

# Detective Accounting Controls on Financial Performance of Selected Smes in Bujumbura, Burundi

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.51244/IJRSI.2025.1210000293>

Received: 29 October 2025; Accepted: 05 November 2025; Published: 20 November 2025

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Small and medium-sized businesses are a major part of the global economy and they have widely recognized impact to the Burundian economy and have a wide range of job opportunities at around 85% and created substantial social benefits for Burundi. Small businesses in Burundi are mainly family-owned and contribute to bad products that do not count for the market because the lack of creative nature and skills is more common in these businesses. However, there are poor financial accounting procedures for SMEs in Burundi, as well as separate responsibilities and trust in an exaggerated percentage of workers which means that the poor performance of these Burundian Small and Medium Enterprises is attributed to mismanagement. The aim of the report was to determine the influence of detective accounting controls on financial performance of selected SMEs in Bujumbura city, Burundi.

**Materials & Methods:** The research used survey design. It adopted descriptive and inferential statistics and was guided by Consistency Theory, Stewardship Theory and Agency Theory. The target population was 1463 workers from the 10 selected companies in Bujumbura City, Burundi who are beneficiaries of the investment code identified by API for getting real information. The researcher utilized a representative sample of 314 workers. To gather data both closed and open-ended questions were involved. The findings were presented using tables and graphs. Research instruments' validity was ascertained through test re-test. Cronbach's alpha was utilized to test the internal coefficient of alpha exceeding 0.7 as accurate. Data has been analysed through inferential and descriptive statistics. For inferential statistics, Multiple regression as well as Pearson correlation were adopted

**Results:** The actual total ranking of Detective accounting controls in the selected SMEs in Bujumbura, Burundi had just been at 72.5% (mean=3.629, standard deviation=0.724) minor effect.

The standardized regression outcomes have been discovered most effective;  $\beta = 0.568$ ,  $t = 14.398$ ,  $p = 0.000 < 0.05$ ; Therefore, the findings showed that there was an overall favorable connection among both detective accounting controls and financial performance ( $r\text{-square} = 0.407 < 0.5$ ,  $p = 0.000 < 0.05$ ).

**Summary:** The analysis found a significant connection in both detective accounting controls and the financial performance of the small and medium sized enterprises in Bujumbura City, Burundi.

**Keywords:** Detective accounting controls, financial performance, SMEs, Burundi

## INTRODUCTION

Globally, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are like the backbone of economies across all the countries. The contribute to creation of jobs, employment, and play a vital role in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) economic development (Harash, 2017). In the last decade, the small and medium enterprises have become critically important to the global economy. They are not only regarded as vital for sustained growth in world economies, but also regarded as the principal driving force of economic development (Ntim, 2014). The global economy has been undergoing through rapid industrialization and all other development aims of nations can be realized through the SMEs. The increased government and other stakeholder efforts are what have seen the SMEs succeed worldwide, and especially in Africa (Nandom et al., 2017). Due to the significant contributions

to the economies of both the developed plus developing countries, SMEs have got a lot of international attention as well as importance in the past few years (Ntim, 2014).

Small and Medium-Sized businesses, regardless of dimensions, need only to grow and remain successful in the Market (Harash, 2017). However, as Burundi is a small landlocked country and the demand market is very small today to produce on a large scale and its recent past is characterized by political conflicts and insecurity, the search for suitable financial partners and institutional support are the main obstacles for small and medium-sized enterprises (Nandom et al., 2017). The growth of the Burundian private sector is extremely important because it has a major impact on economic development by creating jobs, new products and facilitating exports. There is no chance of exporting the surplus because neighboring countries have more population and better production costs. This is due to the increased cost of goods, so it is not easy to export these goods produced by small and medium-sized enterprises. In most cases, imports from the surrounding countries are cheaper than local production.

Small businesses in Burundi are mainly family-owned and contribute to bad products that do not count for the market because lack of creative nature and skills is more common in these businesses. However, there are poor financial accounting procedures for SMEs in Burundi, as well as separate responsibilities and trust in an exaggerated percentage of workers which means that the poor profitability of these SMEs in Burundi is attributed to mismanagement. And it is clear that Small businesses themselves have significant problems in achieving the desired quality due to the fact that there is no properly functioning and balanced financial system.

