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A STUDY ON ACCOUNTING PRACTICES WITH RESPECT TO DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF SMALL ENTERPRISES IN RAMANATHAPURAM DISTRICT

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Abstract

Accounting procedures are essential for understanding how businesses operate over time. In order to pay for operating and administrative expenses, businesses aim to turn a profit through trade, manufacturing, and service operations. Well-established companies follow the methodical accounting processes required by company rules, and they hire experts to handle accounting records. On the other hand, micro and small businesses frequently use daily reference and single-entry accounting instead of formal accounting. Promoting accounting awareness among SMEs is critical, given the rapid advancements in technology and the need to remain competitive globally. The purpose of this study is to investigate the knowledge and awareness levels of small businesses and highlight the importance of accounting practices. The study uses a descriptive methodology to gather primary and secondary data. Structured questionnaires are used for data collection, and the SPSS Package is used for statistical analysis. This study aims to improve small businesses' financial management by illuminating accounting procedures.

Keywords: Accounting practices, Growth, Awareness, Problems, performance, SMEs.

Introduction

Accounting data is essential for making critical financial decisions and assessments, and it is the foundation of long-term profitability for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs). Using various accounting methodologies including depreciation, payment procedures, and assessment of bad debts to judge financial health, loan officers use this data to assess SMEs for creditworthiness. Many SMEs underuse technology improvements, leading to inadequate computerized accounting systems, even when they follow basic accounting rules. Accounting functions include keeping track of

financial transactions and producing detailed financial statements, which help companies bill customers, keep an eye on cash flow, and assess profitability. For the purpose of producing yearly financial statements, which include all financial transactions such as purchases, expenses, and payments, accuracy in accounting processes is critical. SMEs can learn a great deal about their general health and financial performance by keeping accurate records. The SMEs Standard highlights the significance of Accounting Information Systems (AIS) for effective planning and decision-making, and it is designed for companies that are not governed by the public.

Governments all throughout the world acknowledge the role that SMEs play in economic development, however many definitions of SMEs exist, such as asset ownership, workforce size, and market price. SMEs, which are defined as independent businesses with less than fifty employees, are important to international business operations. The general view is that SMEs are important contributors to economic growth, even though each nation has its own set of requirements. This emphasizes the necessity of strong accounting procedures to support SMEs' operations and promote financial transparency.

Review of Literature

Zhou Li Juan (2010) conducted a study that demonstrates the strong correlation between the rapid expansion of information technology, especially in large enterprises, and the progress made in computerized accounting. Accounting information is widely used by SMEs in China, but there are a number of obstacles that prevent it from being implemented effectively, which has an influence on the country's economic progress.

Mohamed Dahlan Ibrahim and Mohd Azian Husin (2014) explore the role of accounting services and their impact on SME productivity. Using a conceptual framework to clarify the link between accounting firms and SMEs, their study looks at differences in service quality metrics between the two groups.

In their 2015 study, **Susan Peter Teru and Daw Hla** explore how well Accounting Information Systems (AIS) support internal controls, business transactions, and management decision-making processes. They highlight the vital role that AIS play in these areas. Additionally,

Glynn Lowth Nottingham, Malcolm Prowle, and Michael Lucas (2013) highlight how management accounting education can enhance the performance of SMEs and encourage SMEs' executives to become more aware of and use decision-support tools.

Despite the help from SIDBI, **Katia (2014)** highlights difficulties such labor skills, technological access, banking facilities, and labor skills growth and obstacles encountered by MSMEs in India.

Goyal et al. (2012) investigate the incidence of sick units among MSMEs in India, stressing the difficulties these businesses

confront and the government's attempts to lessen their effects.

Jegade et al. (2012) emphasize the necessity for specialized knowledge and regulatory support, attributing the expansion of small and medium-sized firms in Nigeria to profitability and the desire for self-employment.

