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Financial behavior, self-efficacy, and entrepreneurial skills: Uncovering the determinants of culinary business performance

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ABSTRACT

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The culinary industry is a prominent sector with rapid growth, which contributes to the creative economy and small- to medium-sized enterprises. Hence, understanding the determinants of factors affecting culinary businesses will help enhance financial performance and business sustainability among culinary small- to medium-sized enterprises in Indonesia. This present study examines the impact of financial behavior, financial self-efficacy, and entrepreneurial skills on the business performance of culinary small- to medium-sized enterprises. The Partial Least Squares (PLS) Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) approach was used to analyze data obtained from 110 culinary smallto medium-sized enterprises in Indonesia. The data were gathered using a selfadministered survey employing questionnaires on a Likert scale. The results of this study show that financial behavior and entrepreneurial skills can promote business performance in the culinary sector. However, the variable of financial self-efficacy failed to stimulate the business performance of culinary small- to medium-sized enterprises. These findings underline the importance of developing good financial behavior and entrepreneurial skills to improve business performance among small- to medium-sized enterprises. Additionally, the findings of this research can provide insights for educational institutions, business incubators, and policymakers in designing more effective training programs to enhance business performance and sustainability. The results of this work complement previous studies and provide insights for stakeholders and policy scholars in supporting business development strategies.

Contribution/Originality: There remains a knowledge gap in understanding how these factors collectively influence the performance of culinary businesses in Indonesia, and this study aims to fill that gap by presenting comprehensive knowledge on the determinants of business performance in Indonesia, as it is a vast country that attracts attention from visitors.

1. INTRODUCTION

Small medium enterprises (SMEs) are critical in promoting economic development and poverty alleviation (Adeosun & Shittu, 2022; Zafar, Waqas, & Butt, 2019). In particular, the culinary business has been the most vibrant industry, contributing to opening opportunities for income through new job creation (Wondirad, Kebete, & Li, 2021). In the Indonesian setting, culinary SMEs have been one of the reasons visitors come to certain cities or regencies (Pusung, Narsa, & Wardhaningrum, 2023). Preliminary investigation remarked that culinary SMEs are considered

determinants alongside their main tourism sites and attractions (Anggadwita, Rexhepi, Hendayani, & Martias, 2021; Iradawati, 2024). However, the increasing number of culinary SMEs is always accompanied by heightened competitiveness, and understanding business performance will help make their businesses sustainable. Factors such as financial management, self-efficacy, and lack of entrepreneurial skills are often linked to business sustainability.

Financial behavior is seen to play a significant role in achieving business performance. A preliminary study revealed that financial behavior is increasingly important as it can improve operational efficiency and profitability (Çera, Ajaz Khan, Mlouk, & Brabenec, 2021). Financial behavior includes habits in managing income, expenses, investments, and mitigating financial risks (Iramani & Lutfi, 2021). Previous studies indicated that SMEs that have financial behavior are better prepared to face uncertain economic situations and competitiveness (Etemad, 2020; Purwidianti, Tubastuvi, Darmawan, & Rahmawati, 2022). In addition, financial self-efficacy also plays a prominent role in business decision-making and sustainability (Srisusilawati, Malik, Silviany, & Eprianti, 2022). Self-efficacy motivates them to be more proactive in seeking business opportunities and expanding their businesses through innovative strategies to increase competitiveness (Naz, Li, Zaman, & Rafiq, 2020).

Furthermore, entrepreneurial skills are highly significant in promoting business success and sustainability. Entrepreneurial skills encompass abilities in innovation, management, and marketing, and include familiarity with strategic decision-making (Shahzad, Khan, Saleem, & Rashid, 2021). In highly competitive sectors such as the culinary business, entrepreneurial skills to manage resources more efficiently, including labor, raw materials, and finances, are the key determinants for accomplishing business performance (Negeri, Wakjira, & Kant, 2023). In addition, skills in building a brand image and increasing consumer loyalty through digital and conventional marketing strategies can be beneficial for SMEs. Studies have shown that entrepreneurial skills can boost innovativeness, resilience in facing crises, and help expand their business sustainably (Pratikto, Winarno, & Restuningdiah, 2023; Ukabi, Uba, Ewum, & Olubiyi, 2023).

