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Research Article / *Araştırma Makalesi*

HOW DOES THE IMPACT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE ON BANK CREDIT ACCESS OF SMEs DIFFER DEPENDING ON EXECUTIVE-LEVEL CHARACTERISTICS?*

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ABSTRACT

The financial performance of SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) plays a crucial role in bank credit access of these enterprises and the economies of countries where they operate. However, firm' executives' Resource-based View (RBV) characteristics can differently affect the financial performance of SMEs that they manage, therefore, credit access of SMEs can differ. In this regard, this paper aims to analyze whether the impact of financial performance on bank access to finance differs depending on executives' educational status, gender, and sectoral experience or not. In line with this aim, this research collects data from 479 randomly selected respondents by directing an online questionnaire. After that, the research data is analyzed by employing a Binary Logistic Regression Test. According to the results, the impact of financial performance on credit access differs depending on the gender and sectoral experience of firms' executives. However, the educational status of firm executives does not play any role in the impact of financial performance on access to finance.

Keywords: *SMEs, Financial Performance, Bank Credit, Resource-Based View, Financial Management*

JEL Classification: *G21; L25; L26; M12*

KOBİ'LERİN FİNANSAL PERFORMANSININ BANKA KREDİSİNE ERİŞİMDEKİ ETKİSİ ÜST DÜZEY YÖNETİCİLERİNİN ÖZELLİKLERİNE GÖRE NASIL DEĞİŞİR?

ÖZET

KOBİ'lerin (Küçük ve Orta Büyüklükteki İşletmelerin) finansal performansları onların krediye erişiminde ve faaliyet gösterdikleri ülkelerin ekonomisine yaptıkları katkıda büyük rol oynamaktadır. Fakat KOBİ'lerin üst düzey yöneticilerinin kaynak temelli teoriye dayanan özellikleri onların yönettikleri firmaların finansal performansına farklı şekilde etki ederek, firmaların banka kredisine erişiminde farklılıklara sebep olabilir. Bu bağlamda, bu çalışma KOBİ'lerin finansal performanslarının banka kredisine erişim üzerindeki etkisinin yöneticilerinin eğitim seviyesine, cinsiyetlerine ve deneyimlerine göre farklılık gösterebilmesi durumunu analiz etmeyi amaçlamaktadır. Bu amaç doğrultusunda, bu çalışma tesadüfü örnekleme yöntemi ile seçilen 479 firmadan anket yolu ile veri toplamıştır. Daha sonra toplanan bu veriler çalışmanın amacı doğrultusunda İkili Lojistik Regresyon yöntemi ile analiz edilmiştir. Analiz sonuçlarına göre, finansal

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performansın krediye erişim üzerindeki etkisi yöneticinin cinsiyeti ve sektör deneyimine göre farklılık göstermektedir. Fakat yöneticilerin eğitim seviyesinin finansal performansın krediye erişim üzerindeki etkisi üzerinde herhangi bir rolü bulunmamaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *KOBİ, Finansal Performans, Banka Kredisi, Kaynak Temelli Teori, Finansal Yönetim*

JEL Sınıflandırması: *G21; L25; L26; M12*

1. Introduction

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are called the engine of developing countries' economies (Le & Stefańczyk, 2018: 145) since they create job opportunities and make positive contributions to countries' GDP (Ahmad et al., 2022: 1). For instance, SMEs create 71% of employment and 44% of turnover in Turkey (Turkish Statistical Institute, 2021). SMEs in Turkey are also categorized in line with the definition of the European Commission (2020) as follows: firms having 0 to 9 employees are microenterprises, while small and medium-sized enterprises have workers between 10 to 49 and 50 to 249, respectively.

When it comes to their bank credit access which is their first choice in external financing, SMEs face more financing obstacles compared to larger enterprises. This is because of having lack of financial assets and information asymmetry between lending institutions and them. This information asymmetry stems from a lack of audited financial statements of SMEs. When SMEs signal their financial performance such as their net profit, they can reduce this asymmetry and access to bank credit.

However, intangible characteristics of SMEs that are based on human resources such as gender, education, and experience can cause SMEs to have different financial performance outcomes. In this regard, the impact of financial performance might differ depending on these characteristics. For this reason, this paper aims to analyze whether the impact of financial performance on credit access of SMEs differs depending on executives' gender, educational status, and working experience. In line with this aim, the research question might be as follows: "How does the impact of financial performance on bank credit access of SMEs differ depending on executives' education, gender, and experience?"

