



A Systematic Literature Review of the Challenges of Adopting and Implementing IFRS for SMEs in South Africa

Tlotlo Segotso, Jean Damascene Mvunabandi, Masibulele Phesa*

University of Kwazulu-Natal, Durban, Westville, South Africa. *Email: phesam@ukzn.ac.za

Received: 16 February 2024

Accepted: 27 June 2024

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32479/ijefi.16133>

ABSTRACT

The aim of this research was to conduct a systematic review of the existing literature regarding the difficulties associated with the adoption and implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs). Additionally, the study sought to propose strategies that could assist with mitigating the complexities relating to IFRS for SMEs adoption and implementation in South Africa. When analysing the related literature, the study employed the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method and followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta Analyses (PRISMA) guidelines. According to the inclusion criteria, the literature regarded as relevant related to studies published during 2017-2023. Furthermore, this study adopted the institutional theory due to its relevance in modelling the roles of regulators and SMEs in the adoption and implementation of IFRS for SMEs. The study found that the adoption and implementation of IFRS for SMEs presents several challenges, such as low level of education, costs related to the adoption, political pressures, and training and support by regulatory bodies as well as cultural dimensions. To overcome these obstacles, it is suggested that campaigns be used to raise recognition about the latter, providing extensive educational and regular training for accounting professionals. The study provides an insightful review of the challenges of IFRS for SMEs with specific attention on South Africa, informing the accounting standard setters, policymakers, and professional bodies of the accounting standards.

Keywords: International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities; Financial Reporting; Small and Medium-Sized Entities Challenges; Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-Sized Entities

JEL Classification: M4

1. INTRODUCTION

The international financial reporting standards for small and medium-sized entities (IFRS for SMEs) have developed on the international stage as a result of the growing demand for standardised accounting practises worldwide (Mvunabandi and Mbonigaba, 2023). This phenomenon might be attributed to the worldwide growth and incorporation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). In many countries, the role of SMEs is widely acknowledged mostly due to its substantial contribution to the economy in terms of technological innovation (Tsatsenko, 2020; Pais and Bonito, 2018), economic output, job creation process, and contribution towards a country's gross domestic product (GDP) (Kılıç and Uyar, 2017; Motsetse, 2015; Perera and Chand, 2015;

Radipere and Dhliwayo, 2014). Due to the recognition of these entities worldwide, their financial reporting needs were deemed necessary to be prioritised. For this reason, these entities' financial reporting needs were given more attention (Perera and Chand, 2015). As a result, IFRS for SMEs attained prominence as it is believed to be an accounting standard that could assist SMEs with global alignment of financial reporting.

As such, in 2004, the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) began formulating IFRS for SMEs specifically for the financial reporting needs of the SMEs (Rashid et al., 2018). According to Alon et al. (2022) and Watchman (2019) the main objective of this development was to offer a relevant and appropriate set of accounting standards that are streamlined, more

pertinent, and suitable for the needs of SMEs. To date, many countries worldwide has adopted IFRS for SMEs (Issam and Ibtissam, 2023).

Consequently, in the year 2007, South Africa became the first country globally, to adopt IFRS for SMEs in its original form (Mohamed et al., 2019). Accordingly, the move to adopt the IFRS for SMEs in South Africa was not only to ensure alignment with the international requirements of financial reporting but also to recognise the opportunities brought forward by this adoption within the business environment in South Africa (Schutte and Buys, 2011b). Furthermore, the adoption of this accounting standard was implied to be a strategic move towards the alignment of financial reporting of the SMEs with the requirements of international accounting standards (Coetzee and Schmulian, 2013). According to Ghio and Verona (2018), the IASB argues that the adoption of IFRS for SMEs is a conscious effort to enhance the comparability, reliability, and transparency of financial statements for the SMEs. Due to these benefits, the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) has always stood at the forefront of advocating for the use of this accounting standard because of its recognised potential associated with the transition and transformation of the entities' financial reports (Rudzani and Charles, 2016; Stainbank, 2010). Bayu and Hunde (2020) also added that this would advance the chances for SMEs to gain access to finance from banks and could potentially assist with attracting investors. Furthermore, because IFRS for SMEs is internationally recognised and harmonised, it could serve as a best practice to improve cross-border transactions and enhance global comparability (Bayu and Hunde, 2020; Hýblová, 2019).

Despite the above-mentioned advantages of IFRS for SMEs, the related challenges of adopting and implementing it cannot be overlooked. Various researchers reported numerous obstacles that prohibit the seamless process of implementing the IFRS for SMEs, such as lack of adequate skilled personnel, limited resources, lack of proper training and support from the professional bodies, and resistance to change by the accounting practitioners to align with the ongoing amendments of the accounting standard of this accounting standard (Krasniqi and Durguti, 2023; Nkansah-Sakyi, 2023; Wijekoon et al., 2023; Bakr and Napier, 2022; Vendy and Suahyati, 2022; Nguyen et al., 2021; Uddin et al., 2019; Warren et al., 2019; Rudzani and Charles, 2016). Moreover, issues relating to cultural factors, political issues, regulatory systems, and costs associated with implementing this accounting standard impact its adoption and implementation were identified (Sassi and Damak-Ayadi, 2022; Nguyen et al., 2021).

