

# Review of: "Determinants of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Sustainable Development in Africa"

Javier Manuel Romani Fernandez<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> University of Barcelona

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Sadly, the paper does not meet the required standards to be published in a scientific journal and it would need a very substantial revision in order to meet the minimum quality requirements. The subject is interesting and useful, but the paper has several major shortcomings:

1. The literature review is inadequate, it focuses mostly in only two previous articles, but a quick search in any database like ScienceDirect or Scopus yields thousands of references, and many of them are related to the objectives of this paper.
2. Epigraph 2.1 (Definition of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) is confusing and it does not seem to reach a clear conclusion.
3. The size of the sample is too small: it has been calculated as if Africa was a homogeneous continent, which it is not. The result is that the researchers are trying to infer the characteristics of the small and medium in Africa using a sample of less than 8 firms per country, in average. Just a very small number of atypical observations have the potential for creating large distortions in the results. A stratified sampling method should have been used, with a minimum number of observations per country. As the firms were contacted directly by the authors and not randomly selected, there is also a serious risk of selection bias in the sample.
4. The explanation of the methodology is somehow confusing: in the end, the authors are using an OLS regression, but I needed to read Epigraph 4 several times to be sure of that.
5. All the variables used (both dependent and independent) are opinions of the CEOs of the firms, measured in a Likert scale from 1 to 5. I have serious doubts about this variables being truly quantitative, I think that they are actually ordinal variables. Thus, I think that the linear regression technique is not the optimum one for this type of variable, an ordinal regression should have been estimated instead.

Because all of these reasons, my opinion is that the paper should not be accepted in its present form.