Some researchers analyze the impacts of owner/manager characteristics on business performance (Ahmad et al., 2022: 1; Filser & Eggers, 2014: 55). For instance, Berrone et al. (2014: 477) find the positive association between the educational status of firm executives and firm performance. Moreover, Çalıyurt (2011: 327) observes some Turkish SMEs and investigates the gender role in financial risk management of SMEs. Some other studies also investigate the role of executives' characteristics in the credit access of enterprises (Harash et al., 2014: 161; Hyder & Lussier, 2016: 82). In this regard, Özşuca (2020: 301) analyzes Turkish firms and confirms the significant relationship between the experience and gender of firm executives and access to finance. Karadağ (2017: 300) also investigates Turkish SMEs and tries to find out whether the education level of firm executives affects SMEs' financial management performance or not. Moreover, by focusing on Turkish SMEs, Saygılı et al. (2019) investigate the impact of firm executives' age, gender, and marital status on the credit scoring of enterprises. However, these studies do not investigate the differences in the impact of financial performance on access to finance regarding executives' gender, education, and experience as this study does perform.

Some other studies also consider various factors and look at their impacts on the financial performance of companies. For example, Aras et al. (2010: 229) investigate the impact of corporate social responsibility on the financial performance (profitability) of companies listed in the Istanbul Stock Exchange (ISE) 100 index. The researchers also include firm size in their analyses as a control variable. Baysak et al. (2023: 2118) also observe some Turkish SMEs and focus on the effect of the leadership style of firm executives on firms' financial performance. The positive relationship between financial performance and access to finance has been also proved by some researchers (Gambini & Zazzaro, 2013: 977). Similarly, Wasiuzzaman & Nurdin (2019: 258), Chandrayanti et al. (2020: 1760), and Jabbouri & Farooq, (2021: 118) analyze the effect of financial performance on access to finance of SMEs from Malaysia, Indonesia, and 141 developing countries including Türkiye, respectively. Furthermore, Çetin et al. (2023: 487) test the impact of some financial performance indicators including firm profitability on the credit decisions of banks by considering some Turkish service firms. The effect of firm profitability on credit access of Turkish SMEs has been also studied by Erdoğan (2019: 690). This researcher also examines the impacts of firm-level characteristics such as firm size, firm age, the length of the relationship, industry, and ownership type on bank credit access. Similar to Erdoğan (2019: 690), Yıldırım et al. (2013:40) analyze various firm characteristics such as size, asset size, export levels, legal forms, sales volume, and sales stability of Turkish SMEs and their impacts on bank credit access. Furthermore, Kahraman et al. (2020: 1) confirm the impacts of firms' age, size, location, sector, and export level on the credit access of Turkish SMEs. Firm-level characteristics have also been examined by some researchers when analyzing the financial obstacles (Nizaeva & Coskun, 2019: 1) or credit guarantees received by Turkish SMEs (Akçiğit et al., 2021: 4). However, this paper's main focus is not analyzing the effect of financial performance on access to finance since it aims to emphasize the executive level differences in the impact of financial performance on bank credit access. Unlike other studies that analyze firm-level characteristics, this paper focuses on executive-level characteristics, since the majority of SMEs' decision-making process depends on their executives' management approaches.

Although RBV has been applied by some studies when investigating its impacts on financial performance (Uzkurt et al., 2024: 1; Akkaya & Qaisar,2021: 197) this paper brings tangible and intangible resources of Resource-based View (RBV) (Peng, 2022: 57) in a unique study and looks at the impact of a tangible resource of SMEs (financial performance) on credit access of SMEs (tangible financial resource or capabilities of firms, ability to raise capital) depending on an intangible resource of SMEs, namely, a human resource that includes executives' gender, education and experience. This fact makes this paper to fulfill this research gap and differ from other studies that are mentioned above.

Since this paper confirms the differences in the impact of financial performance on bank credit access regarding executives' gender, and sectoral experience, it brings a new scientific finding into the related literature. While the financial performance of SMEs managed by male and more experienced executives positively affects their financial performance, financial performance does not determine credit access of SMEs led by female and less experienced executives. As far as the author knows, these results have not been found by other studies yet. For this reason, this paper is not only a sole study in an emerging market, namely, Türkiye, but also it is a unique research all over the world.