Furthermore, researchers argue that IFRS for SMEs may not sufficiently and adequately address the different needs and characteristics of the SMEs due to the differences in characters of these entities worldwide (Eluyela et al., 2019; Koppeschaar, 2012; Stainbank, 2011; Stainbank, 2008). Therefore, this signifies the need to conduct a study to assist with identifying the related challenges to IFRS for SMEs adoption and provide suggestions to ensure a seamless transition to IFRS for SMEs. To provide a better understanding of the topic at hand, conducting a literature study to comprehensively review and synthesise the existing literature on the

challenges of IFRS for SMEs adoption in South Africa was deemed empirical. Moreover, the institutional theory was adopted to further elaborate on how institutional factors impact the process of adopting IFRS for SMEs in South Africa. Noteworthy, South African SMEs experience various obstacles with the adoption and use of IFRS for SMEs. These obstacles include dynamic economic, legal, regulatory, and cultural issues (Bakr and Napier, 2022; Mhedhbi and Essid, 2022; Sadaka, 2022; Bautista-Mesa et al., 2019; Ghio and Verona, 2018; Pais and Bonito, 2018; Edeigba, 2017; Gassen, 2017). Inadequate professional body support, implementation costs, lack of IFRS awareness, and lack of skilled personnel complicate IFRS adoption in SMEs (Mvunabandi and Mbonigaba, 2023). Mohamed (2019) notes that while the use of a uniform accounting standard for SMEs' financial reporting is essential, the accounting practitioners of South Africa seem to disapprove of this accounting standard due to its complexity. According to the literature, IFRS for SMEs benefits international traders more than those not exposed to international markets. However, most South African SMEs are not internationally exposed (Mohamed, 2017).

This study sought to undertake a comprehensive literature review to identify and assess South African SMEs' challenges concerning to the adoption and implementation of IFRS for SMEs. This literature review identified and assessed IFRS for SMEs challenges, synthesised the findings, and linked them to institutional theory. This review also examined patterns, trends, and gaps in the literature to give SMEs in South Africa a complete picture of IFRS adoption and implementation challenges. In this regard, the study sought to answer the following research questions:

- What are the challenges that South African SMEs experience when adopting and implementing IFRS for SMEs?
- What intervention strategies can be adopted to address the barriers to adopting and implementing IFRS for SMEs in South Africa?

Some scholars recently suggest a design of a simplified, third-tier accounting standard specifically for the SMEs. This was after it was declared to be costly and complicated to adopt IFRS for SMEs (Kılıç et al., 2014). According to Mohamed (2017) the accounting regulators considered the suggestion, however, the idea was later discarded, and a guide to IFRS for SMEs was initiated instead. Additionally, the IASB reviews the accounting standards, where the users are invited to submit their comments for consideration during the standards amendments.

Following the years of publication of research on the phenomena and the recent amendments of the accounting standard, there still seems to be minimal consensus among the researchers on whether IFRS for SMEs should be considered an appropriate accounting standard for South African SMEs. This question is raised because the adoption rate of this accounting standard is still reflected to be very low in South Africa, despite it being the country, worldwide to adopt it (Botzem et al., 2017). Additionally, considering the significant role that SMEs play in the country's economy, gaining insights on their financial reporting, which is regarded as one of the major aspects that ensure their great performance and success, this study was therefore rendered to be of relevance.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In order for organisations to obtain the ongoing support that is essential for their continued existence from their stakeholders, they must comply with the societal norms of acceptable practice (Alshbili and Elamer, 2020; Biesenthal et al., 2018; Mbawuni, 2018; Aboagye-Otchere and Agbeibor, 2012).

Among these theories, researchers have affirmed the efficacy and credibility of the institutional theory in providing a more comprehensive explanation and interpretation of accounting activities (Mvunabandi, 2023; Sappor et al., 2023; Sassi and Damak-Ayadi, 2022; Bakr & Napier, 2020; Damak-Ayadi et al., 2020; Sellami and Gafsi, 2018; Mohamed, 2017; Aboagye-Otchere and Agbeibor, 2012). Furthermore, the theory encompasses the agency or the principal agent model (Lægreid, 2017). This study adopted the institutional theory as a theoretical framework to delve into the possible challenges and benefits regarding IFRS for SMEs adoption and application by SMEs in South Africa.

According to Kurpayanidi (2021) institutions are considered to be the agents' resources and rational actors to achieve their objectives. Institutions refer to the established rules, conventions, and laws created by humans that shape and limit the behavior of individuals in society, ensuring that social interactions are predictable and meaningful (Osinubi, 2020; Lewis et al., 2019). Based on the institutional theory, nations that implement IFRS for SMEs will obtain certain valid advantages inside the institutional framework of the IASB (Agana et al., 2023; Bakr and Napier, 2020; Lewis et al., 2019; Wazzan and Wazzan, 2019; Mbawuni, 2018; Ramanna and Sletten, 2014). Therefore, the institutional theory helps us comprehend why some countries, like South Africa, would adopt and follow the accounting principles of IFRS for SMEs for financial reporting.

Preparing financial records is one of the most important tasks that entities must perform in order to enhance the performance of the business (Xolmirzaev et al., 2021). Kimmel et al. (2020) emphasise that using proper accounting practices for keeping records could assist with the prompt creation of financial statements, and decision-making could also be positively affected. Inrawan et al. (2021) also confirm that the SMEs' accounting information has a constructive relationship between the entity's endurance and performance. Therefore, it could be concluded that preparing proper accounting records is essential for the positive outcome of businesses because it allows the entity to have precise information on which decisions can be made (Baratovna, 2022). Thus, it is imperative for the owner/managers to maintain proper financial reports for the survival and enhancement of the business performance. This can also assist with taxation compliance, budgeting, and forecasting, providing investors and lenders with accurate information (Weygandt et al., 2020). Transparency and comparability are vital aspects of financial reporting for SMEs. Transparent financial reporting builds trust with stakeholders and enables potential investors, creditors, and partners to make informed decisions. In recent years, the increasing globalisation of SMEs has led to the need for harmonisation of accounting standards to enhance cross-border comparability. Standard setting

bodies and regulators are working towards achieving this objective (Edeigba, 2017).

