Academic Journal of Current Research
Vol.6, No.12; December-2019;
ISSN (2343 – 403X);
p –ISSN 3244 - 5621
Impact factor: 5.92

ASSESSING THE ROLE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE ENTERPRISES (SMEs) IN PROMOTING A SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN CAMEROON

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Abstract: The purpose of this study was to assess the role of SMEs in promoting a sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Cameroon. The study was guided by the epistemology of positivism and followed the causal research design in quantitative method of analysis. A sample size of 200 SME owners and managers in the Capital City of Yaoundé was considered using simple random probability sampling. Three causal relationships were hypothesized to produce law-like generalisations in this study and two of the three were found to be statistically significant (see table 2). The findings of this study revealed that sustainable business and the creation or promotion of more SMEs have a statistically significant impact on a sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Cameroon. However, the study is limited in that its research scope was centred only on SMEs in Yaoundé, and other major cities like Douala, the economic capital of Cameroon were not covered in this study. It is therefore recommended that further studies should cover a sizeable portion of the country. The practical implications of this study is that it will contribute to the body of existing knowledge of SME role and contribution to the Cameroon economy and very importantly help in guiding government overall policy towards the promotion of SME growth in Cameroon. The originality and value contribution of this study is ascertained by the validity and reliability tests that were conducted here-in.

Keywords: Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs), Economic Sustainability, Inclusive Economy

INTRODUCTION

In most of the world's economies, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are regarded as vectors for growth, job and wealth creation (World Bank, 2014) as cited in (Josée St-Pierre, Luc Foleu, Georges Abdulnour, Serge Nomo and Maurice Fouda, 2015). Through their investments and consumption, they create value and produce a plethora of goods and services, thereby playing a significant role in funding public services and creating a dynamic local economy (Goudreault and Hébert, 2013) as cited in Josée St-Pierre et al. (2015). In short, they are a unique asset for development, serving as both a motor for growth and a tool for redistribution of wealth (ESF, 2009). In Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), the SME sector accounts for more than 90% of all firms. Between 70% and 80% of SMEs are micro-firms or very small firms. They are the main source of jobs and income for Africans, after subsistence farming (Tadesse, 2009). If the African countries wish to speed up their economic growth and development, they would certainly gain from supporting the emergence and growth of SMEs. Some have understood this, and have set up dedicated small business

Academic Journal of Current Research
Vol.6, No.12; December-2019;
ISSN (2343 – 403X);
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agencies and ministries. In addition, growing numbers of researchers are suggesting that political decision-makers who wish to strengthen the private sector should focus on the legislation, regulations and institutional mechanisms that condition or shape economic life (World Bank, 2013).

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Overall, the business environment appears to have deteriorated in Cameroon. In the World Bank report entitled *Doing Business*, Cameroon's ranking fell by ten places between 2014 and 2015, from 148th to 158th and continued falling to the 166th rank in 2018 from 163 in 2017. However, this decline does not, of itself, provide sufficient information on the mechanisms and pitfalls that encourage or hinder business development in the country. First, it is important to note that there has been a strong political will since the 1960s, when the country achieved independence and began to introduce various structures to stimulate and support venture creation. While this institutional infrastructure originally produced good results (emergence of many firms of different sizes), it subsequently began to decline.

It is in this regard that Cameroon's firms and SMEs are still finding it hard to consolidate their growth and survival. The last general business census in Cameroon found that the average age of the country's firms was just 10 years (INS, 2011), in spite of decades of effort and incentives (some cut short by the economic crisis). There is therefore good reason to wonder whether SMEs in Cameroon can still act as vectors for growth, job and wealth creation. Therefore, this paper aims at assessing whether SMEs still remain an indispensable part of Cameroon's economy in promoting a sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Cameroon.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

An appropriate political framework and a relevant legal and regulatory environment are essential to the survival of SMEs and SME support programs, since many of the obstacles faced by these firms derive from the global environment (Hobohm, 2001). In other words, the environment in which SMEs do business must be conducive or favourable to their development. "The business environment can be defined as the set of political, legal, institutional and regulatory conditions governing business activities" (free translation from the original French) (ESF, 2009, p. 4). In Africa, the business environment is regarded as one of the main causes of firm failure and poor performance, and a better investment climate is considered a priority by the World Bank (Bigsten and Söderbom, 2006).

