

EDITORIAL COMMENTS FORM AND COMPLIANCE REPORT

EDITORIAL COMMENT'S on revised paper	Authors' response to editor's comments
<p>1. The introduction does not adequately discuss how and why the paper aligns with core themes of the journal. The author should establish an area to research by highlighting the importance of the topic, making general statements about the topic, and identifying a research niche by opposing an existing assumption, revealing a gap in existing research, and formulating a research question or problem.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>The methodology section is well-underdeveloped. It would be helpful if the author could provide more details on the parameters used, including an explanation of how they were chosen and why they were considered relevant. Additionally, there should be a discussion of the limitations and potential drawbacks of the method used, in order to better understand the reliability of the results obtained. Furthermore, it is unclear how the author has contributed to adapting the model for this specific study, which is an important aspect of the research process. It would be beneficial if this information was provided in order to assess the validity of the conclusions drawn from the study.</p> <p>3. The discussion component of the study is underdeveloped. A thorough discussion of the findings is essential for demonstrating the novelty of the research, comparing the findings with those of other scholars, and highlighting the similarities and differences.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>The Conclusion does not adequately discuss the theoretical and managerial implications of the study to the literature. The author should summarize their thoughts and convey the larger significance of their research. In addition, the author should identify and discuss how a gap in the literature has been addressed and demonstrate the importance of their ideas. The author is expected to introduce possible new or expanded ways of thinking about the research problem. Also, there should be stated the ideas for future research in the conclusion.</p>	<p>The introduction has been revised to better align with the journal's core themes. We highlighted the importance of Islamic finance in supporting MSEs, particularly in developing countries, and identified gaps in existing literature. The research question is now clearly defined: "How do Islamic finance principles impact the performance of MSEs in urban Uganda, with a focus on gender inclusivity?"</p> <p>We expanded the methodology section by providing more detail on the parameters used for the study. We explained the selection of the PRISMA framework, academic databases, inclusion criteria, and limitations. We also clarified how the model was adapted for the urban setting of Mbarara City, Uganda, ensuring the context and validity of the study were clear.</p> <p>The discussion section has been expanded to thoroughly compare our findings with previous studies (e.g., Buyondo 2024, Lisnawati & Ahman 2019). We highlighted both similarities and unique contributions, specifically regarding urban vs. rural settings and gender dynamics. The revised discussion demonstrates the novelty of our research and its value in the broader academic context.</p> <p>The conclusion has been revised to better emphasize the theoretical and managerial implications of the study. We discuss the significance of filling the gap in literature regarding Islamic finance's impact on urban MSEs and gender inclusivity. Additionally, we propose areas for future research, such as examining long-term impacts on business resilience and exploring barriers for women entrepreneurs.</p>