Many SMEs may opt for cash-basis accounting, especially in the early stages, as it is simpler and easier to implement. However, as the business grows, it may need to transition to accrual-basis accounting for more accurate financial reporting. Notes to the financial statements, the balance sheet, the income statement, and the cash flow statement are frequently included in the financial statements prepared by SMEs. These statements are crucial for understanding the company's financial health and performance. Furthermore, Gardi et al., (2021) mentioned that financial reporting for SMEs is essential for decision-making and providing stakeholders with relevant and reliable information about the company's financial performance and position. Moreover, SMEs often have limited resources and face unique challenges in preparing financial statements (Klein and Todesco, 2021).

According to the IASB, The IFRS for SMEs is a simplified version of full IFRS, designed to meet the needs of non-publicly accountable entities with reduced disclosure requirements (Poole et al., 2019). Another significant framework is the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), which varies by country and region (Aziz, 2023; Hussain, 2022; Salah, 2020; Toudas, 2018; Walter, 2017). Different countries have specific accounting standards for SMEs to cater to local regulatory requirements. For instance, in the US, they have US GAAP (Toudas, 2018); in Nigeria, they have Nigeria GAAP (Nurudeen et al., 2022); in Ghana, they have GAAP of Ghana (Okoye and Nwoye, 2018); and in South Africa, there is SA GAAP (Smith et al., 2021).

As mentioned above, regulators and governments recognise the significance of SMEs in their economies and may offer exemptions or reduced reporting requirements for certain entities. These initiatives aim to reduce the compliance burden on smaller businesses. Apart from IFRS for SMEs and local GAAPs, some countries have specific financial reporting frameworks tailored explicitly for micro-entities, the smallest class of SMEs. For instance, the United Kingdom (UK) has implemented a Financial Reporting Standard for Micro-entities (FRS 105). Some countries, such as the European Union (EU) member states, have introduced a common framework called the EU Accounting Directive for the SMEs. This directive allows companies to prepare simplified financial statements under specific conditions. Another key consideration for SME financial reporting is the Accounting Standards Update (ASU) for private companies issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) in the United States.

Considering the differences that may occur as a result of using different financial reporting standards, it is for this reason that the development of IFRS for SMEs is recommended to alleviate differences of the financial reports and to enhance the comparability and quality (Gardi et al., 2023). Consequently, the recent increase in the globalisation of SMEs in recent years has led to the need for harmonising the accounting standards to increase cross-border comparability of the financial statements amongst businesses (Kiaupaite-Grušniene and Alver, 2019).

Furthermore, the IASB has confidence that preparing financial reports using an international accounting standard would be helpful to SMEs concerning increased opportunities to obtain financial assistance from lenders (Perera et al., 2023). Moreover, using this accounting standard would enhance transparency and comparability of the financial reporting for SMEs (Krawczyk, 2021). Roszkowska (2020) added that transparent financial reporting builds trust with stakeholders and enables potential investors, creditors, and partners to make informed decisions. As a result, the standard-setting bodies and regulators are working towards achieving this objective.

Amongst the challenges SMEs face with regards to financial reporting is the lack of qualified accounting personnel and expertise (Mbatha and Ngibe, 2017). Often, these companies rely on external accountants or financial consultants to ensure compliance with reporting standards (De Bruyckere et al., 2017). Technology plays a significant role in facilitating financial reporting for SMEs. Cloud-based accounting software and digital tools help streamline bookkeeping, accounting processes, and financial statement preparation. These updates aim to simplify reporting requirements for private entities. The importance of SMEs in the global economy has led to increased attention to their financial reporting practices. Standardsetting bodies, such as the IASB, are actively working on improving and updating the IFRS for SMEs. Since the needs of SMEs pertaining to financial reporting may vary depending on their size, industry, ownership structure, and legal form (Antonelli et al., 2017), it is essential for regulators and standard-setting bodies to consider these factors when designing reporting requirements. In some cases, SMEs may prepare financial statements solely for internal use, and the level of disclosure may be limited compared to what is required for external reporting (Gassen, 2017).

Despite efforts to simplify reporting for SMEs, some critics argue that existing frameworks may still be too complex and resource-intensive for smaller entities. Calls for further simplification and tailoring to SME needs continue. SMEs are encouraged to stay updated with changes in financial reporting standards and regulations to ensure compliance and effective communication with stakeholders. The importance of accurate and transparent financial reporting for SMEs cannot be overstated. It does not only aid in attracting potential investors and creditors but also supports the growth and sustainability of these vital contributors to the global economy. IFRS for SMEs and full IFRS are two sets of accounting standards developed by the IASB (Wijekoon et al., 2023; Bakr and Napier, 2022) for financial reporting purpose of entities. Those entities classified as public are recommended to use full IFRS, the small entities, also referred to as SMEs, are recommended to use IFRS for SMEs. These sets of standards aim to provide consistent financial reporting across countries (Weygandt et al., 2018; Kiliç and Uyar, 2017). Arafat et al. (2020) add that the difference between full IFRS and IFRS for SMEs is noted in their scope. The full IFRS entails various sections, such as leasing, fair value measurement, financial instruments as well as revenue recognition (Vardiashvili and Maisuradze, 2017).

Another notable difference is the level of detail provided in each set of standards. Although the objective of both full IFRS and IFRS for SMEs is to provide transparency and comparable

financial reports worldwide, they still differ in terms of scope, level of detail, and disclosure requirements. Therefore, adopting and implementing any of these standards depends on various aspects such as the company size, complexity of operations, and level of public accountability. Moreover, entities should carefully consider their specific circumstances to determine which set of standards is most applicable for their needs. Therefore, consistent with the current study, the applicability of the IFRS for SMEs was also discussed to determine the relevance of this accounting standard.