According to (Ntim, 2014), accounting controls provide interventions related to asset security and accounting and financial information reliability. External controls are external checks and according to (Lartey et al., 2020), internal checks relate to initiatives and procedures established and enforced by the board committees of the Corporation, to promote its operational performance, financial reporting, enforcement goals plus expectations of the main stakeholders with regard to the internal control systems. The AICPA (American Institute of Certified Public Accountants) notes that accounting control is the way to register, considerably identify and summarize in cash, transactions and activities that are partly profitable (CPA, 2014).

Detection tests are monitors intended to identify and reveal issues as a result of commitments like fraud, irregularities and errors (Nandom et al., 2017). These tests show a loss, but they do not prevent the loss. Measurements for detection include standard measure, examination, monitoring of unpredictability, interpretation, stockpiling and investigating. Facts almost never work and discourage in the absence of a difficult fine.

Oyelakin and Kandi (2017) stated that government actions directly and indirectly affect entrepreneurial growth. Government regulations and their bureaucratic processes can both impede and encourage industry. Governments have a significant part to play and make sure that business owners want to build new companies and are likely to be profitable through the rules, legislation, investments and other strategies. In other meanings, government policy can improve or otherwise improve business performance. According to (Regine Adele Ngono Fouda, 2012), the importation tax, the contingent limits and numerous other restrictive governmental provisions are fiscal policies designed to limit international trade and protecting the foreign control exercise on local markets as well as companies, as well as interventionism. A tax is a mandatory financial levy in exchange for a particular service by an administrative authority.

Profitability is the main problem of corporate performance in assessing possible measures to improve corporate efficiency (Suárez, 2016). In the sense of business management, financial success in the accomplishment of the objectives of an organization as well as in the measurement of productivity and effectiveness of individual activities are highly advised. Corporate governance has been extensively covered in several professional activities in the corporate sector over the years with the goal of improving working effectiveness through the use of technological advancement correlations (Kareem et al., 2019).

Nwobu et al., (2015) did a research on the role of SMEs accountancy control services on financial performance. The results showed that accountancy practices offer assistance relevant consultancy, technical and Professional support to SMEs. The findings showed that SSEs use accounting methods to enhance

transparency, appropriately analyze profitability and help level of satisfaction aims and targets. The researchers therefore used interviewees. The device was operated by hand to the owner and the manager of all SMEs in Festac-City, Lagos. As regards the difference, using a Social Sciences Statistical Package (SPSS) would be more successful in making a correct diagnosis.

In a research done by (Mbuva et al., 2018) in Kenya, through development of jobs available, advancement of technology and emergence of quality goods, small and medium sized business ventures make a significant contribution to organizational success. While their economic contribution is incontrovertible, a controversial debate has not yet been settled on particular factors affecting their success. This study aimed to evaluate how the environmental regulation impacts the efficiency of SME projects in the district of Machakos. The analysis showed that management's ideology and organizational styles affected financial results substantially.

In Burundi, SMEs assume a vital role on economic growth of the nation by creating new jobs, products, and companies across the country (Chanelle, 2013). Burundi's small- and medium-sized enterprises employ about 85 to 95% of the workforce, prepare entrepreneurs, increase income and generate earnings for most families on a poor income scale, which account for 10% of country's Gross Domestic Product (GBAD, 2019). The Burundian minor corporate industry therefore meets a variety of socioeconomic and external targets, notably reducing social inequality in the society, which is massively increasing pressures on territory, forcing engaged societies to reside in towns and cities with a purpose to gain paid employment. According to API (2019), Small enterprises of business sector play a significant role with their designs in the town of Bujumbura.