Ngoc Bul Thi et al. (2020) examine how management accounting is used in Vietnamese companies and find differences in how large and small organizations use contemporary tactics. In 2020,

Rapiah Mohamed and Che Zuriana Muhammad Jamil investigate how environmental management accounting affects the performance of Malaysia's industrial sector, pointing up shortcomings in the state of the art. In the meantime,

SaseelaBalagobei (2020) highlights the significance of objective achievement and record-keeping while examining the connection between accounting practices and organizational performance in Sri Lankan SMEs. In conclusion,

Banele Dlamini and Daniel P. Schutte (2021) investigate how SMEs in Zimbabwe implement management accounting methods, emphasizing the need for more study to fully comprehend how these practices are used and how they affect the success of businesses.

Statement of the Problem

The literature analysis identifies issues unique to the setting of MSMEs in developing nations like Nigeria and India. **Katia (2014)** underscores challenges such limited availability of banking services, technology, and experienced people, even with the backing from organizations like SIDBI. In a similar vein, **Goyal et al. (2012)**'s research illuminates the incidence of sick units among MSMEs in India, pointing to structural obstacles that obstruct their expansion and viability. According to **Jegade et al. (2012)**, there are a number of obstacles preventing small and medium-sized businesses in Nigeria from growing, including a lack of regulatory support and specialized knowledge. This emphasizes the need for focused interventions to address these issues and create an environment that is supportive of SME development. As noted in the study by **Ngoc Bul Thi et al. (2020)**, the literature review draws attention to differences in the adoption

of management accounting methods between large and small firms. Small organizations frequently rely on outdated techniques, which may hinder their capacity to allocate resources and manage costs efficiently. In contrast, large businesses use contemporary management accounting methodologies to improve their decision-making processes. This emphasizes the necessity of capacity-building programs meant to provide SMEs with the know-how and resources they need to improve their financial management capacities. With this , examination of the literature highlights a number of issues that SMEs confront with regard to accounting procedures, such as poor technology adoption, restricted access to high-quality accounting services, and a deficiency of financial literacy among SME leaders. In order to improve SMEs' overall performance and financial management skills and,

eventually, support their long-term growth and sustainability, it is imperative that these issues be addressed.

Objective of the Study

To study accounting practices with respect to demographic profile of small enterprises in Ramanathapuram district

Research Methodology

A systematic approach will be used as part of the research methodology for the study "Accounting Practices of Small Enterprises in Ramanathapuram" in order to collect detailed information and insights into the accounting procedures and difficulties that small businesses in the area experience. For a thorough examination of the material, the methodology will combine quantitative and qualitative research methods.

Results and Discussions

Gender And Community in Accounting Practices Of Small Enterprises

	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Accounting Method	Male	226	2.0133	.79151	.05265
	Female	169	1.9645	.80099	.06161
Payment Method	Male	226	2.0664	.82732	.05503
	Female	169	2.0473	.77775	.05983
Bad Debts Estimation	Male	226	2.0796	.80710	.05369
	Female	169	2.0296	.81960	.06305
Depreciation Method	Male	226	2.1150	.78034	.05191
	Female	169	2.0592	.78455	.06035
Business Documents	Male	226	2.0929	.79735	.05304
	Female	169	2.1420	.80398	.06184
Reporting Aspects	Male	226	2.1504	.81346	.05411
	Female	169	1.9941	.82734	.06364
Accounting System Aspects	Male	226	2.1593	.83869	.05579
	Female	169	2.0533	.79627	.06125
Recording Aspects	Male	226	2.0221	.85085	.05660
	Female	169	2.0473	.83674	.06436
Record Aspects	Male	226	2.1460	.79493	.05288
	Female	169	2.0178	.73576	.05660
Report Aspects	Male	226	1.9823	.76574	.05094
	Female	169	2.1716	.74811	.05755
Accounting Knowledge	Male	226	2.1504	.73902	.04916
	Female	169	2.0592	.73763	.05674
Accounting Disclosure	Male	226	2.1106	.77240	.05138
	Female	169	1.9822	.78280	.06022
Recording Control	Male	226	2.0575	.88003	.05854

	Female	169	2.0473	.83674	.06436
Financial Control	Male	226	2.1681	.81544	.05424
	Female	169	2.0000	.77919	.05994

With a focus on a number of topics, including accounting method, payment method, bad debts estimation, depreciation method, business documents, reporting aspects, accounting system aspects, recording aspects, record aspects, report aspects, accounting knowledge, accounting disclosure, recording control, and financial control, Table 1 provides descriptive statistics on gender differences in accounting practices among small businesses.