Previous studies have acknowledged the linkage between financial behavior, financial self-efficacy, and entrepreneurial skills on business performance. For example, some studies (e.g., Srisusilawati et al., 2022; Veselinovic, Antoncic, & Grbec, 2022) investigated the role of financial self-efficacy in driving performance. While other studies (e.g., Al Mamun, Fazal, & Muniady, 2019; Nandez & Esayne, 2024) attempted to link entrepreneurial skills and business performance. However, few studies involve financial behavior instead of financial literacy in predicting business performance. Although these studies provide valuable insights, there remains a knowledge gap in understanding how these factors collectively influence the performance of culinary businesses in Indonesia. Hence, this study aims to fill the existing gaps by exploring the influence of financial behavior, financial self-efficacy, and entrepreneurial skills on culinary business performance in Indonesia.

The contribution of this research is twofold. First, this study aims to present comprehensive knowledge on the determinants of business performance in Indonesia, which is significant and attracts attention from visitors. By exploring financial behavior, self-efficacy, and entrepreneurial skills, it will benefit policy scholars and the government in managing and boosting culinary business performance, given its role in creating new jobs. Second, the output of this study can be used by financial institutions and the government to design entrepreneurship training programs and funding policies that are more targeted. With this, it is expected to enhance entrepreneurial skills that are crucial for business performance and sustainability.

This paper is outlined as follows: The first section presents the introduction, and the following sections deal with the literature review and the methodology. The results and discussion are presented in the fourth and fifth sections, respectively. It ends with the conclusion and implications in the last section.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Financial behavior is widely recognized as essential for ensuring business performance. Building on this foundation, a prior work by Adomako, Opoku, and Frimpong (2018) demonstrated the impact of financial behavior

on small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) performance in developing economies. The aforementioned study indicated that financial risk management is the most crucial behavior that has emerged as a predictor of business performance. In addition, Dong, Men, Zhang, and Lei (2014) showed that sophisticated financial management behaviors have significantly higher success rates in loans and funding, which can affect business expansion. The evidence suggests that financial behavior can contribute to business success and sustainability. Hence, the first hypothesis is provided below.

H:: Financial behavior influences business performance.

In addition to financial behavior, financial self-efficacy helps build performance and business sustainability. The seminal work by Bandura and Wessels (1997) on self-efficacy provides the theoretical foundation, with financial self-efficacy emerging as a domain-specific application focusing on individuals' perceived capability to manage financial matters. Some studies have added that financial self-efficacy is involved in strategic planning and implementing sophisticated financial management practices. Recent work by Kulkarni et al. (2021) investigates how financial self-efficacy influences decision-making during business activities and found that entrepreneurs with financial self-efficacy have better financial strategies, which affect business performance. Thus, the hypothesis is presented below.

H₂: Financial self-efficacy influences business performance.

Entrepreneurial skills are the umbrella for engaging with business activities. Entrepreneurial skills can be demonstrated in various crucial aspects, such as the ability to recognize market opportunities and make strategic decisions, which are often linked with revenue and profitability. Antecedent works also emphasized that entrepreneurial skills contribute to the creation of added product value, optimization of pricing strategies, and development of sustainable business models, which can improve financial performance. Some prior studies, Egbetade, Onyeizugbe, and Orizu (2024) and Ibidunni, Ibidunni, Oyewo, and Iloka (2024) noted that entrepreneurial skills and competencies, such as organizing, strategic thinking, opportunity recognition, and risk-taking, are prominent in improving business performance and innovation outputs. Accordingly, the following hypothesis is provided below.

H₃: Entrepreneurial skills influence business performance.