2.1 THEORITICAL MODELS OF THE GROWTH OF SMEs

Various theoretical models have been developed which describe the growth of small businesses. This paper will discuss three models of firm growth, as identified by Brock and Evans (1986) for small firms. They are the stochastic model, the human capital model and the learning-by-doing model. These three models capture the essential elements of other models. In addition, they are relatively simple and easy to understand (Viet Le, 2009).

2.1.1 Stochastic Model

The most elementary fact about corporate growth based on econometric work on both large and small firms suggests that firm size, most often measured by employment, follows a random walk (Paul A. Geroski, 2002 as cited in Viet Le, 2009). The size distribution of firms at a given point in time is the product of a stochastic process resulting from cumulative random shocks experienced in business over time (O'Farrell & Hitchens, 1988 as cited in Viet Le, 2009). In this stochastic model the probability of firm growth is based on pure chance and the size distribution of firms in an industry reflect these stochastic processes. This model is closely associated with the Law of Proportionate Effects first proposed by Gibrat in 1931. In its simplest form Gibrat's law suggests that the expected growth rate of a given firm is independent of its size at the beginning of the period examined (Gibrat, 1931). Nevertheless, many empirical studies have rejected Gibrat's law and its assumptions based on the evidence that there is a negative relationship between firm size and growth (P.Dunne & Hughes, 1994; T. Dunne, Roberts, & Samuelson, 1989; Evans, 1987a; Liedholm, 2002; McPherson, 1996; Shiferaw, 2006; Storey et al., 1987). Simon and Bonini (1958) further showed that firm growth is unrelated either to size, its prior growth or its age (Viet Le, 2009). The implications of Gilbrat's law has been interpreted in a formal framework by different authors (Coad, 2007; Paul A. Geroski, 2002; O'Farrell & Hitchens, 1988 as cited in Viet Le, 2009). O'Farrell and Hitchens (1988) described the stochastic model of growth and explained that three

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ISSN (2343 – 403X);
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elements make up the growth of a small firm. The first is a constant growth rate of the market which is common to all firms. The second element is a systematic tendency for the growth of a firm to be related to its initial size and the third is the third element is a random growth term (Viet Le, 2009).

2.1.2 Human Capital Model

Lucas (1978) was the first researcher to put forward the human capital model (Storey, 1994; Vivarelli, 2007a as cited in Viet Le, 2009). He assumed individual entrepreneurs have certain business or management skills and ability which will influence their success in business. He further assumed that skill varies across workers. As a result, the size distribution of firms is based on the relative endowment or rent of ability of entrepreneurial talents and skills of employees. The human capital model is related to firm growth effect model discussed by Penrose (1959) which contains two different arguments. One is the 'resource push' argument which sees firms as a bundle of resources bound together by set of administrative skills or capabilities which are used to deploy them as effectively as possible (Viet Le, 2009). The other is the managerial limits to growth hypothesis (Paul A. Geroski, 2002). Penrose argues that at any time there are constraints and limits to the expansion that existing managers can achieve, and limits to the management capacity due to the constraint to the expansion of the number of managers (Penrose, 1959 as cited in O'Farrell & Hitchens, 1988). Human capital is relevant to the internal environment of the firm as personal and leadership characteristics of the owner-manager are included in this environment (Gibb and Scott, 1985 as cited by O'Farrell & Hitchens, 1988). Factors such as the owner's age, attitudes to growth, occupational background, personal objectives, management style, level of owner's education and training, and personal values and attitudes have been emphasised as having an influence on firm growth (O'Farrell, P. N., & Hitchens, D. M. W. N., 1998).