The majority of accounting procedures have mean scores that are generally similar for both male and female respondents, suggesting that both genders adhere to accounting rules to a similar extent. On the other hand, several noteworthy variations have been noted in particular places. When it comes to aspects like payment methods, depreciation methods, estimation of bad debts, business documents, reporting aspects, accounting system aspects, record aspects, report aspects, accounting

knowledge, accounting disclosure, recording control, and financial control, for example, men tend to score slightly higher than women. This implies that businesses controlled by men could adhere to these accounting norms and practices a little bit more.

However, when it comes to recording aspects, female responders typically receive slightly higher scores. This suggests that slightly greater attention might be paid to the recording and documenting of financial transactions by female-owned businesses. Overall, the patterns indicate a somewhat similar level of adherence to accounting rules across small firms in both gender groups, despite some disparities in specific accounting practices between male and female respondents. These results offer insightful information about the gender dynamics of accounting procedures in small business settings.

Gender Vs Accounting Practices of Small Enterprises

Ho: There is no significant difference between gender with respect to accounting practices based in accounting practices of small enterprises.

Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means				
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Accounting Method	Equal variances assumed	.207	.649	.603	393	.547
	Equal variances not assumed			.602	359.713	.548
Payment Method	Equal variances assumed	3.244	.072	.232	393	.817
	Equal variances not assumed			.234	373.123	.815
Bad Debts Estimation	Equal variances assumed	.001	.973	.606	393	.545
	Equal variances not assumed			.605	359.028	.546
Depreciation Method	Equal variances assumed	.117	.733	.702	393	.483
	Equal variances not assumed			.702	360.993	.483
Business Documents	Equal variances assumed	.314	.575	-.603	393	.547
	Equal variances not assumed			-.603	360.429	.547
Reporting Aspects	Equal variances assumed	.312	.577	1.876	393	.061
	Equal variances not assumed			1.872	358.719	.062
Accounting System Aspects	Equal variances assumed	4.930	.027	1.270	393	.205
	Equal variances not assumed			1.280	371.472	.201
Recording Aspects	Equal variances assumed	.139	.710	-.293	393	.769
	Equal variances not assumed			-.294	365.213	.769
Record Aspects	Equal variances assumed	8.710	.003	1.638	393	.102
	Equal variances not assumed			1.656	375.608	.099
Report Aspects	Equal variances assumed	.623	.431	-2.455	393	.015
	Equal variances not assumed			-2.463	366.424	.014

* Significance at 5% level ** Significance at 1% level

The findings of independent t-tests used to investigate the variations in accounting procedures across different small business groups are shown in Table 2. The null hypothesis (Ho) postulates that there are no appreciable variations in accounting procedures among communities. To ascertain whether the group variances are equal, the Levene's Test for Equality of Variances was run. With a few exceptions, including Reporting Aspects, Accounting System Aspects, Record Aspects, and Report Aspects, where the variances were not equal, the assumption of equal variances was met in the majority of cases. Then, taking into account both equal and unequal variances, the t-tests for equality of means were performed. P-values ($p > 0.05$) show that the difference in means between communities for factors such Accounting Method, Payment Method, Bad Debts Estimation, Depreciation Method,

Business Documents, and Recording Aspects was not statistically significant.

With p-values less than 0.05, the t-tests for Reporting Aspects and Report Aspects, however, showed statistically significant variations between communities. This implies that different groups of small businesses have rather distinct reporting methods and financial reporting elements. It's interesting to note that, whereas Accounting System Aspects initially revealed a large difference when assuming equal variances, this difference vanished when uneven variances were taken into account. Overall, our results show that although most accounting processes do not differ much amongst communities, small businesses do differ noticeably in terms of reporting practices and financial reporting features, which may call for additional research and action.

Marital status Vs Accounting Practices of Small Enterprises

Ho: There is no significant difference between Marital status with respect to Accounting practices based in Accounting practices of small enterprises.