3. METHODOLOGY

This study examined the connection between financial behavior, self-efficacy, entrepreneurial skills, and business performance using structural equation modeling. To address this, a self-administered survey was conducted on 110 culinary SMEs in Malang, East Java, Indonesia. Malang is well-known as an educational and tourist culinary destination. The purposive sampling considered the following criteria: (1) involvement in the culinary business for more than two years, and (2) the measurement was provided on a 5-Likert scale via Google Forms. To measure each variable, this study adopted instruments from preliminary studies and theories. For instance, to operationalize business performance, we used instruments from Herlinawati, Ahman, and Machmud (2019). To measure self-efficacy, we adopted instruments from Asandimitra and Kautsar (2019). In addition, financial behavior was determined using items from Purwidianti et al. (2022). Lastly, entrepreneurial skills were performed using instruments from Astuti, Supanto, and Supriadi (2019). The data was further analyzed using two stages: measurement and structural model. The measurement model focuses on finding the fit model by convergent validity (loading factor > 0.70), composite reliability (AVE > 0.50), and discriminant validity (Fornell-Larcker criteria). While the structural model focuses on the size effect test and hypothesis testing.

4. RESULTS

4.1. Demographic Respondents

Based on the collected data, research data can be obtained based on gender, monthly income, business status, and length of work/entrepreneurship. As informed in Table 1, it can be seen that the majority of respondents are male entrepreneurs (64%). Most respondents (55.45%) have a monthly income of less than IDR 3,000,000, and almost half

of the respondents (45.45%) are both owners and managers. Additionally, the majority of respondents have less than five years of work or entrepreneurship experience (44.55%).

Table 1. Demographics of respondents.

No.	Characteristic	Total	Percentage		
1	Gender				
	Female	40	36.0		
	Male	70	64.0		
2	Monthly income				
	< IDR 3,000,000	61	55.45		
	IDR 3,000,000 – 5,000,000	39	35.46		
	> IDR 5,000,000	10	9.09		
3	Business status				
	Owner	43	39.09		
	Manager	17	15.46		
	Owner and manager	50	45.45		
4	Length of work/Entrepreneurship				
	< 5 years	49	44.55		
	5 – 10 years	41	37.27		
	> 10 years	20	18.18		

4.2. Measurement Model

As illustrated in Table 2, the factor loadings (FL) for each construct range from 0.717 to 0.937, exceeding the threshold of 0.70, indicating that each indicator reliably measures its intended construct. In addition, the Cronbach's alpha (Ca) and composite reliability (CR) values are above the 0.70 cutoff, indicating that they meet the reliability criteria. We also confirm the existence of convergent validity, as the average variance extracted (AVE) values range from 0.696 to 0.710, all above 0.5 (Fornell & Larcker, 1981; Hair, Sarstedt, & Ringle, 2019). In addition, Table 3 shows that the discriminant validity using the Fornell-Larcker criterion, in which the square roots of AVEs (bold) are exceeding other constructs' correlations, indicating that the discriminant validity is met (Fornell & Larcker, 1981; Henseler, Ringle, & Sarstedt, 2015).

Table 2. Validity and reliability.

Variable	Indicator	Loading factor	AVE	CR
	Pay bills on time.	0.843	0.710	0.879
Financial	Make a spending and spending budget	0.862		
behavior	Record expenses and shopping.	0.821		
	Provide funds for unexpected expenses.	0.767		
Financial	Belief in your ability to design financial expenses.	0.933	0.696	0.872
self-efficacy	Belief in your ability to accomplish financial goals.	0.884		
v	Belief in decision-making abilities when unexpected events arise.	0.812		
	Belief in your ability to face financial challenges.	0.717		
Entrepreneu	Carrying out various innovation efforts so that this business attracts	0.937	0.679	0.894
rial skills	customers			
	Proactively promote our business/Business by utilizing social media	0.825		
	Confidence in having skills is important for the success of your			
	business/Business in the future			
		0.755		
Business	Sales growth	0.922	0.707	0.905
performance	Asset growth	0.773		
	Revenue growth	0.801		

Table 3. Discriminant validity.

Variable	Financial behavior	Entrepreneurial skills	Business performance	
Financial behavior	0.805			
Entrepreneurial skills	0.472	0.720		
Business performance	0.607	0.667	0.797	

4.3. Structural Model

We further provided the structural model assessment by checking explanatory power, predictive relevance, and fit. (Hair et al., 2019). In addition, R-squared (R²) values show that the model explains 43.7% of the variance. The Q-Squared (Q²) values further confirm the model's predictive relevance, with values exceeding 0.5 for all constructs, demonstrating a high level of predictive accuracy (Hair et al., 2019). As shown in Table 4, financial behavior has a significant positive impact on students' business performance ($\beta = 0.327$; t = 2.948; p = 0.003). Entrepreneurial skills also show a significant and positive effect on business performance ($\beta = 0.267$; t = 2.447; p = 0.014). However, self-efficacy has no impact on business performance ($\beta = 0.059$; t = 0.616; p = 0.538).