2.1.3 Learning Model

The learning model focuses on the learning process, either active or passive, and the aforementioned models refer to the stochastic and deterministic approaches. In the passive learning model (Jovanovic, 1982 as cited in Liedholm 2001), a firm enters a market without knowing its own potential growth. Only after entry does the firm start to learn about the distribution of its own profitability based on information from doing business over a period of time and from realized profits. By continually updating such learning, the firm decides to expand, contract, or to exit. This learning model states that firms and managers of firms learn about their true abilities and efficiency gradually only after the firm has entered into production and service delivery. After learning about its true abilities, a firm will adjust its behaviour. Firms choose output levels to maximise expected profits on the basis of imperfect information on their efficiency levels in each period. They also update their expectations based on the efficiency level. Those who revise their ability upward will expand and those who revise them downward tend to contract or exit (Liedholm, C., & Mead, D. C., 1999; Storey, 1994;You, 1995).

Jovanovic's model is found to be perfectly consistent with a world where founders are quite heterogeneous, entry mistakes can easily occur and early failures are quite common (Vivarelli, 2007a as cited Viet Le, 2009). However, Jovanovic's model assumes that firms are endowed at birth with an unknown value of time-invariant characteristics. It does not take into account the evolution and changing nature of a firm's abilities. Thus, Pakes and Ericson (1987, 1998) called Jovanovic's model a ***passive learning*** model. They then proposed an ***active learning*** model in which managerial ability is augmented through human capital formation. Thus, this is an extension of Jovanovic's basic model (Liedholm, C., & Mead, D. C., 1999). In the active learning model a firm is assumed to know its own characteristics and those of its competitors, along with the future distribution of the industry structure (Vivarelli, 2007). Firms enter the industry at the suboptimal scale in order to learn and expand if successful (You, 1995). In an empirical study of retail and manufacturing industries in Wisconsin, Pakes and Ericson (1998:37 as cited Viet Le, 2009) showed that the manufacturing sector is consistent with the *active learning* model while the retail sector is compatible with Jovanovic's *passive learning* model.

The learning models could generate a rich set of testable hypotheses about the life cycle patterns of firm growth. Both active and passive learning models, however, do not indicate what the key determinants of managerial ability might be, or how other important variables such as macro-economic variables (interest rate, inflation etc.) might affect firm dynamics (Liedholm, C., & Mead, D. C., 1999). The models

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ISSN (2343 – 403X);
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also do not tell us a lot about the essential part of the dynamic process in which the capabilities of firms evolve overtime (You, 1995). Indeed, the ability to adapt and learn from the experience of dealing with both the external environment and internal environment is the key factor in sustaining the growth of a business (O'Farrell, P. N., & Hitchens, D. M. W. N., 1998).

2.2 SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE ENTERPRISES (SMEs)

It should be noted that there is no standard international meaning of small and medium-sized enterprise (SME). The meaning of SMEs are outlined within the legislation of different countries, particularly as a result of the measurement "small" and "medium" of a firm are comparative to the scale of the local economy (OECD, 2017). The environmental location of SMEs, in addition as precise legislation of a country, influences the various meanings for SME (Leopoulos, 2006 as quoted in Yolande Smit and J. A. Watkins, 2012). For statistical reasons, the OECD refers to SMEs as an institution which employs a maximum of 249 persons, with the following breakdown: micro (1 to 9), small (10 to 49) and medium (50-249). This provides for the simplest equivalence given the varied information and practices found in different countries, remarking that some countries use totally different conventions. In Cameroon, law No. 2010/001 of 13 April 2010 to promote small and medium sized enterprises states that SMEs governed by this law shall include: very small enterprises (VSEs), small-sized enterprises (SEs) and medium-sized enterprises (MEs).

2.2.1 Importance of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to the Economy

The importance of small businesses is accepted in many African countries such as Cameroon, Togo, Uganda, Ghana, Cote d'Lvoire, Nigeria, Kenya, Malawi, Burkina Faso, just to name a few. According to Rwigema H, Karungu P., (1999), SMEs are dominant in numbers in most economies. In developed or advanced countries like the United States of America and the United Kingdom, small enterprises play a very important role within the economy, accounting for one third of business employment and a lower share of output. In developing countries where SMEs dominate economically active enterprises, the SMEs prosperity is taken into account much more necessary than in developed countries (Rwigema H, Karungu P., 1999).