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means		
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Accounting Method	Equal variances assumed	.842	.359	-.675	393	.500
	Equal variances not assumed			-.685	238.118	.494
Payment Method	Equal variances assumed	.544	.461	-.265	393	.792
	Equal variances not assumed			-.268	237.152	.789
Bad Debts Estimation	Equal variances assumed	1.569	.211	-.262	393	.793
	Equal variances not assumed			-.258	220.584	.797
depreciation Method	Equal variances assumed	.125	.724	.981	393	.327
	Equal variances not assumed			.965	220.831	.336
Business Documents	Equal variances assumed	.067	.796	1.612	393	.108
	Equal variances not assumed			1.580	219.371	.115
Reporting Aspects	Equal variances assumed	2.349	.126	-.649	393	.517
	Equal variances not assumed			-.668	245.931	.505

Accounting System Aspects	Equal variances assumed	.379	.539	-.560	393	.576
	Equal variances not assumed			-.567	237.012	.571
Recording Aspects	Equal variances assumed	.658	.418	-1.037	393	.300
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.033	227.313	.303
Record Aspects	Equal variances assumed	1.435	.232	2.135	393	.033
	Equal variances not assumed			2.143	231.802	.033
Report Aspects	Equal variances assumed	1.171	.280	-.907	393	.365
	Equal variances not assumed			-.898	224.524	.370

* Significance at 5% level ** Significance at 1% level

The results of independent t-tests examining the differences in accounting methods between different marital status groups of small businesses are shown in Table 3. Based on marital status, there should be no discernible differences in accounting methods, according to the null hypothesis (Ho). The original purpose of Levene's Test for Equality of Variances was to evaluate the equality of variances between groups. The assumption of equal variances was met for the most part, with the exception of a few variables that displayed uneven variances, namely Record Aspects.

After that, t-tests were run, taking into account both equal and unequal variances, to check for equality of means. The variations in averages between the marital status groups were not statistically significant ($p > 0.05$) for the Accounting Method, Payment Method, Bad Debts Estimation, Depreciation Method,

Business Documents, Reporting Aspects, Accounting System Aspects, Recording Aspects, and Report Aspects. With a p-value less than 0.05, a statistically significant difference was found for Record Aspects, showing a noteworthy variation in recording methods between the various marital status groups. Overall, the substantial difference in Record parts indicates that marital status may have an impact on some parts of accounting practices among small firms, even though most accounting practices do not show significant variances across marital status groups. Lawmakers and small business owners may find great value in further research into the causes of this discrepancy.

Age and Accounting Method in Small Enterprises

Null Hypothesis (Ho): There is no significant association between age group of the respondents and Accounting method of community in Accounting practices of small enterprises.

Cross tabulation:

Age Group	Accounting Method	Low	Moderate	High	Total
Up to 30 years	Count	38	42	49	129
	% within Age	29.5%	32.6%	38.0%	100.0%
31 to 50 years	Count	70	87	55	212
	% within Age	33.0%	41.0%	25.9%	100.0%
Above 50 years	Count	18	17	19	54
	% within Age	33.3%	31.5%	35.2%	100.0%
Total	Count	126	146	123	395
	% within Age	31.9%	37.0%	31.1%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests:

Pearson Chi-Square: 6.491 (df = 4, p = .165)
 Likelihood Ratio: 6.486 (df = 4, p = .166)
 Linear-by-Linear Association: 1.048 (df = 1, p = .306)

*Significance at 1% level *Significance at 5% level

Chi-square test was applied to test the association between age group and accounting period of community based in Accounting

practices of small enterprises in Ramanathapuram District. The test reveals that the calculated chi-square value is 6.491^a p-value is .165 at 1 per cent level of significance. Since the p-value is less than 0.01 ($\chi^2 = 6.497^a$ $p < 0.01$) the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, there is a significant association between age group and Accounting Method of community based in Accounting practices of small enterprises. It is clear that age group is one of

the major parameters to measure the Accounting Method.

Age And Payment Method in Small Enterprises

Null Hypothesis (Ho): There is no significant association between age group of the respondents and Payment method of community in Accounting practices of small enterprises.