Table 4. Hypothesis testing.

Direct effect	Path coefficient	T-statistics	P-values	Results
Financial behavior → Business performance	0.327	2.948	0.003	Accepted
Financial self-efficacy → Business performance	0.059	0.616	0.538	Rejected
Entrepreneurial skills → Business performance	0.267	2.447	0.014	Accepted

5. DISCUSSION

The first finding of this study confirmed that financial behavior has a significant impact on the business performance of SMEs in the culinary sector in Indonesia. Financial behavior can be observed through various activities, such as disciplined cash flow management and controlled use of debt, which can enhance business performance and sustainability. Furthermore, financial behavior is also beneficial in dealing with market changes. Preliminary work noted that the ability to allocate funds can also stimulate business competitiveness (Prasanna et al., 2019). Thus, it can either influence business continuity or become the foundation for long-term business growth and sustainability. This significant finding corresponds with that of preliminary works (e.g., Purwidianti et al., 2022; Sajuyigbe et al., 2024).

The next finding showed that financial self-efficacy had no impact on the business performance of SMEs in the culinary sector in Indonesia, and this finding is contrary to some prior investigations (e.g., Kistyanto, Rasi, Surjanti, & Aji, 2020; Srisusilawati et al., 2022). Financial self-efficacy refers to the person's confidence in their capability to prepare and manage finances and actually has the potential to influence the business performance of SMEs (Veselinovic et al., 2022). However, in some cases, financial self-efficacy may not directly contribute to business performance for several reasons. One reason is that self-efficacy in financial management is not always accompanied by the right financial skills and decisions (Kirsten, 2018). Second, the culinary sector has unique characteristics such as high fluctuations in demand and dependence on perishable raw materials.

The next finding indicated the essential role of entrepreneurial skills in promoting business performance. The result is in accordance with preliminary works, such as Negeri et al. (2023) and Astuti et al. (2019). The rationale for this finding is that entrepreneurial skills, such as financial management, marketing, product innovation, and operational management, will lead business actors to develop their businesses sustainably (Orobia, Tusiime, Mwesigwa, & Ssekiziyivu, 2020). Furthermore, entrepreneurial skills can enhance business resilience to external challenges, such as changing consumer trends and economic crises (Sharma & Rautela, 2022). In this regard, entrepreneurial skills can either contribute to business sustainability or serve as a key factor in increasing the competitiveness of the culinary business.

6. CONCLUSION

In a nutshell, this study investigated the linkage between financial behavior, self-efficacy, and entrepreneurial skills in predicting the business performance of SMEs in the culinary sector. The findings indicated that financial behavior and entrepreneurial skills can drive business performance, while self-efficacy failed to promote business performance. The results have implications for the literature of economics and business, primarily emphasizing the

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need to integrate financial behavior theory and self-efficacy theory for SMEs, as healthy financial behavior contributes to business stability and growth. Regarding practical contributions, entrepreneurship training programs aimed at increasing entrepreneurial skills must be further optimized, especially in areas such as product innovation, digital marketing, and risk management. Additionally, this research highlights the importance of business incubators and educational institutions, along with the government, in designing mentoring programs tailored to the specific needs of the culinary industry, such as pricing strategies, branding, and supply chain management. This can help small- and medium-sized businesses adapt, develop, and achieve sustainability. The limitation of this study lies in its regional sample; therefore, the results cannot be generalized to culinary SMEs with different economic and social conditions. Future researchers could also include external factors, such as government regulations and access to financing, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the determinants of culinary SMEs' performance.

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Transparency: The authors state that the manuscript is honest, truthful, and transparent, that no key aspects of the investigation have been omitted, and that any differences from the study as planned have been clarified. This study followed all writing ethics.

Data Availability Statement: The corresponding author can provide the supporting data of this study upon a reasonable request.

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