Since the monetary catastrophe in 2008, the whole world is undergoing a recovery stage; the discussions are centered on SMEs and there are as well considered a key driver for growth in any economy, according to Jain. A.I. & Chen (2013). D'imperio (2012), believes that the 2008 monetary problems created new challenges for SMEs, but SMEs are obviously donating towards the gross domestic product (GDP) and employment in virtually each country in the world.

Bouri, A., Breij, M., Diop, M., Kempner, R., Klinger, B. & Stevenson, K. (2011) additionally state that the SME sector is the mainstay of any economy, mainly in high-income countries, even though the development of the segment is very poor in lower income countries. D'imperio (2012) moreover states that the contributions of SMEs to the economy such as an influence to the GDP, differs across countries. The rationale for this is because well to do countries have larger SME sectors and smaller non public sectors than poorer countries do, and that open economies tend to have smaller SME sectors than their relatively closed economies (ACCA, 2010). SMEs donate 16% to GDP in developing countries, while in developed countries; SMEs contribute 51% to the GDP. Even though SMEs play a very important role in developed countries, it is also vital for developing countries, as it contributes to both employment and GDP.

Jain. A.I. & Chen (2013) looks at SMEs as multiplier of employment; meanwhile the different jobs created by SMEs also create further jobs, which, for businesses such as manufacturing could be closer to a multiplier of three. For instance, a business with 50 employees in 1965 and 100 in 1994 will have increased its labor force by two (OECD, 2002). Overall domestic consumption is also boosted by SMEs, and therefore SMEs can also be known as a local multiplier effect. SMEs could have two to three times the effect on national expenditure when compared to the expenditure of larger businesses. Since SMEs are creating jobs and adopting an economical business environment, (Shinozaki, 2012) it can be considered a driving force of economic stability, with a positive influence on a country's national economy. According to SouthAfrica.Info.(2012), the cost to create a job in the small business sector is less than creating a job in the big business

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sector, since bigger businesses are always more capital concentrated and, according to Edmiston (2007), bigger businesses also create better jobs in terms of stability, quality and compensation in the form of assistances and remuneration.

Thus, SMEs as the utmost significant drivers to improvement are also extensively recognized in various countries and account for a great portion of actual improvement since it makes SMEs important to investors and customers. Economic growth founded on invention would be sustainable and uplift the whole economy, according to Jain. A.I. & Chen (2013). Small businesses probably tend to involve more in inventive action such as research and development resulting in spending in high technology industries, and 90% of businesses partaking in these actions are SMEs (Connolly, E., Norman, D. & West, T. , 2012).

Grammy (2011) believes that SMEs play four major roles within the economy which they are contributive to the following: Creating jobs; Fabricating new products and services; Serving larger corporations; and Supplying specialized, advanced products.

According to D'imperio (2012), more than 95% of enterprises across the sphere are SMEs, consequently accounting for around 60% of private sector employment. 99% of total businesses in Japan are SMEs, and is considered to have the highest proportion of SMEs among industrialized countries. In 2018, India had 13 million SMEs, which amounted to 80% of all the country's businesses. For countries of which reasonable data are available, SMEs account for 52% of the total private sector value, that successively provides an inexpensive estimate for the SME sector's international economic contribution.

2.2.2 Critical success factors for small and medium enterprises (SMEs)

Scarceness of resources is normally experienced by SMEs (KY, 2005), (Jun M, 2003), like time, monetary and human resources. A number of issues have been acknowledged by some studies that influence enterprise growth and success. According to McGrath S, King K (1996), a basic part that has a positive influence on an organization's growth is the depth of "human capital" or "brain power".

It is assembled from several literature sources (Berger AN, Udell G, 2001); (Reynolds PL, Lancaster G , 2006); (England, 2001) that a great proportion of small organizations fail within the first five years in business due to over trading and financial difficulties. Featured in an exceedingly range of studies on SME development is the main difficulty of financial problems. Lack of access to credits is a major problem faced by rising African SME entrepreneurs (Rogerson, 2001b; Skinner C, 2005) who depend on personal savings or loans from relatives and friends, as the source of their start-up capital.