Cross tabulation:

Age Group	Payment Method	Low	Moderate	High	Total
Up to 30 years	Count	32	46	51	129
	% within Age	24.8%	35.7%	39.5%	100.0%
31 to 50 years	Count	74	76	62	212
	% within Age	34.9%	35.8%	29.2%	100.0%
Above 50 years	Count	11	16	27	54
	% within Age	20.4%	29.6%	50.0%	100.0%
Total	Count	117	138	140	395
	% within Age	29.6%	34.9%	35.4%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests:

Pearson Chi-Square: 11.209 (df = 4, p = .024)

Likelihood Ratio: 11.133 (df = 4, p = .025)

Linear-by-Linear Association: 0.017 (df = 1, p = .896)

*Significance at 1% level *Significance at 5% level

Chi-square test was applied to test the association between age group and Payment Method of community based in Accounting practices of small enterprises in Ramanathapuram District. The test reveals that the calculated chi-square value is 11.209^a p-value is .024 at 1 per cent level of significance. Since the p-value is less than 0.01 ($\chi^2 =$

11.209^a $p < 0.01$) the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, there is a significant association between age group and Payment Method of community based in Accounting practices of small enterprises. It is clear that age group is one of the major parameters to measure the Payment Method.

Age And Bad Debts Estimation in Small Enterprises

Null Hypothesis (Ho): There is no significant association between age group of the respondents and Bad debts estimation of community in Accounting practices of small enterprises.

Cross tabulation:

Age Group	Bad Debts Estimation	Low	Moderate	High	Total
Up to 30 years	Count	38	55	36	129
	% within Age	29.5%	42.6%	27.9%	100.0%
31 to 50 years	Count	65	55	92	212
	% within Age	30.7%	25.9%	43.4%	100.0%
Above 50 years	Count	16	24	14	54
	% within Age	29.6%	44.4%	25.9%	100.0%
Total	Count	119	134	142	395
	% within Age	30.1%	33.9%	35.9%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests:

Pearson Chi-Square: 15.772 (df = 4, p = .003)

Likelihood Ratio: 15.904 (df = 4, p = .003)

Linear-by-Linear Association: 0.171 (df = 1, p = .679)

Significance at 1% level *Significance at 5% level

Chi-square test was applied to test the association between age group and Bad debts

estimation of community based in Accounting practices of small enterprises in Ramanathapuram District. The test reveals that the calculated chi-square value is 15.772^a p-value is .003 at 1 per cent level of significance. Since the p-value is less than 0.01 ($\chi^2 = 15.772^a$ $p < 0.01$) the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, there is a significant association between age group and Bad debts

estimation of community based in Accounting practices of small enterprises. It is clear that age group is one of the major parameters to measure the Bad debts estimation.

Age And Bad Debts Estimation in Small Enterprises

Null Hypothesis (Ho): There is no significant association between age group of the respondents and Bad debts estimation of community in Accounting practices of small enterprises.

Cross tabulation

Age Group	Bad Debts Estimation	Low	Moderate	High	Total
Up to 30 years	Count	38	55	36	129
	% within Age	29.5%	42.6%	27.9%	100.0%
31 to 50 years	Count	65	55	92	212
	% within Age	30.7%	25.9%	43.4%	100.0%
Above 50 years	Count	16	24	14	54
	% within Age	29.6%	44.4%	25.9%	100.0%
Total	Count	119	134	142	395
	% within Age	30.1%	33.9%	35.9%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests:

Pearson Chi-Square: 15.772 (df = 4, p = .003)
 Likelihood Ratio: 15.904 (df = 4, p = .003)
 Linear-by-Linear Association: 0.171 (df = 1, p = .679)

*Significance at 1% level *Significance at 5% level*

Chi-square test was applied to test the association between age group and Bad debts estimation of community based in Accounting practices of small enterprises in Ramanathapuram District. The test reveals that the calculated chi-square value is 15.772^a p-value is .003 at 1 per cent level of significance. Since the p-value is less than 0.01 ($\chi^2 =$

15.772^a, $p < 0.01$) the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, there is a significant association between age group and Bad debts estimation of community based in Accounting practices of small enterprises. It is clear that age group is one of the major parameters to measure the Bad debts estimation.