Observation of the number of jobs projected in 2017 by type of company shows that cooperative societies come first with 33% of jobs that should be created, closely followed (32%) by Single member companies. Burundi is classified as 42 for Business Establishment, 132 as Investor Protector, and 138 as Paying Taxes as stated by the Doing Business Report (2018). In Burundi, one of the lowest income countries in Africa, establishing SMEs is more important and Government supports investors upstream and downstream (API, 2019).

According to the Burundi Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (ISTEEBU) in 2018 report, the SMEs in Burundi are 8,459 in total including fishing, services provided to the community, social services and personal services. However, all over the world, developed countries rely on SMEs, the same as Burundi. In the annual report of Burundi Investment

Promotion Authority (API) (2019), a company that provides guidance, assistance and support investors from project design and throughout its implementation, visited 20 companies to see how they are progressing. This study will focus on ten companies chosen from those identified by API in the annual report by API (2019), and also in the documentary when API was doing the promotion of those companies by showing their products and services and by showing the contribution of the API in their support of investments and also show that investing in Burundi is possible and also profitable.

**Statement of the problem:** Accounting controls, in particular for the management of small and medium-size businesses throughout the world, have been recognized as crucial to quality improvement of the finance.

However, according to (GBAD, 2019) Burundi has no national qualification in public accounting. The accounting policies for the various industry markets that exist are not IFRS-compliant (GBAD, 2019). Burundi, neither by an independent body, nor within the profession, intended to follow practitioners of audit, examination of income reports, in addition to various medical coverage initiatives and associated activities (Tuna Hussein, 2018).

Consequently, in the absence of a mechanism to classify them, practitioners who do not comply with the laws and codes of ethics in place are not penalized. As a result, the degree of satisfaction to accounting controls is typically considered to be poor. Regarding financial performance, profits realized and even companies' assets are very low thus leading to poor performance of SMEs in Bujumbura city, Burundi. According to the worldwide economic forum 2018, Burundi occupies 125th out of 135 countries, with a score of 3.21 out of 7, emphasizing that the progress of Burundi businesses is influenced by variables like market dimensions, awareness to developments, result of the changes procurements, and economic expansion. As a result, the

purpose of this investigation was to evaluate the impact of detective accounting controls on financial performance among the selected SMEs in Bujumbura, Burundi.

**Purpose of research:** The main purpose was to establish the influence of detective accounting controls on financial performance of selected SMEs in Bujumbura City, Burundi.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Research design:** The descriptive research design was used because it aims to gather qualitative and quantitative information to make clear accounting controls plus financial performance attributes inside designated SMEs in Bujumbura City, Burundi.

**Target population:** The targeted respondents incorporated 1463 employees in the Bujumbura City, Burundi SMEs.

**Sampling procedure and sample size:** The analysis used stratified simple random samples from 1463 employees among the SMEs in Bujumbura City, Burundi. The electorate was split into ten groupings (businesses), with every grouping (firm) thought to have employees with similar features because they function in the identical surroundings. A representative sample of 314 workers was used by the scientist. A survey was distributed to the chosen employees of SMEs in Bujumbura City, Burundi with use of the four consultants.

**Research Tool:** The study used a well-structured questionnaire to obtain information from the sampled laborers of the chosen SMEs in Bujumbura City, Burundi and questionnaire contained both open-ended and closed ended questions and statements.

**Data Analysis:** Descriptive statistics were mainly employed in order to analysis trends in the studies and to describe the patterns in the responses, including the central tendency measuring devices, mode and median, as well as the variability measures such as standard deviation plus variance. For inferential statistics, Pearson Correlation analysis, linear regression analysis, and moderation analysis were used. To assess the resilience and effect of the association among accounting controls as well as financial performance of picked SMEs in Bujumbura City, Burundi, the Pearson Correlation ( $r$ ) was used.

## RESULTS

### Response Rate

The researcher administered 314 surveys at irregular intervals to investigate participants who were personnel of chosen SMEs in Bujumbura, Burundi. Just 302 of the 314 chosen respondents underwent and returned the surveys, yielding a response rate of 96.18% (see table 4.1).