IFRS for SMEs has been widely adopted by numerous countries in both developed and developing nations to establish uniform international accounting principles and financial reporting practices (Sappor et al., 2023; Bakr and Napier, 2020; Owolabi and Izang, 2020; Bautista-Mesa et al., 2019; Mbawuni, 2018; Nurunnabi, 2017). Various authors (Mohamed et al., 2019; Zahid and Simga-Mugan, 2019; Sellami and Gafsi 2018; Mohamed, 2017) contend that the possible reasons for the early adoption may be because South Africa does not have sufficient capacity to produce its own standards. Zahid and Simga-Mugan (2019) further mentioned that countries that have lower levels of regulatory efficiency, market openness, and economic growth are less likely to implement IFRS for SMEs at an earlier stage.

Conversely, Aboagye-Otchere and Agbeibor (2012) added that most SMEs in developing nations have limited involvement in international trade; therefore, IFRS for SMEs implementation is found to be irrelevant. Alon and Dwyer (2016) extend this debate further by adding that in the latter half of the 20th century, there has been a growing internationalization of financial and commercial settings. Consequently, the regulation of non-harmonized accounting standards inside a country posed a hindrance to trade and investment. However, the IASB emphasises that entities required to adopt the IFRS for SMEs are those entities that “do not have public accountability, and their debt or equity instruments are not traded in a public market” (Tackie, 2017). Although the adoption of IFRS for has significant benefits in producing high-quality financial reporting in EU countries (Yusrina et al., 2017), most countries in the EU and Canada have not yet adopted the IFRS for SMEs due to its complexity and the inconsistencies that exist between the national accounting standards and IFRS for SMEs (Perera and Chand, 2015). For these reasons, Batrancea et al. (2018) argue that since the development of IFRS for SMEs was based on extracting the content of full IFRS with removal of certain aspects, SMEs will always experience difficulties regarding adopting and implementing this standard. As a result, the adoption of IFRS for SMEs could be regarded as a macro-level decision as the decision of adopting the IFRS for SMEs depends on the national accounting standard setters. Based on this discussion, it is evident that the implementation of IFRS for SMEs has presented additional challenges for SMEs in complying with accounting regulations (Schutte and Buys, 2011a). Accordingly, this signifies the institutional theory elementary.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study uses systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) as the methodology. PRISMA guideline assists in entailing defining the study's purpose, reading the literature, screening, selecting pertinent papers, and evaluating and reporting the findings to

ensure quality and rigour (Rajkoomar et al., 2022; Chatzigeorgiou and Andreou, 2021), minimising bias by following a transparent methodology, ensuring objectivity and credibility (Niazi, 2015). This is a preferred reproducible, scientific, and transparent approach (Booth, 2016). The study used secondary data from peer-reviewed literature, online sources, and reliable government reports. Moreover, the data analysed for this study focused on the relevant literature addressing the following:

- Adoption and implementation of IFRS for SMEs
- IFRS for SMEs benefits and challenges
- IFRS for SMEs.

The selected studies were analysed for relevance as presented in Table 1. The data was collected through various databases such as ScienceDirect, Sabinet, Scopus, and Springer. These databases were accessed using Google Scholar as the main search engine. During the search, various themes were developed to assist the researcher in gathering all the relevant information.

3.1. Step 1: Data Identification

Studies on written in English were considered, due to During the search, only studies written in English published from 2017 up to 2023, with the search terms “SMEs” and “IFRS for SMEs,” were considered. Non-English related articles were not considered due to lack of time and extreme costs associated with conversion from other languages to English (Matenda et al., 2021). All studies not written in English, published before the year 2017, that did not address IFRS for SMEs and its impact on SMEs were excluded. For the researcher to be able to critically assess the quality of primary studies, more detailed criteria should be provided.

3.2. Step 2: Screening Articles

The initial search retrieved 235 publications, which were reduced to 111 after 124 publications were removed (50 were duplications, 30 were deemed ineligible, and the other 44 were excluded due to failure to meet the eligibility criteria). The researcher critically evaluated the original studies’ quality against more specific criteria (de Ruijter et al., 2020). The articles were read from the title of the article, followed by the abstract of the article. Lastly, the conclusion of the article. This process was done on each article that had met the inclusion criteria. All the potentially relevant publications were accessed in full-text format. The publications underwent screening to only include articles, book chapters, and conference papers before a total of 111 full-text publications were eligible for further assessment. Figure 1 for illustration.

A final 37 papers were included for review, as shown in Figure 1 and Table 2. Conflicting decisions were resolved, and the PRISMA was used to guide the reporting of the review (Figure 1).

3.2.1. Identification and selection articles

Figure 1 below is a PRISMA structure outlining the process followed for review and presentation.

3.3. Step 3: Eligibility

Based on the studies evaluated for eligibility, 111 were discovered by subtracting the 124 rejected records following endorsement from the 235 articles examined. Articles that were not eligible

for inclusion in the study either presented an incorrect setting or place or did not respond to the research questions.

3.4. Step 4: Studies Included

A total number of 111 studies on IFRS for SMEs adoption and implementation challenges and benefits were identified during the literature search. Various methods covered by these studies include mixed methods (qualitative and quantitative), qualitative studies, questionnaires, secondary data, etc. During the review of the studies, each study was analysed by title, key themes, country of publication, method of study, databases, theoretical framework, objectives, and the findings of each study. These studies were conducted in the subject area of challenges and benefits relating to adopting and implementing IFRS for SMEs and employed various research methods. Moreover, studies deemed relevant for this current study were then categorised into groups according to key themes as follows:

- Challenges of IFRS for SMEs adoption and implementation
- Benefits of IFRS for SMEs adoption and implementation.

Following the evaluation of the eligibility of the 111 articles, 74 of the studies did not meet the inclusion criteria and were thus eliminated. Therefore 37 publications that were part of the study as the final step in the process. Table 1 below provides a concise overview of the information pertaining to the studies that were chosen for the review.

4. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The financial reporting landscape of South Africa has significantly changed since the country adopted IFRS for SMEs. However, there are challenges that South African small and mediumsized businesses must deal with, including economic, legal, regulatory, and cultural issues, inadequate professional body support, implementation costs, a lack of IFRS knowledge, and a lack of skilled staff. The challenges encountered by South African SMEs when adopting and implementing IFRS for SMEs are discussed extensively. Secondly, suggested intervention strategies that can be adopted to address the SME barriers to adopting and implementing IFRS for SMEs in South Africa.

4.1. Challenges of IFRS for SMEs Adoption and Implementation

The development of IFRS for SMEs was meant to solve their financial reporting needs by serving as a simplified set of accounting standards specifically for them. However, numerous studies have discovered barriers that make it difficult for SMEs to adopt and implement this accounting standard. Similarly, Durguti and Arifi (2021) conducted a study to determine the challenges regarding IFRS for SMEs in Kosovo. Their study noted that professional accountants emphasised their concerns about the ongoing changes in IFRS for SMEs. They mentioned that apart from presenting an additional psychological burden on them, it also added costs associated with attaining training on IFRS for SMEs. Moreover, their study also discovered that the accounting professionals’ and auditors’ educational backgrounds impact IFRS for SMEs adoption and implementation. Contrary to the findings of the study above, Ram and Newberry (2017) suggested that training and workshops on

Table 1: Summary of literature review

No.	Authors	Title	Method of study	Key findings
1.	(Adekanmi et al., 2021)	IFRSs (IFRS) and small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) Sustainability in Nigeria	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounting experts and SME owners believe that the adoption of IFRS by SMEs is beneficial for assessing the long-term viability of these businesses. While the application of IFRS for SMEs may come with a financial burden, it would improve the comparability of financial statements and contribute to the long-term viability of SMEs.
2.	(Akintelu et al. 2021)	Firms attributes and financial reporting among SMEs in Nigeria	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study revealed that the success of SMEs is influenced by key features of their financial reporting, including the amount of capital spent, the number of workers, and the experience of the firm owners.
3.	(Adams and Mueller, 2022)	Academics and policymakers at odds: The case of the IFRS foundation trustees' consultation paper on sustainability reporting	Secondary data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results of our study indicate that most academic responses in opposition to the IFRS Foundation's Consultation Paper referenced pertinent peer-reviewed research to bolster their argument.
4.	(Adhana, 2020)	Convergence of IFRSs (IFRS) in Indian accounting curriculum	Secondary data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While some studies have shown an improvement in the quality of as a result of IFRS adoption, others have presented mixed, unclear, or even negative results. Universities, accounting firms, and professional bodies have a crucial role in equipping graduates for accounting careers, providing training for educators and researchers, and addressing the professional development requirements of practitioners.
5.	(Alon et al., 2022)	Multi-mode standardisation and comparability: Norway's failed attempt to adopt the IFRS for SMEs	Secondary data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The adoption of the IFRS by SMEs as a universal framework may obscure the unique characteristics of these organizations by requiring them to adhere to the same standards as unrelated businesses.
6.	(Amoah et al., 2022)	Enhancing SME contribution to economic development: A perspective from an emerging economy	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The findings indicate that SMEs play a crucial role in driving economic growth, contributing significantly to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employing a large portion of the workforce.
7.	(Arhin et al., 2017)	The challenges of adopting and implementing IFRS for SMEs in Ghana: The case of SMEs in the Kumasi metropolis	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study discovered that IFRS for SMEs adoption and implementation among SMEs is very low. Furthermore, study found that SMEs adopting the IFRS face challenges such as insufficient skills, lack of support from regulatory bodies, complexity of the standard, and high implementation costs.
8.	(Bakr and Napier, 2020)	The adoption of the IFRS for small and medium-sized entities IFRS for SMEs in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Qualitative semistructured interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation of IFRS and IFRS for SMEs in KSA faced challenges, including new and complex treatments, lack of specialized training, and additional costs that SMEs were unwilling or unable to incur.
9.	(Bakr and Napier, 2022)	Adopting the IFRS for small and medium-sized entities in Saudi Arabia	Qualitative semistructured interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the findings of the study, there is sufficient professionals who are well equipped to assist with the adoption and implementation of IFRS for SMEs, however the religion logic seemed to challenge this rather consensual position, with at one respondent expressing vociferous opposition to IFRS as importing religiously unacceptable notions such as interest into financial reporting.
10.	(Pais and Bonito, 2018)	The macroeconomic determinants of the adoption of IFRS for SMEs	Secondary data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the findings of their study, they mentioned that it could be possible that the reduced costs of developing their own financial accounting standards are the reason why countries without a national set of standards are more likely to adopt IFRS for SMEs. As a result, these countries also have a common legal system and permit or require the use of full IFRS for listed companies.
11.	(BS, 2023)	A Study on opportunities and challenges to the corporate sectors in India for the implementation of IFRS	Qualitative descriptive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respondents strongly believe that IFRS promotes accounting technique standardization and transparency and believe IFRS is more convenient than outdated accounting rules. Nearly 55% of respondents believe IFRS enhances financial statement dependability and simplifies accounting information. Respondents found IFRS accounting system to simplify and be reliable for complex accounting standards.

(Contd...)