2.3 ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability of businesses can be understood in different ways and should successively cause adding worth to the setting, communities, customers and therefore the bottom line for businesses of diverse sizes. Firms recognize that booming business performance is as a consequence of effective sustainability (Rainville, 2012).

Spence (2012) reasoned that sustainable businesses have the capacity to acclimatize superiorly to vary and frequently produce long monetary worth. Great proportion of business failures in South Africa exists because of the dearth of Associate in Nursing adequate entrepreneurial culture and -education and thus an explicit would like exists to keep up the property of companies within the future. SMEs should be artistic with freshly presented products and services so as to achieve business sustainability (Booyens, 2011).

2.4 INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

Inclusive growth contains the creation of opportunities and access to bigger participation within the economy (Ali, I., & Zhuang, J. , 2007). Kakwani, N., & Pernia, E. M. (2000) was the first to use the word inclusive, in regards to growth occurred in description of pro-poor growth. Inclusive growth, nevertheless, goes yonder pro-poor growth in many different ways. Primarily, it goes yonder just assessing growth in declaring that difference is dangerous for issues similar to political steadiness and social unity; this implies that the main focus should not entirely get on the conditions of the poor, however on the relative conditions of each the poor and therefore the better-off sectors of society (Aoyagi, C., & Ganelli, G. , 2015). Additionally, it stresses that each one members of society ought to each be able to contribute to economic process and reap the advantages furthermore (Lanchovichina, E., & Lundstrom, S. , 2009). This can be a departure from pro-poor growth that focuses specifically

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Vol.6, No.12; December-2019;
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p –ISSN 3244 - 5621
Impact factor: 5.92

on advantages for the poor, so inclusive growth conjointly examines progress in overcoming alternative factors for disadvantage, like race, gender, and region (Klasen, 2010). Third, a minimum of some variants of inclusive growth contemplate method furthermore as outcomes (de Mello, L., & Dutz, M. A. (Eds.). , 2012).

It is certain that an inclusive economy is one during which there is swollen chance for additional generally shared success particularly for those facing the best obstacles to progressing their well-being (Pacetti, 2016)**.** I**nclusive economies are defined by five inter-related characteristics: participation, equity, growth, sustainability, and stability.** Consequently, since SMEs are not solely specialize in the situations of the poor, however on the relative circumstances of each the poor and therefore the better-off sectors of society (Aoyagi, C., & Ganelli, G. , 2015), this goes an extended thanks to advance on the inclusive economic within the society.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research design, Data Collection Method & Sampling technique

This study is guided by the epistemology of positivism and follows the causal research design in quantitative method of analysis. This is because quantitative research is often used to question relationships between variables yielding results that are predictive, explanatory, or confirmatory (Williams, 2011). It aims to produce generalized findings in the form of theories and formulae, and so is sometimes associated with positivistic and deductive studies (Bryman, 2012). The researchers seek to establish a relationship between SMEs and a sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Cameroon. The study applied simple random probability sampling i.e selecting the sample randomly from the sampling frame using random numbers obtained from tables or generated by a computer. (Saunders, M., Lewis, P., & Thornhill, A., 2009). A sample of 200 participants constituted mainly of SME owners and managers was drawn from several SMEs in the capital city of Yaoundé, Cameroon.

Research questions were administered with the use of questionnaires because it has the ability to harness data from a large sample that may be geographically dispersed, and provides broad statistical analysis options (Zikmund, 2003). Well-structured questionnaire was used in this study to provide a hypothetical response of 200 respondents (mainly SME owners and managers) on SPSS worksheet using a 5 Likert scale (SA-SD) and Mean as the measurement of central tendency.

3.2 Data Analysis

Statistical inferences and modeling with the use of statistical software's like SPSS and AMOS was used in this research. Data obtained from questionnaires with open-ended questions was coded and analyzed with the use of SPSS 25 and AMOS 24 in order to have valid and reliable research results.