The remaining parts of this research are structured in the following sequence. In the next part, the researcher sets research hypotheses. The researcher explains the methodological approaches and data collection process in the Methodology section. The findings from the Binary Logistic Test are presented in the Results section with hypotheses testing. These results are discussed in the Discussion section and potential reasons for these results are also presented in this part. Lastly, the researcher concludes the entire paper by emphasizing the limitations of the research.

2. Literature Review

Concerning the educational status of firms' executives and financial performance and access to finance of businesses, it can be stated that well-educated executives are aware of the factors that increase the success of their companies. For instance, these executives can hire more educated and talented workers to increase the productivity of their companies which also positively affects firm performance (Millian et al., 2014: 312). Similarly, more educated executives are aware of the credit conditions that banks provide for them. Thus, the higher levels of education that executives have also enabled their businesses to access finance Do et al. (2019: 69), and loan availability (Ahmad et al., 2022: 1). Financial literacy of firms' executives has also been increased by their education level that improves their credit availability and credit access (Makler et al., 2013: 283). Moreover, firms led by more educated executives can reduce credit obstacles, are more likely to survive, and are less likely to be credit-constrained (Ahmad et al., 2022: 1; Makler et al., 2013: 283).

The positive relationship between the experience of executives and firm performance is also confirmed by some researchers (Kira, 2013: 1). Van der Sluis & Van Praag (2008: 795) declare the importance of higher levels of education that increases the performance of companies including their sales and profits. Higher education also makes executives look for new opportunities that might positively affect firm performance while reducing firms' failures. In this regard, firms having more educated executives can receive advantages for the sustainability of their companies (Rauch & Rijsdijk, 2013: 923). The arguments of the previous studies make this paper to set the following hypothesis:

H1: The impact of financial performance on credit access of SMEs differs depending on the education level of executives.

The impact of financial performance on credit access might also differ depending on entrepreneurs' gender. Many studies have also confirmed the lack of credit access and higher credit obstacles that are faced by female-led firms compared to male-led businesses. For instance, Irwin & Scott (2010: 245) also find that female-owned enterprises are more credit rationed those male-owned enterprises. Moreover, women-led firms encounter more credit obstacles or poorer credit conditions such as facing with more credit interest rates, (Makler et al., 2013: 283; Alesina et al., 2013), lower credit limits, higher collateral (Belluchi et al., 2010: 2968). Thus, women-led firms are less likely to receive the credits that they ask for (Makler et al., 2013: 283; Chaudhuri et al., 2020: 1165). Female entrepreneurs also behave more risk aversely than male entrepreneurs (Lim & Envick, 2011: 465; Drakos & Giannakopolous, 201: 1773; Makler et al., 2013: 283).

Chaudhuri et al. (2020: 1165) also declare the fact that owners' gender has an impact on firm performance that enables credit access. In this regard, Rajamani et al. (2022: 73) posit that female-owned companies showing lower financial performance face more difficulties when accessing finance. Furthermore, many factors negatively affect the credit application of female-led businesses. For instance, due to being afraid of rejection, (Belluchi et al., 2010: 2968; Le & Stefanczyk 2018: 145), a lack of education and financial assets to collateralize, female entrepreneurs can not be interested in applying for bank loans (North et al., 2010: 173). These factors especially having a lack of financial assets are indicators of low financial performance that negatively affects credit access. For these reasons, the next hypothesis can be generated as follows:

H2: The impact of financial performance on credit access of SMEs differs depending on the gender of executives.

Corresponding to the effects of financial performance on credit access of SMEs, there can be various results depending on the experience of company executives. According to Makler et al. (2013: 283), the sectoral experience of executives reduces the credit constraints that businesses face. This is because executives having more years of experience can have a network that enables them to transfer important knowledge with their networks including bank officers. This network also makes executives increase their awareness regarding business tasks, find business opportunities, and create close relations and trust among their networks. Having those options not only increases the performance of companies but also provides credit access (Makler et al., 2013: 283).

Furthermore, more experienced executives are more likely to evaluate their companies' financial and credit risks more accurately, thus, their firms' probabilities of default decrease (Wetter & Wennberg, 2009: 30), while the financial performance of their companies increases (Fatoki & Odeyemi, 2010: 2763). More experienced company executives can also know how to signal their firms' quality and financial indicators that banks can positively perceive in loan applications (Rahman, & Zbrankova, 2019: 426). When firms' executives become more experienced they also improve their entrepreneurial skills which positively affects their performance (Mayr et al., 2021: 539). This fact also enables businesses to gain finance from banks (Nofsinger & Wang, 2011: 2282). Experienced entrepreneurs also know which steps to take when making credit applications, thus, their firms are more likely to access finance (Ahmad et al., 2022: 1). These facts make this paper create another hypothesis that is presented below:

H3: The impact of financial performance on credit access of SMEs differs depending on the experience of executives.