**Table 4.1: Response Rate**

No	Name of the Company	Sample size	Response Count	Sample size
1	RAFINA	39	38	97.43%
2	Modern Dairy Burundi	54	48	88.88%
3	Musumba Steel	43	40	93.02%
4	PACOBUR	33	32	96.97%
5	TLLINNO	29	29	100.00%
6	Garden Hotel	18	18	100.00%
7	Martha Hotel	12	12	100.00%
8	Kiriri Garden Hotel	36	35	97.22%

9	Kangaroo Hotel	30	30	100.00%
10	Tanganyika Lakes\'S Group	21	21	100.00%
<b>Total</b>		<b>314</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>96.18%</b>

### Demographic Characteristics.

The demographic details of the participants included; respondent's age, gender, and highest education level attained. The findings were as projected in figure 4.4.

### Gender of the Respondent

The respondents' gender is described as exhibited in table 4.2.

**Table 4.2.** Gender of the Respondents

Gender	Count response	Percentage response
Male	197	65%
Female	105	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>100%</b>

The discoveries shows that 65% were male while female were 35%; this indicates that both genders were involved in the study thus ensuring gender inclusivity in the study.

### Age of the Respondent

The respondents age distribution is described in table below.

**Table 4.3.** Age of the Respondents

Age	Count response	Percentage response
Less than 25 years	34	11%
26-35 years	84	28%
36-45 years	133	44%
Above 45 years	51	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>100%</b>

The discoveries of table 4.3 reveals that most of the respondents 44% were of the age between 36 to 45 years, 28% were of the age between 26 to 35 years, 17% were of the age above 45 years and the least 11% were of the age below 25 years. These results indicate that majority of the participants were mature enough to give reliable data.

### Respondents' Level of Education

The respondents were asked to state their highest education level and the discoveries were as exhibited in table below.

**Table 4.4.** Highest level of education among the Respondents

Age	Count response	Percentage response
Primary Level	0	0%



Secondary Level	0	0%
Diploma Level	121	40%
University Degree	181	60%
<b>Total</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>100%</b>

The discoveries of table 4.4 shows that most of the participants 60% were University graduates, 40% were having Diploma as the highest level of education. None of the participants were of the primary nor secondary education. These results indicate that the respondents were well educated to read, understand and well articulate the concept of the research content thus able to give reliable information.

### Respondent's Period of Working with their Current Enterprises

The respondents were required to mention how long they had worked with the organization by the time of the study and the discoveries were as exhibited in table below.

**Table 4.5.** Respondents' Years of Working with their organization.

Age	Count response	Percentage response
1-5 years	58	19%
6-10 years	174	58%
11-15 years	42	14%
16 years and above	28	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>100%</b>

The discoveries of table 4.5 exhibits that majority of the participants 58% had worked with their current enterprise for 6 to 10 years, 14% had worked for 11 to 15 years, 9% had worked for over 15 years while only 19% had worked with it for less than 5 years. These results indicate that majority of the participants had enough years of experience with the company thus were in a position to give information that reflects the true situation of the respective enterprises.

### Descriptive Statistics

The investigation aimed to evaluate the dissemination and trend of selected respondents by employing frequency components, proportions, and necessarily imply as statistical method, and standard error and confidence

interval as dispersion measurement.

### Financial Performance of Selected SMEs in Bujumbura City, Burundi

The purpose of the research was to evaluate summary analysis for secondary and primary information on financial performance between smallest and medium enterprises in Bujumbura, Burundi. A secondary data was collected on the Return on Assets (ROA) of the SMEs. The scientist collected primary data by asking participants to assess the effectiveness of their businesses amongst listed Firms in Bujumbura City, Burundi. The outcomes are summarized in tables 4.6 and 4.9 .