Age And Depreciation Method in Small Enterprises

Null Hypothesis (Ho): There is no significant association between age group of the respondents and Depreciation Method of community in Accounting practices of small enterprises.

Cross tabulation:

Age Group	Depreciation Method	Low	Moderate	High	Total
Up to 30 years	Count	40	47	42	129
	% within Age	31.0%	36.4%	32.6%	100.0%
31 to 50 years	Count	48	81	83	212
	% within Age	22.6%	38.2%	39.2%	100.0%
Above 50 years	Count	16	23	15	54
	% within Age	29.6%	42.6%	27.8%	100.0%
Total	Count	104	151	140	395
	% within Age	26.3%	38.2%	35.4%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests:

Pearson Chi-Square: 4.789 (df = 4, p = .310)
 Likelihood Ratio: 4.823 (df = 4, p = .306)
 Linear-by-Linear Association: 0.143 (df = 1, p = .706)

*Significance at 1% level *Significance at 5% level*

Chi-square test was applied to test the association between age group and Depreciation Method of community based in Accounting practices of small enterprises in Ramanathapuram District. The test reveals that the calculated chi-square value is 4.789^a p-

value is .310 at 1 per cent level of significance. Since the p-value is less than 0.01 ($\chi^2 = 4.789^a$, $p < 0.01$) the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, there is a significant association between age group and Depreciation Method of community based in Accounting practices of small enterprises. It is clear that age group is one of the major parameters to measure the Depreciation Method.

Age And Business Documents in Small Enterprises

Null Hypothesis (Ho): There is no significant association between age group of the

respondents and Business Documents of enterprises.
community in Accounting practices of small

Cross tabulation:

Age Group	Business Documents	Low	Moderate	High	Total
Up to 30 years	Count	42	46	41	129
	% within Age	32.6%	35.7%	31.8%	100.0%
31 to 50 years	Count	43	77	92	212
	% within Age	20.3%	36.3%	43.4%	100.0%
Above 50 years	Count	21	15	18	54
	% within Age	38.9%	27.8%	33.3%	100.0%
Total	Count	106	138	151	395
	% within Age	26.8%	34.9%	38.2%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests:

Pearson Chi-Square: 12.039 (df = 4, p = .017)

Likelihood Ratio: 11.991 (df = 4, p = .017)

Linear-by-Linear Association: 0.397 (df = 1, p = .529)

Significance at 1% level *Significance at 5% level

Chi-square test was applied to test the association between age group and Business Documents of community based in Accounting practices of small enterprises in Ramanathapuram District. The test reveals that the calculated chi-square value is 12.039^a p-value is .017 at 1 per cent level of significance. Since the p-value is less than 0.01 ($\chi^2 =$

12.039^a, p < 0.01) the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, there is a significant association between age group and Business Documents of community based in Accounting practices of small enterprises. It is clear that age group is one of the major parameters to measure the Business Documents.

Age And Reporting Aspects in Small Enterprises

Null Hypothesis (Ho): There is no significant association between age group of the respondents and Reporting Aspects of community in Accounting practices of small enterprises.

Cross tabulation:

Age Group	Reporting Aspects	Low	Moderate	High	Total
Up to 30 years	Count	44	46	39	129
	% within Age	34.1%	35.7%	30.2%	100.0%
31 to 50 years	Count	59	64	89	212
	% within Age	27.8%	30.2%	42.0%	100.0%
Above 50 years	Count	15	16	23	54
	% within Age	27.8%	29.6%	42.6%	100.0%
Total	Count	118	126	151	395
	% within Age	29.9%	31.9%	38.2%	100.0%

Chi-Square Tests:

Pearson Chi-Square: 5.211 (df = 4, p = .266)

Likelihood Ratio: 5.304 (df = 4, p = .257)

Linear-by-Linear Association: 3.255 (df = 1, p = .071)

Significance at 1% level *Significance at 5% level

Chi-square test was applied to test the association between age group and Reporting Aspects of community based in Accounting practices of small enterprises in Ramanathapuram District. The test reveals that the calculated chi-square value is 5.211^a p-value is .266 at 1 per cent level of significance. Since the p-value is less than 0.01 ($\chi^2 = 5.211^a$, p < 0.01) the null hypothesis is rejected. Hence, there is a significant association between age

group and Reporting Aspects of community based in Accounting practices of small enterprises. It is clear that age group is one of the major parameters to measure the Reporting Aspects.