3. Data and Methodology

The aim of this paper is to find out whether the influence of financial performance on bank credit access of SMEs differs depending on their executives' education level, gender, and experience. In line with this aim, the researcher generated an internet-mediated questionnaire and directed it to the randomly selected SMEs operating in Turkey. The researchers collected the e-mail addresses of SMEs from several chambers of Turkey that are located in different regions of Türkiye. Thus, the researcher employed a stratified random sampling method that is based on seven geographical regions of Turkey. The researcher applied a purposive sampling method, as well. 479 firm executives who are managers or owners of SMEs have fulfilled the online survey that consists of various sections including entrepreneurial characteristics, firm-level, executive-level characteristics, firm performance, credit access, and relationship lending.

Corresponding to the sample profile, 143 respondents work for microenterprises, while 204 and 132 survey participants work for small and medium-sized enterprises, respectively. Moreover, the majority of respondents work in the manufacturing industry (246 respondents), while others work in the trade, service, and textile sectors (233 respondents). There are 400 male respondents, and 79 female respondents. 375 survey participants have a minimum bachelor's degree, and the remaining 104 participants' educational status is less than bachelor's degree. 353 managers and owners have more than 10 years of working experience, while 126 managers and owners have working experience of up to 10 years.

To evaluate the independent variable of the research model, namely, the financial performance of SMEs, the researcher directs a survey question to the respondents "Please evaluate the net profit of your business over the last 5 years?". The researcher also uses the following scale to measure the responses to this survey question "1-Declined significantly, 2-Declined somewhat, 3-Remained the same, 4- Improved somewhat, 5-Improved significantly". Profit or profit growth is a variable to measure the financial performance of SMEs (Rajamani et al., 2022: 73).

Moreover, the dependent variable of the research model, access to bank finance is measured by a dichotomous question (Yes, no). The question is "Did your firm receive credit from the last bank credit application?" Due to measuring the dependent variable by a dichotomous question, this paper employs the Binary Logistic Regression Test to analyze the impact of the independent variable on the dependent variable. Some researchers also employ Binary Logistic Regression analyses in their studies when analyzing the impacts of entrepreneurial-executive level characteristics (gender, education, experience) and firm performance on credit access (Singh et al., 2023: 1; Le & Stefańczyk, 2018: 145; Ahmad et al., 2022: 1).

The Binary Logistic Regression model is presented below:

Binary Logistic regression model: where: (1)

X1 – Independent variable (financial performance)

Y1 – Dependent variable (access to bank finance)

B1 – Regression coefficients

$\beta 0$ – Constant or intercept term.

While gender is nominal, dichotomous data (male and female), experience and educational status of the executives are categorical and ranked data. The experience and educational status are classified into two categories more-less experienced, and more-less educated executives. The executives having more than 10 years of experience are called more experienced, while the others are classified as less experienced. On the other hand, executives having a minimum bachelor's degree are categorized as more educated, while others having less than bachelor's are classified as less educated.

The researcher performs all analyses via SPSS statistics. A 5% significance level is used to test hypotheses. In this regard, p values that are greater than this level make the researcher fail to support hypotheses while accepting the null hypotheses. Null hypotheses assume the fact that the impact of financial performance on credit access does not differ depending on executives' education, gender, and experience, respectively.

4. Empirical Findings and Discussions

Table 1 presents the results regarding performance, education, and access to finance. Wald statistic is considered by the researcher to investigate whether performance is a significant predictor variable to evaluate credit access of SMEs having less educated and more educated executives. Wald statistics measures whether the coefficients of the research model are significantly different from 0 and make significant contributions to the dependent variable (Field, 2009).