**Table 4.6: Descriptive Summaries of ROA**

	R.O.A		
Institution	Mean %	Std. dev.	Std. Error
Garden Hotel	11.804	2.388	1.068
Kangaroo Hotel	9.620	1.137	.508

Kiriri Garden Hotel	17.809	1.925	.861
Martha Hotel	11.407	1.140	.510
Modern Dairy Burundi	14.006	4.636	2.073
Musumba Steel	11.203	1.304	.583
PACOBU	9.827	2.583	1.155
RAFINA	12.832	4.441	1.986
Tanganyika Lakes\`S Group	10.218	2.389	1.068
TLLINNO	8.816	1.923	.860
<b>Overall</b>	<b>11.754</b>	<b>3.490</b>	<b>.494</b>

From table 4.6, the overall average ROA value was 11.754% (Std. dev = 3.490, Std. Error = 1.068); this indicates that on average, every Burundian Francs that SMEs in Bujumbura City, Burundi invest in their assets generates 11.754 cents of net income. The most performing SME among the selected SMEs was Kiriri Garden Hotel with ROA= 17.890 (Std. dev = 1.925, Std. Error = 0.861). This indicates that Kiriri Garden Hotel was the best in converting its investments into profits compared to the other nine selected SMEs in Bujumbura, city; it seems that its management is good at making wise decisions in allocating resources to maximize profits. The least performing SME among the selected SMEs was TLLINNO with ROA= 8.816 (Std. dev = 3.490, Std. Error = 0.494). This indicates that TLLINNO was the least in converting its investments into profits compared to the other nine selected SMEs in Bujumbura city; it seems that its management is not good at making wise decisions in allocating resources to maximize profits. The overall ROA value was 11.754% (Std. dev = 3.490, Std. Error = 1.068) as shown in table 4.6; this indicates that on average, every Burundian Francs that SMEs in Bujumbura City, Burundi invest in their assets generates 11.754 cents of net income. This indicates that most of the SMEs in Bujumbura city, Burundi have not been very good at converting its investments into profits.

**Table 4.7: Descriptive Statistics for Financial Performance of the Selected SMEs.** Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1, Disagree (D) = 2, Somehow Agree (SMA) = 3, Agree (A) = 4, and Strongly Agree (SA) = 4.

Statement		SD	D	SMA	A	SA	Mean	Std. dev
The profits of the company have been increased over the years.		13	19	126	97	47	3.483	.974
		2	6%	42%	32%	16%		
The number of employees has grown tremendously.		16	19	79	153	35	3.570	.961
		5%	6%	26%	51%	12%		
My firm's Return on Assets has increased over time.		89	19	73	49	72	2.987	1.538
		29%	6%	24%	16%	24%		
Work organization is efficient		14	91	35	60	102	3.480	1.346
		5%	30%	12%	20%	34%		
Employees' salaries have increased in the years		13	16	105	133	35	3.533	.921
		4%	5%	35%	44%	12%		
Value added per employee is well above the company's production average		24	25	81	127	45	3.477	1.093
		8%	8%	27%	42%	15%		
Average level of Organization performance	Mean(%Mean)	Std. Dev.		Std. Error of mean		Minimum		Maximum
	3.422 (68%)	.644		.037		1.667		5.000

The outcome of table 4.7 reveals that most of the respondents, 42% and 32% somehow agree and agree respectively that the profits of the company have been increased over the years.; this was supported with a mean of 3.485 (std. dev. = 0.974) rated moderate. Similarly, most of the participants, 51% agree that the number of employees of their respective companies had been increasing over the years with a mean of 3.570 (std. dev.=0.961) rated moderate.

The SMEs in Bujumbura City, Burundi seem not to be performing well as shown by most of the respondents, 29% and 24% who strongly disagree and somehow agree respectively that returns on assets of their respective companies had been increasing over years; this was also backed by the average mean of 2.987 (std. dev. = 1.538) rated moderate. Also, 42% of the participants agree that the contribution made per worker is significantly higher than the manufacturing estimate of their chosen organization. However, return on assets seem to have not been increasing as revealed by majority of the respondents, 29% was strongly disagreed. Also, work organization some of the companies seem not efficient as shown by majority of the respondents, 30% (see table 4.7).