Table 1: (Continued)

No.	Authors	Title	Method of study	Key findings
12	(Durguti and Arifi, 2021)	Challenges and difficulties for micro-businesses in adapting IFRS for SMEs requirements: Kosovo evidence	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopting the global standard of accounting system (IFRS) from traditional accounting standard (GAAP) necessitates a significant amount of time and expertise. Due to the fact that the existing classification appears to be a burden for micro-businesses, the findings indicate that a comprehensive revision of the reporting requirements for micro-businesses is necessary.
13	(Fatoki, 2019a)	Entrepreneurial marketing and performance of small and medium enterprises in South Africa	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The findings of this research indicated that there are substantial positive links between the financial success of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the following factors: opportunity focus, customer intensity, resource leveraging, and value creation.
14.	(Hellman et al., 2022)	The impact of an IFRS for SMEs-based standard on financial reporting properties and cost of debt financing: Evidence from Swedish private firms	Secondary data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our findings indicate that the comparability of financial reporting improved after the implementation of IFRS for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and that the implementation of IFRS for SMEs was linked to a decrease in the cost of debt at the group level as shown by our findings.
15.	(Hunde and Bayu, 2020)	Transitioning to IFRSs for small and medium sized enterprises in Ethiopia: Benefits and costs	Mixed method (qualitative and quantitative)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study highlights that many users of accounting information find it challenging to comprehend financial statements prepared according to IFRS for SME. This difficulty arises from their limited accounting experience and lack of familiarity with the standard. Moreover, study found that adopting this new standard improves owner/manager and creditor monitoring of firms, reducing information asymmetry and lowering firms' interest rates on borrowed money.
16.	(Hýblová, 2019)	The current problems of harmonization of accounting for small and medium-sized enterprises	Secondary data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The author discovered that although IFRS for SMEs is viewed to be the answer to the harmonisation of the financial reports of the SMEs, this accounting standard is however not honoured in the EU.
17.	(Ilori et al., 2018)	A review of the impact of the national micro small and medium enterprise policy on youth employment and enterprise development: A case of the small medium enterprises development agency of Nigeria	Qualitative semistructured interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This study suggests that entrepreneurship development, skills and capacity building, results-based monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement, financial institution reforms, and adequate resource allocation are crucial for the development of the SME sector in Nigeria. Furthermore, Corruption among government and SMEDAN officials limits small business growth and development. To address this issue, the government should implement methods to discipline corrupt officials. This aims to prevent corrupt authorities.
18.	(Le Ngoc Thanga et al., 2020)	The factors impact on the intention to apply IFRS for SMEs: Case of Vietnam	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research reveals that management gender moderates IFRS perception and adoption.
19.	(Mahmood et al., 2018)	Preliminary insights on the adoption of IFRS (IFRS) for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Pakistan	Qualitative semistructured interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the findings of the research, it was determined that chartered accountants had a reasonable level of awareness regarding IFRS for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The study also found that the decision to adopt IFRS for SMEs would be significantly adversely affected by the financial pressures placed on businesses as well as the dearth of educated individuals.
20.	(Mawutor et al., 2019)	Assessment of the adoption and implementation of IFRS for small and medium scale entities (SMEs): A study of selected SMEs GA East of Ghana	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study found that over 60% of Small and Medium Enterprises in Madina lack awareness of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for SMEs. The study also found that firms with limited knowledge of the standard were motivated to adopt it due to the need to meet regulatory requirements and avoid the costs associated with noncompliance.
21.	(Mohamed et al., 2020)	IFRSs for small and mediumsized entities: A survey showing insights of South African accounting practitioners	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The accounting practitioners in this study believe that the implementation of the IFRS for SMEs has alleviated the challenges associated with financial reporting. This indicates the value of these standards in the context of reporting for small and medium-sized enterprises.

(Contd...)

Table 1: (Continued)

No.	Authors	Title	Method of study	Key findings
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition, practitioners were of the opinion that the implementation of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) had a greater number of advantages than it did problems. However, the most significant drawbacks that are associated with the level of education and experience of experts who are using or utilizing the framework The consistency provided by IFRS for SMEs is a major benefit, while factors like the experience level of the professionals, the utilization of automated software systems, and the compliance with South African legislative requirements impact the effectiveness of adopting this standard.
22.	(Mohamed et al., 2019)	The perceptions of South African accounting practitioners on the postimplementation of IFRS for SMEs in an institutionalised environment	Qualitative semistructured interviews	
23.	(Mroua, 2019)	The impact of determinants on the adoption of the IFRS for the small and medium-sized entities IFRS for SMEs	Secondary data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results of our research have important implications for the revision of the IFRS for SMEs. They will help in addressing potential challenges in the decision-making process of adopting the IFRS for SMEs by taking into account cultural dimensions, economic factors, and legal considerations. In addition, our findings provide investors with insights into the unique environmental factors of countries that have implemented the “IFRS_SME”.
24.	(Mukokoma and Tushabwom we, 2019)	Enablers and inhibitors of IFRS for SMEs’ adoption in Uganda	Quantitative variables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study found that a significant number of small and medium entities in Madina lack knowledge about the IFRS for SMEs. The study also found that firms with limited knowledge of the standard were compelled to adopt it due to the need to meet regulatory requirements and avoid the costs associated with noncompliance.
25.	(Natario, 2020)	Country attributes on the adoption of the IFRS for SMEs	Secondary data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to a multinomial logistic regression analysis, nations with more competitive institutions, healthcare systems, labor markets, and financial systems are generally more likely to need SMEs to use IFRS.
26.	(Nguyen’ et al., 2021)	The impact of factors on the intention to apply IFRS for SMEs: Evidence from Vietnam	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the fair value technique rather than the historical cost approach is a pressing concern when implementing international financial reporting standards for small and medium-sized enterprises.
27.	(Odum and Cheche, 2023)	Challenges of implementation of IFRSs amongst SMEs in Anambra State, Nigeria	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results of the analyses conducted indicate that SMEs in Anambra State’s IFRS disclosure is significantly impacted by the high cost of implementing IFRS and the need for technical capabilities.
28.	(Sassi and Damak-Ayadi, 2022)	IFRS for SMEs adoption, corporate governance, and quality of financial statements: Evidence from Dominican Republic and El Salvador	Secondary data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the implementation of this standard, managers, shareholders, and all other stakeholders are able to reap the benefits of high-quality and transparent financial information.
29.	(Uddin et al., 2019)	IFRS for SMEs and its impact on reporting quality	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a result of the adoption of IFRS in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the level of accountability and transparency in the reporting of SMEs was found to grow. Furthermore, it was disclosed that the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) improves the ability to make comparisons and adhere to global standards.
30.	(Vendy and Sucahyati, 2022)	Issues and challenges of adoption of IFRS for SMEs in Malaysia	Qualitative semistructured interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparers face two significant challenges relating to IFRS for SMEs adoption, namely, the frequent modifications in requirements, and the shortage of proficient accountants. SMEs typically have a limited number of individuals managing their accounts. These individuals may not have extensive knowledge or expertise in accounting, as their primary focus is on running the business. Additionally, these businesses are often owner-managed, meaning that the owners themselves are responsible for overseeing the financial aspects of the company.