Table 1: The Results for Education, Performance, and Access to Finance

Status	Variable	β	SE	OR	95% CI	Wald Statistic	p-value
Less educated	Performance	0.396	0.162	1.485	[1.082 2.039]	5.982	0.014
	Constant	-0.204	0.518	0.816		0.154	0.694
Model-1 Access to finance = -0.204 + 0.396*performance							
More educated	Performance	0.436	0.103	1.547	[1.264 1.893]	17.930	0.000
	Constant	-0.186	0.401	0.831		0.214	0.644
Model-1 Access to finance = -0.186 + 0.436*performance							

Source: Own Processing. Note: β: Coefficient; SE: Standard Error; OR: Odds Ratio; 95% CI: Confidence Interval

According to Table 1, performance is a significant variable in predicting credit access of both SMEs with less educated and more educated executives (Less educated: $\beta = 0.396$, Wald $\chi^2 = 5.982$, $p= 0.014<0.05$; More educated: $\beta = 0.436$, Wald $\chi^2 = 17.930$, $p= 0.000<0.05$). Since both p values for Wald Statistic are lower than 5% significance level, the coefficients for performance in both samples do significantly differ from 0. For this reason, the impact of performance on credit access of SMEs does not differ depending on executives' education level. In this regard, this paper fails to support the H1 hypothesis. Moreover, an odd ratio that is greater than 1 represents the fact that the odds of access to finance are more likely to occur. Due to having odd ratios that are greater than 1 (Less educated: OR= 1.485; More educated: OR= 1.547), it can be stated that credit access of SMEs is more likely to occur when the volume of performance increases.

Table 2 is depicted below to show the impacts of performance on credit access of SMEs managed by female and male executives, While the performance is a significant predictor of access to finance for SMEs managed by male executives (Male: $\beta = 0.481$, Wald $\chi^2 = 27.731$, $p= 0.000<0.05$), it is not a significant predictor for credit access of SMEs managed by female executives (female: $\beta = 0.175$, Wald $\chi^2 = 0.610$, $p= 0.435>0.05$). For this reason, the impact of performance on access to finance differs depending on the executives' gender. In this regard, this paper supports the H2 hypothesis.

Table 2: The Results for Gender, Performance, and Access to Finance

Status	Variable	B	SE	OR	95% CI	Wald Statistic	p-value
Female	Performance	0.175	0.224	1.192	[0.768 1.850]	0.610	0.435
	Constant	0.883	0.867	2.419		1.038	0.308
	Model-1 Access to finance = 0.883 + 0.175*performance						
Male	Performance	0.481	0.091	1.618	[1.353 1.936]	27.731	0.000
	Constant	-0.412	0.340	0.662		1.471	0.225
	Model-1 Access to finance = -0.412 + 0.175*performance						

Source: Own Processing.

Since the odd ratio for "male" is higher than 1 (OR for male=1.618), SMEs managed by male executives become more likely to gain credit access when they have greater volume in performance. In other words, while the financial performance of SMEs managed by females does not provide credit access for them, the greater financial performance of SMEs having male executives receive credit access.

Concerning the experience, performance, and access to finance, the results are presented below in Table 3. While performance significantly predicts credit access of SMEs having more experienced executives (more experienced: $\beta = 0.510$, Wald $\chi^2 = 27.677$, $p= 0.000<0.05$), it does not predict credit access of SMEs managed by less experienced executives (less experienced: $\beta = 0.192$, Wald $\chi^2 = 1.181$, $p= 0.277>0.05$). Therefore, the influence of performance on credit access of SMEs differs regarding the experience of executives. For this reason, this research supports the H3 hypothesis.

As indicated in Table 3, the odd ratio for "more experienced" is higher than 1 (OR for more experienced=1.665). In this regard, SMEs having more experienced managers become more likely to access finance when indicating higher values from financial performance. Thus, while the financial performance of SMEs managed by more experienced executives is positively related to bank credit access, it does not affect the credit access of SMEs having less experienced executives.

Table 3: The Results for Experience, Performance, and Access to Finance

Status	Variable	β	SE	OR	95% CI	Wald Statistic	p-value
Less exp.	Performance	0.192	0.177	1.212	[0.857 1.714]	1.181	0.277
	Constant	0.775	0.690	2.171		1.262	0.261
	Model-1 Access to finance = 0.775 + 0.192*performance						
More exp.	Performance	0.510	0.097	1.665	[1.377 2.013]	27.677	0.000
	Constant	-0.515	0.357	0.597		2.076	0.150
	Model-1 Access to finance = -0.515 + 0.510*performance						

Source: Own Processing.