The entire set of financial performance of specific small and medium enterprises in Bujumbura City, Burundi was minor effect at 68% (mean=3.422, standard deviation =0.644). (see table 4.6). This indicates that the majority of the designated SMEs in Bujumbura City, Burundi, are doing reasonably well. As a result, the research looked into the indicators affecting SMEs in Bujumbura City, Burundi, not to operate well.

### Detective Accounting Controls among the Selected SMEs in Bujumbura, Burundi

The study intended to assess the degree of adoption of detective accounting controls in the listed small and medium businesses in Bujumbura City, Burundi. The participants were required to rate the detective accounting controls levels in their respective SMEs and the experimental findings were as shown in table 4.8.

**Table 4.8: Descriptive Statistics for Detective Accounting Controls**

Strongly Disagree (SD) = 1, Disagree (D) = 2, Somehow Agree (SMA) = 3, Agree (A) = 4, and Strongly Agree (SA) = 4.

Statement	SD	D	SMA	A	SA	Mean	Std. dev
As a manager, I have learned how to effectively satisfy customers' needs by listening and monitor the unpredictability.	12	18	37	160	75	3.887	.978
	4%	6%	12%	53%	25%		
Monitoring processes has helped the company to achieve its goals quickly and efficiently.	5	98	68	51	80	3.341	1.228
	2%	32%	23%	17%	26%		
My company has established the standard measures to detect abnormalities in the accounting.	19	22	42	152	67	3.748	1.077
	6%	7%	14%	50%	22%		
Standard measures have helped my company to increase its profitability.	14	15	130	102	41	3.467	.949
	5%	5%	43%	34%	14%		
When interpreting financial statements in the company, we ascertain who the users of accounts are and what information they need.	14	10	118	91	69	3.632	1.018
	5%	3%	39%	30%	23%		
My company always keeps available the year-end financial statement and interpret it to the commercial tribunal clerk	8	18	126	55	95	3.699	1.059
	3%	6%	42%	18%	31%		
<b>Average level of Detective Accounting</b>	<b>Mean(%Mean)</b>		<b>Std. Dev.</b>	<b>Std. Error of mean</b>	<b>Minimum</b>		<b>Maximum</b>



Controls	3.629 (72.5%)	.724	.042	1.167	5.000
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The discoveries of table 4.8 exhibits that majority of the respondents, 53% concurred that they had learned how to effectively satisfy customers' needs by listening and monitor the unpredictability; this was backed by an average score of 3.887 (std. dev. = 0.978) rated high. Similarly, majority of the respondents 50% concurred that their companies had established the standard measures to detect abnormalities in the accounting; the corresponding mean score was 3.748 (std. dev. = 1.077) rated high. However, there seem to be laxity in monitoring the processes which has helped the company to achieve its goals quickly and efficiently as revealed by majority of the participants, 32% who disagreed that the monitoring processes had helped the company to achieve its goals quickly and efficiently; this was backed by the corresponding mean score of 3.341 (std. dev. = 1.228) rated moderate. Majority of the participants, 43% somehow concurred that standard measures had helped their respective companies to increase its profitability while 39% also somehow agreed that they figure out who the accounts users were and what information they required when interpreting financial statements in the companies; the corresponding supporting mean scores were 3.467 (std. dev. = 0.949) and 3.632 (std. dev. = 1.018) respectively rated moderate. Majority of the respondents, 43% also somehow concurred that their respective companies always keep available the year-end financial statement and interpret it to the commercial tribunal clerk; the corresponding supporting average score was 3.699 (std. dev. = 1.059) rated moderate.

The effective result of detective accounting controls in the chosen SMEs in Bujumbura, Burundi was small influence at 72.5% (mean=3.629, standard deviation =0.724). (see table 4.8). This indicates that most of the chosen SMEs are modest at best when it comes to implementing detective accounting controls. As a result, the research used linear regression analysis to determine whether an absence of efficient detective accounting controls impacts the financial performance of the chosen small and medium enterprises.

### Linear Regression of Detective Controls on Financial Performance of SMEs

The study's goal was to assess the influence of detective accounting controls on the financial performance of the chosen SMEs in Bujumbura City, Burundi. To accomplish the goal, the investigator aimed to examine the mentioned null hypothesis:

Detective Accounting Controls has no significant influence on the financial Performance of SMEs in Bujumbura City, Burundi.