3.3 Statement of Hypothesis

H1: Economic performance of SMEs has a significant impact on a sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Cameroon

H2: Promoting Sustainable businesses has a significant impact on a sustained, inclusive and and sustainable economic growth in Cameroon

H3: Promotion of more SMEs has a significant impact on a sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Cameroon.

4 RESULTS

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Table 1: Combined Table of Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA)

Pattern Matrix[a]

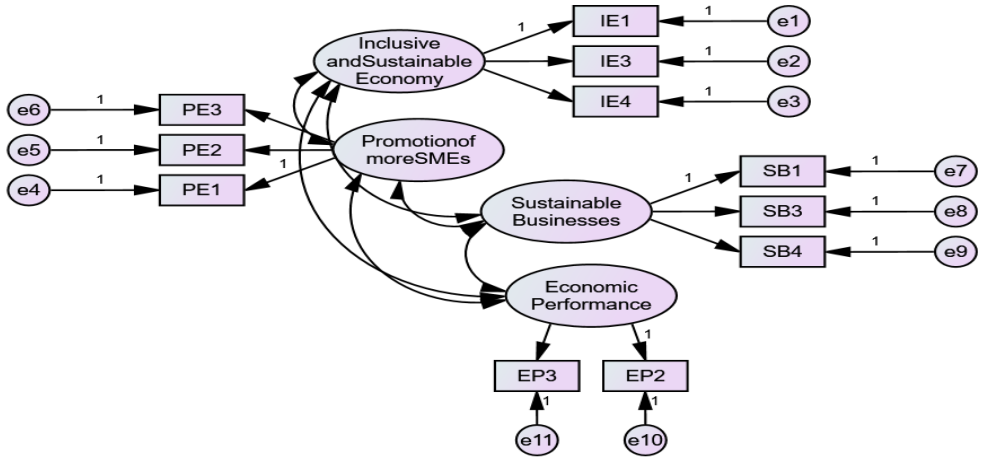
	Component			
	1	2	3	4
IE1	.834			
IE3	.808			
IE4	.760			
PE1			.784	
PE2			.713	
PE3			.825	
SB1		.757		
SB3		.729		
SB4		.875		
EP2				.751
EP3				.859

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.
Rotation Method: Promax with Kaiser Normalization.

a. Rotation converged in 5 iterations.

Note: IE = Inclusive & Sustainable Economy; **SB** = Sustainable Businesses; **PE** = Promotion of more SME's; **EP** = Economic Performance of SMEs

As shown in table 1 above, data was cleaned using principal component analysis and promax rotation. The results displayed in the combined exploratory factor analysis table above represent those indicators of the various latent constructs that were retained. Further analysis was done using confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) in order to confirm the validity and reliability of the aforementioned latent constructs used in this study. The result obtained is presented below.



FOUR FACTOR CORRELATED ANALYSIS
CMIN/DF = 1.131; P = .267; CFI = .974; SRMR = .0703
GFI = .930; IFI = .976; TLI = .963; RMSEA = .036

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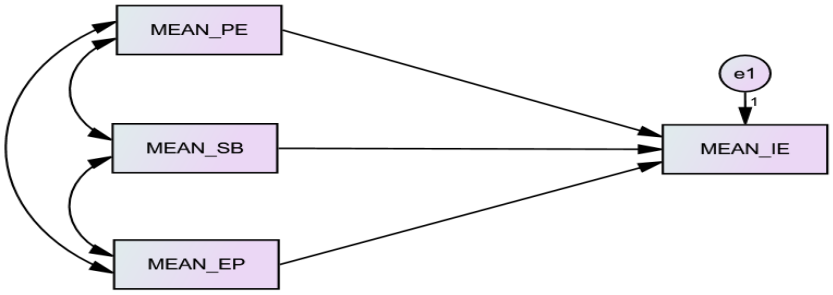
Fig 1: Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA)

This confirmatory factor analysis diagram above confirms the validity and reliability of the latent constructs used in this study being (i) inclusive and sustainable economy (ii) promotion of more SMEs (iii) sustainable businesses and (iv) economic performance as the dependent and independent latent variables respectively, influencing a sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Cameroon. Also, as presented above, the admissibility requirements for the results to be valid and reliable were met using confirmatory factor analysis.