5. Discussion

As already declared in the results section, this study confirms the similarities and differences in the impact of firm performance on credit access of SMEs depending on executive-level characteristics. Concerning the education of executives, since the financial performance of SMEs led by both less and more educated executives positively affects credit access, no difference exists in the impact of financial performance on access to bank finance. Thus, this paper opposes the results of Van der Sluis & Van Praag (2008: 795) and Rauch & Rijsdijk (2013: 923) that express better financial performance and credit access of SMEs that are led by more educated executives. The reason why this paper confirms the similarities in the impact of financial performance of SMEs led by less and more educated executives might stem from the experience of workers. The differences between SMEs led by less and more educated respondents can be diminished with the experience that the executives have since the experience enables executives to make effective predictions and evaluations to increase firms' financial performance (Wetter & Wennberg, 2009: 30). Majority of the executives (353 respondents, 73.69% of entire sample) have more than 10 years working experience and this argument is also an important indicator to support this result.

Moreover, the impact of financial performance on bank credit access differs depending on the gender of executives. This result is compatible with the findings of Chaudhuri et al. (2020: 1165) and Rajamani et al. (2022: 73) which highlight better financial performance and higher credit access of SMEs led by male executives. On the other hand, this paper opposes the findings of Garwe & Fatoki (2012: 448) that substantiate the nonexistence of differences between credit access of SMEs led by female and male executives. The reason why this paper does not find a significant impact of the financial performance of female-led companies might be related to the fact that female executives usually work for small and young companies that might have lower financial performance that enables them to receive bank credit (Stefani & Vacca, 2015: 165).

When it comes to the experience of executives, differences exist between the impacts of financial performance on credit access of SMEs led by more experienced and less experienced SMEs. This result is compatible with the studies of Mayr et al. (2021: 539) and Nofsinger & Wang, (2011: 2282) that verify the positive impact of firm performance on credit access of SMEs led by more experienced executives. However, this result is not consistent with the study of Ahmad et al. (2022: 1) that validates the insignificant effect of experience on the relationship between performance and credit access of enterprises. Since the experience of owners makes them more effective when negotiating credit conditions with bank officers, they can gain trade loan access from credit suppliers (Fatoki & Odeyemi, 2010: 2763). This fact might be an argument to explain why this paper finds the differences in the impact of financial performance on credit access of SMEs led by more and less experienced firms' executives.

Financial literacy and self-confidence are crucial attitudes that executives need to have to increase the financial performance and credit access of SMEs that they work for. This is because financial literacy enables executives to make effective evaluations regarding financial conditions and to find financial opportunities for easier credit access and higher their firms' performance. On the other hand, self-confidence can make executives take riskier actions and not to afraid of being rejected for loan applications. In this regard, education and training that are created by the collaborations of universities, governments, and financial institutions are prerequisites for executives' success in the management of their companies, so companies' revenues, sales, and credit access. This education can also be provided to all executives to not only minimize gender differences in financing but also to provide fair opportunities for nascent and less educated entrepreneurs. Since the awareness and knowledge of executives increase through these educational activities, they can reduce the gap between their rivals and become more competitive.

6. Conclusion

Although access to bank credit is the main obstacle for SMEs, when the financial performance of enterprises increases, their income and sales reduce the credit obstacles that they face. However, the financial performance of SMEs can differ depending on executive-level characteristics such as education, gender, and experience. In this regard, this paper analyzes whether the impact of financial performance on credit access differs depending on those characteristics.

Within this context, the researcher employs the Binary Logistic Regression Test and analyzes 479 SMEs operating in Turkey. The results show that financial performance positively affects credit access of SMEs that are led by less-more educated, male, and more experienced executives. These results might be related to executive and firm-level characteristics including executives' negotiating power, the length of doing business, and operating small and young businesses.

This paper brings tangible and intangible resources and capabilities of Resource-based View (RBV) together, financial and human resources, respectively, and looks at the different impacts of those factors on bank credit access of SMEs. Since bank credit is the first choice of the majority of SMEs when looking for financing options, the examination of those factors in the credit access of SMEs brings new results into the entrepreneurship literature. Although this paper makes this contribution, it has some limitations. Financial performance of businesses is not evaluated by focusing on financial statements, thus, only the perceptions of firms' executives are considered to analyze this variable. Moreover, this study does not consider other financing opportunities for SMEs except bank financing. In this regard, further studies can analyze SMEs and larger companies' financial statements when evaluating the performance of businesses. Moreover, they can consider credit access of companies from venture capitalists and angel investors.

Contribution Statement of Researchers

The contribution to the study belongs to the author only.

Conflict of Interest Statement

There are no conflicts of interest with any institution or individual within the scope of this study.

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