The outcomes of hypothesis testing utilising simple linear regression were as indicated in table 4.9.

**Table 4.9: Linear Regression of Detective Accounting Controls on the Financial Performance of the SMEs in Bujumbura, Burundi**

Model Summary						
Model		r	r-square	Adjusted r-square	Std. Error of the Estimate	
1		.639 <sup>a</sup>	.409	.407	.49568	
a. Predictors: (Constant), Detective Accounting Controls b. Dependent Variable: Financial Performance						
ANOVA <sup>a</sup>						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	50.935	1	50.935	207.306	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	73.710	300	.246		

	Total	124.645	301			
a. Dependent Variable Financial Performance						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Detective Accounting Controls						
Coefficients <sup>a</sup>						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		β	Std. Error	Beta		
	(Constant)	1.360	.146		9.316	.000
	Detective Accounting Controls	.568	.039	.639	14.398	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Financial Performance						

Table 4.18 demonstrates that the Analysis of variance testing outcomes were substantial,  $F(1, 300) = 207.306$ ,  $P = 0.000$  0.05; this analysis indicates that the simple linear regression model was a better match in designing the linear relationship among detective accounting controls and the financial performance. The design explained 40.7% of the variance in financial performance of SMEs as noted by the adjusted r-square = 0.407. (see table 4.18).

The regression Coefficient outcomes were discovered to be important, as seen in table 4.18 ; = 0.568,  $t = 14.398$ ,  $p = 0.000$  0.05; thus, the study dismissed the null hypothesis and concluded that detective accounting controls had a high valid impact on the financial performance of SMEs. Detective accounting controls had a favorable formalized beta coefficient = 0.639 (see the coefficients outcomes of table 4.14); this implies that a component advancement in detective accounting controls was expected to enhance financial performance of the chosen SMEs by 63.9%.

The component was considered significant; =1.360,  $t = 9.316$ ,  $p = 0.000$  0.05 (see the coefficient outcomes of table 4.18); this demonstrates that, in addition to the detective accounting controls in the method, there are other variables that affect the organizational performance of the SMEs in Bujumbura, Burundi, that are not recorded in the method but instead in the research. The research revealed using the mentioned method to forecast the organizational performance of SMEs in Bujumbura, Burundi when provided the standard of detective accounting controls;

Financial Performance= 1.360 + 0.568 detective accounting controls The research results corroborate the outcomes by (Yoo *et al.*, 2018) where it was concluded that engineering the power has a good effect on market success and operational performance and that methodology plays the moderating role in the link at the corporate levels.

## DISCUSSION OF KEY FINDINGS

The detective accounting controls research examines whether an absence of efficient detective accounting controls affects the financial performance of the chosen SMEs in Bujumbura City, Burundi. As a result, the article examines the degree of acceptance of detective accounting controls in the city's chosen SMEs. Furthermore, the study showed that developing a component in detective accounting controls was most likely to enhance the financial performance of small businesses in Bujumbura, Burundi. Once more, the analysis revealed that, in addition to the detective accounting controls in the approach, there are other variables that affect the financial performance of small businesses in Bujumbura, Burundi that are not apprehended in the approach but rather in the research.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the research's discoveries, there is a strong association in both detective accounting controls and the financial performance of small businesses in Bujumbura City, Burundi. The regression coefficient findings are important, and detective control activities had a favorable formalized beta coefficient, indicating that a component advancement in detective accounting controls was expected to enhance the financial performance of small businesses in Bujumbura, Burundi. Furthermore, the component was discovered to be statistically substantial; thus, the research showed that, in addition to the detective accounting controls in the approach, there are other variables that affect the financial performance of small businesses in Bujumbura, Burundi that are not recorded in the concept but rather in the research. This research recommends all small businesses operating in Bujumbura City to adopt detective control mechanisms because they are critical for improving financial profitability performance without exposure to environmental stake.

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