However, the Structural Equation Model (SEM) analysis conducted failed to meet the validity and reliability requirements necessary to proceed to test the hypothesis. The diagram below shows the SEM model.



However, path analysis was used to test the hypothesis as presented in the output results below.

Path Analysis – Multiple Regressions

Regression Weights: (Group number 1 - Default model)

			Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P	Label
IE1	<---	Inclusive_andSustainable_Economy	1.000				
IE3	<---	Inclusive_andSustainable_Economy	.831	.179	4.640	***	par_1
IE4	<---	Inclusive_andSustainable_Economy	1.001	.215	4.665	***	par_2
PE1	<---	Promotionof_moreSMEs	1.000				

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			Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P	Label
PE2	<---	Promotionof_moreSMEs	.782	.194	4.039	***	par_3
PE3	<---	Promotionof_moreSMEs	.903	.214	4.213	***	par_4
SB1	<---	Sustainable_Businesses	1.000				
SB3	<---	Sustainable_Businesses	.829	.174	4.759	***	par_5
SB4	<---	Sustainable_Businesses	1.051	.212	4.963	***	par_6
EP2	<---	Economic_Performance	1.000				
EP3	<---	Economic_Performanc	.086	.539	.160	.873	par_7

Standardized Regression Weights: (Group number 1 - Default model)

			Estimate
IE1	<---	Inclusive_andSustainable_Economy	.718
IE3	<---	Inclusive_andSustainable_Economy	.652
IE4	<---	Inclusive_andSustainable_Economy	.700
PE1	<---	Promotionof_moreSMEs	.751
PE2	<---	Promotionof_moreSMEs	.559
PE3	<---	Promotionof_moreSMEs	.615
SB1	<---	Sustainable_Businesses	.729
SB3	<---	Sustainable_Businesses	.624
SB4	<---	Sustainable_Businesses	.685
EP2	<---	Economic_Performance	2.248
EP3	<---	Economic_Performance	.166

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Table 2: Test of Hypothesis

Hypothesis	P-Value at 95% CI	Decision/conclusion
H1: Economic performance of SMEs has a significant impact on a sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Cameroon	P = .873 Not Statistically significant	There is not enough statistical evidence to reject the null hypothesis nor to conclude that economic performance of SMEs has a significant impact on a sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Cameroon.
H2: Promoting Sustainable businesses has a significant impact on a sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Cameroon	*** $P \leq 0.001$ Statistically significant	There is enough statistical evidence to reject the null hypothesis and conclude that Promoting Sustainable businesses has a significant impact on a sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Cameroon
H3: Promotion of more SMEs has a significant impact on a sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Cameroon	*** $P \leq 0.001$ Statistically significant	There is enough statistical evidence to reject the null hypothesis and conclude that Promotion of more SMEs has a significant impact on a sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Cameroon

5 DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSION

The results of this study have shown that sustainable SMEs and the promotion or creation of more SMEs can have a significant impact on a sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Cameroon. This can be seen in table 2 where the P-value for hypothesis 2 and hypothesis 3 is significant within a 95% confidence interval being $P \leq 0.001$ for H 2 and H3. However, hypothesis 1 (H1) or economic performance of SMEs was found not to have a significant impact a sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Cameroon.Therefore, it is strongly recommended that Government policy in Cameroon should focus and lay more emphasis on how to make SMEs in the country more sustainable for as long as possible. Also, people should be encouraged to open up more SMEs or small scale businesses to earn a living so as to create more wealth and boost a sustainable, inclusive and sustainable economy rather than desiring to work more in the public sector which is not a source of wealth creation. This can be achieved by redesigning the educational policy of the country in such a way that it can be oriented towards entrepreneurial, professional and IT education – tools that are necessary for sustainability and wealth creation in a developing country like Cameroon.

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