Major Findings

Mean scores for most accounting procedures are similar for both male and female respondents, indicating comparable adherence to accounting rules. Men score slightly higher on aspects like payment methods, depreciation methods, bad debts estimation, business documents, reporting aspects, accounting system aspects, record aspects, report aspects, accounting knowledge, accounting disclosure, recording control, and financial control. Female respondents score

higher in recording aspects, suggesting better attention to recording and documenting financial transactions.

Accounting Method, Payment Method, Bad Debts Estimation, Depreciation Method, Business Documents, and Recording Aspects do not show significant differences between communities ($p > 0.05$). Reporting Aspects and Report Aspects show significant differences between communities ($p < 0.05$). Accounting System Aspects initially showed significant differences assuming equal variances, but these differences disappeared when accounting for unequal variances. Most accounting practices do not show significant differences across marital status groups ($p > 0.05$). Record Aspects show a significant difference, indicating that marital status impacts some aspects of recording methods.

Suggestions

Implementing focused solutions that cater to the distinct needs and strengths of both male and female business owners is crucial, as indicated by the findings addressing gender disparities in accounting procedures among small businesses. Given that both sexes generally follow accounting regulations in a similar manner, conventional training programs can continue to be offered to the workforce at large. Male-led businesses, however, may benefit from more advanced or specialized training to further hone these skills and maintain their competitive advantage given the slight advantage that men have in areas like payment methods, depreciation methods, bad debts estimation, business documents, reporting aspects, accounting system aspects, record aspects, report aspects, accounting knowledge, accounting disclosure, recording control, and financial control.

On the other hand, the higher recording aspect scores of female respondents suggest a greater emphasis on careful documentation and record-keeping. This strength can be enhanced by promoting knowledge exchange and peer mentorship initiatives in which female business owners provide seminars or workshops on efficient recording techniques.

It is suggested that community-specific training programs are crucial in order to address the variances in accounting procedures within communities, especially the notable discrepancies in reporting elements and report aspects. Customized seminars and

workshops that highlight the particular difficulties and needs of various communities can aid in filling up the gaps found in the study. More investigation into the reasons behind these discrepancies may also yield deeper understandings that improve intervention tactics.

The requirement for individualized training based on marital status is shown by the notable variation in record features for differences in marital status. Programs for business support should take into account the special demands of married, single, and other groups, providing tailored content and flexible training dates.

Finally, age-related variations in accounting procedures point to specific assistance for both younger and older entrepreneurs. Older company owners might gain from more resources on keeping thorough business records, while younger entrepreneurs would want more instruction on payment strategies and bad debt estimation. Age-appropriate training materials and tools should be created by policymakers and business support organizations to guarantee that all age groups receive the necessary assistance with their accounting procedures. This all-encompassing strategy will contribute to creating an atmosphere in which small enterprises can prosper, irrespective of age, gender, marital status, or community.

Conclusion

The findings, taken together, demonstrate the complex dynamics in accounting methods among small businesses that are influenced by age, marital status, gender, and community. Entrepreneurs of both genders follow accounting regulations to a similar degree, with males somewhat better in some areas and women better in recording procedures. Encouraging specialized, gender-specific training programs that address these disparities can improve overall accounting competency. Variations based on community, especially when it comes to reporting, call for customized training programs that address the distinctive requirements of various communities, guaranteeing fair access to accounting information and services. The need of customized training modules that take into account the different life circumstances of business owners is highlighted by the notable influence that marital status has on record-keeping practices. In addition, age-related

disparities necessitate age-appropriate resources and assistance; older firm owners gain from better documentation procedures, while younger entrepreneurs need more training on bad debt calculation and payment techniques. Policymakers and business support groups may establish a more encouraging climate that supports the expansion and sustainability of small businesses among a variety of demographic groups by putting these focused measures into practice. The overall goal of these strategic recommendations is to close the gaps that have been found, encourage inclusive and efficient accounting procedures, and ultimately support small enterprises' resilience and success.

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