizes and line spacings etc., e.g. at the start of the section 2.
12. Explain why your figure 1 is from year 2019. It has been four years and if this has been published elsewhere it must be stated very clearly. The same goes to Tables etc. too. Possibly the study is conducted in year 2019 which is also visible in the fact that there are not many new references used (I mentioned one possible new reference earlier but there could even be a few others). The need to use recent articles depends of course on the topic and on the policy of the journal but sometimes the newer articles might be interesting in order to know the status of recent research activity in this field. Knowing at least some of the recent literature might offer possibilities to say what is still new in your own results.
13. Table 4.2 is unclear and the numbers are not presented in same rows or columns as the variable names (and there are no variable names on rows).
14. Check setting s and table numbering etc. because you have for example Table 4.10 is followed by Table 4.4.
15. The conclusions (yes, a better title would be “Conclusions” in plural) are vague and there are no specific references or research topics that you contribute to. How is your study an advance in science if compared e.g. to the earlier research stated in the introduction, or e.g. if compared to the results of Getu (2015)? At least it might be a different time or place of data collection or something like that.
16. The conclusions section ends “SNNPRS, Ethiopia” but the abbreviation should be explained because the Southern Nations region is not necessarily familiar to all readers and even more generally all abbreviations need to be defined and not just stated at the end of the paper.
17. As I said the political and practical implications of your results, particularly about the importance of land use should be speculated more because this could even be societally important.
18. This is also a matter of journal style or even individual preferences but I don’t like that the future research directions are presented as bullet points. This could just be normal text or at least start the first bullet point text e.g. with “Hence, there are several interesting future research avenues. For example the study could be improved...”.

Anyway, this is an important topic and I wish you good luck with your research!