(Contd...)

Table 1: (Continued)

No.	Authors	Title	Method of study	Key findings
31.	(Lackson and Muba, 2021)	Factors affecting the adoption of financial reporting standards by micro, small and medium enterprises in Tanzania: The case of Mbeya City Council	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results show that MSMEs' lack of knowledge, awareness, high perceived cost of conversion and implementation, weak legal and regulatory enforcement strategy, low technology applicability, and complexity (requiring a well-trained accountant to implement) led to non-adoption of the standards.
32.	(Edeigba, 2017)	An investigation of the challenges in IFRSs' adoption: Evidence from Nigerian public accountable companies	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This study analyzed the obstacles to IFRS implementation in Nigerian enterprises by examining various criteria. Companies' cultural aspects, IFRS implementation challenges, and industry implications were investigated.
33.	Ezeagba (2017)	Financial reporting in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria: Challenges and options	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The study identified obstacles for SMEs in financial report creation, including poor accounting records, people, accounting systems, and lack of banking transactions.
34.	(Kiliç & Uyar, 2017)	Preparedness of the entities for the IFRS for SMEs: An emerging country	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to this study, the level of readiness among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Turkey for the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for SMEs is insufficient. The preparedness of SMEs is significantly influenced by many business characteristics such as size, independent audits, and internationality.
35.	(Mbawuni, 2018)	Perceived benefits and challenges of IFRS adoption in Ghana: Views of members of Institute of Chartered Accountants, Ghana (ICAG)	Quantitative questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This study identified several perceived advantages and difficulties associated with the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in Ghana. One noticeable benefit was the enhanced capacity to compare financial information across different countries. The primary issue identified was the frequent revisions made to the IFRS.
36.	(Zahid and SimgaMugan, 2019)	An analysis of IFRS and SMEIFRS adoption determinants: A worldwide study	Secondary data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countries that have lower levels of regulatory efficiency, market openness, and economic growth are more inclined to implement SME-IFRS and the implementation of SME-IFRS is more prevalent in nations with a common law origin as opposed to countries with a code law system.
37.	(Gassen, 2017)	The effect of IFRS for SMEs on the financial reporting environment of private firms: An exploratory interview study	Qualitative interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imposing IFRS for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on private companies is likely to be of little value and may result in unnecessary expenditures associated with transitioning and preparing for change. As an additional point of interest, it may even bring about unanticipated implications concerning, for example, the effectiveness of banking relationships and debt contracting.

IFRS for SMEs should be made mandatory and provided regularly to ensure that the accounting professionals are always up to date with the developments and changes. They argue that this will assist them with the necessary knowledge required to adopt and implement IFRS for SMEs. The authors also noted that the high costs of IFRS implementation, issues relating to the high institution curriculum, and lack of effective awareness campaigns on IFRS for SMEs make it difficult for SMEs to effectively implement IFRS for SMEs (Odum and Cheche, 2023). Furthermore, an additional issue associated with implementing IFRS is the widespread inclination to resist change (Odum and Cheche, 2023). Mroua (2019) adds that SMEs worldwide operate in different settings and cultural dimensions and economic factors of such countries; thus, it cannot be ruled out that adopting and implementing IFRS for SMEs poses challenges. Consequently, institutional factors such as legal systems, level of education, and foreign aid were also identified (Pais & Bonito, 2018). Figure 2 below highlights the challenges discussed above.

4.2. Costs associated with the Implementation of IFRS for SMEs

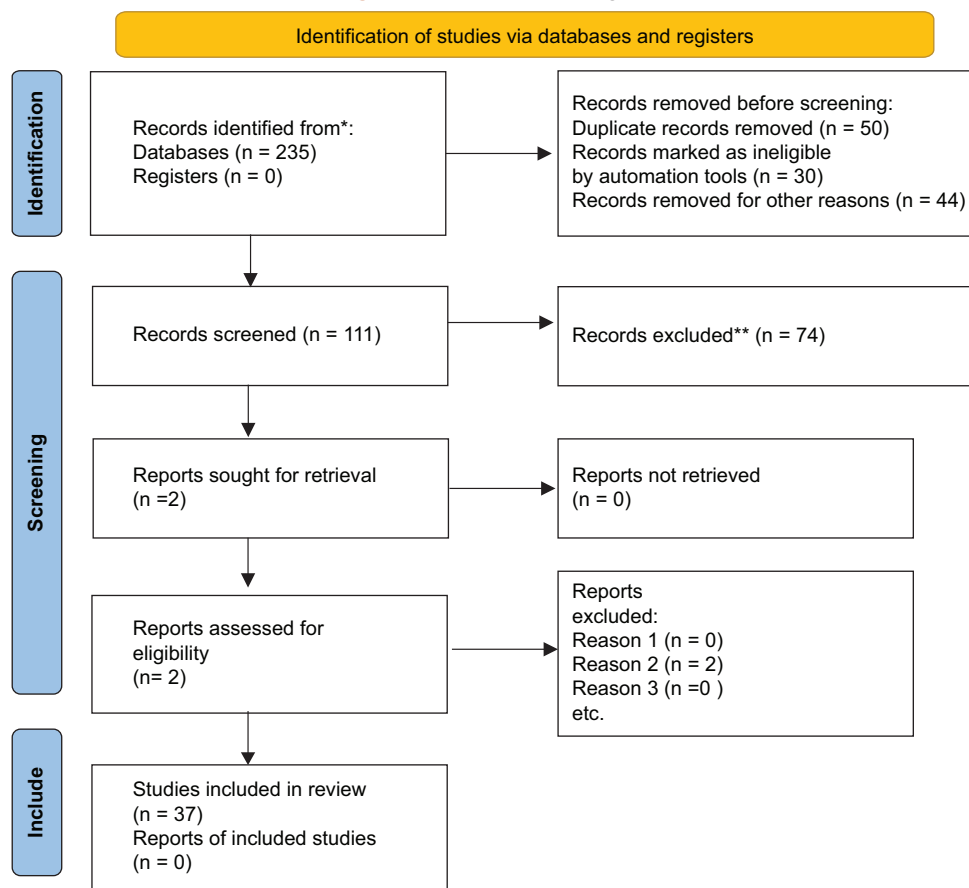
The adoption and implementation of IFRS for SMEs present various hurdles, with a notable obstacle being the costs involved

in implementing them (Kiliç and Uyar, 2017). Often, SMEs have limited financial resources compared to larger companies (Panagiotakopoulos, 2011), making adopting IFRS a significant obstacle. Therefore, SMEs may encounter difficulties in allocating funding for specialised training programmes and software upgrades that are essential for ensuring compliance (Kayode-Ajala, 2023). Moreover, aligning current accounting systems, training workers, and upgrading financial reporting methods necessitates a substantial allocation of time and resources. Lasyly, the initial charges of implementing the standards may be further increased by the continuous costs associated with ensuring compliance and adjusting to later modifications in the regulations.

4.3. Cultural Influences

According to (Zahid and Simga-Mugan, 2019), cultural factors pose a significant obstacle in the adoption and implementation of IFRS for SMEs as these standards frequently require a change in the mindset and practices that are deeply ingrained in the organisational culture. As (Nurunnabi, 2017) puts it, adopting IFRS may need changes in the perception, recording, and reporting of financial information. However, it may be met with opposition

Figure 1: PRISMA flow diagram



Source: Adapted from Page et al. (2021)

Table 2: Study selection and data extraction

Source	Population	Exclusion in the current study	Inclusion from the current study
Journals	85	50	35
Conference	4	4	–
Book chapters	13	12	1
Thesis/ dissertations	7	6	1
Reports	2	2	–
Total	111	74	37

Source: Researcher’s own compilation

from those accustomed to conventional accounting standards. Therefore, adopting a principles-based approach, as recommended by IFRS, may conflict with the inflexibility of certain entrenched cultural norms inside a business. Furthermore, the presence of different cultural backgrounds and varying attitudes towards financial reporting might lead to differing understandings and implementations of the standards.

4.4. Legal Systems

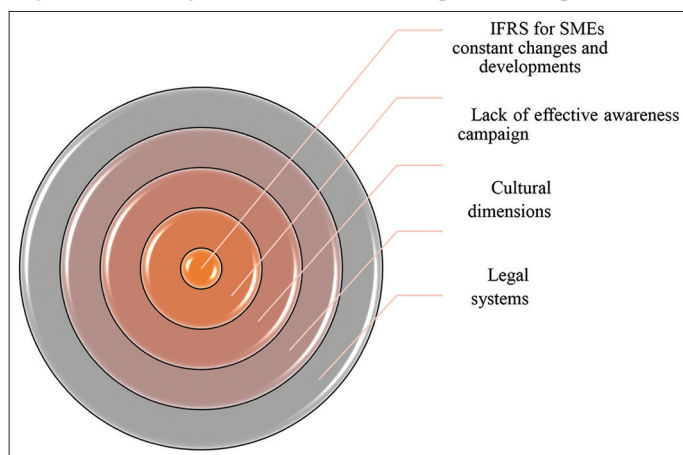
The existence of distinct legal frameworks in several countries can make it challenging to establish standardised financial reporting standards (Weygandt et al., 2018). (Ghio and Verona, 2018) contend that SMEs operating in locations with different regulatory requirements may face difficulties in harmonising their financial reporting with the IFRS. Moreover, the necessity of achieving

harmonisation between IFRS for SMEs and local legal requirements might lead to higher expenses related to compliance and potential clashes between the standards and domestic legislation.

4.5. Inadequate Expertise and Knowledge of Accounting Professionals

Many accounting practitioners lack the necessary knowledge of IFRS for SMEs, sometimes because they have limited resources to stay updated on changing financial reporting regulations (Dowa et al., 2017). The absence of knowledge can inhibit SMEs from effectively preparing and promptly implementing IFRS, thereby preventing them from benefiting from potential advantages such as improved financial transparency and comparability (Aburous, 2019). (Mokhtar et al., 2018) add that a lack of sufficient training and knowledge on IFRS for SMEs can result in misinterpretation or insufficient implementation of the standards, which may undermine the precision and dependability of financial reports. Moreover, (Mahmood et al., 2018) mentioned that the insufficient expertise and understanding among accounting professionals pose a substantial obstacle to the acceptance and execution of IFRS for SMEs.

These standards change the accounting framework, necessitating practitioners to have a profound comprehension of the complexities of IFRS concepts. SMEs, especially those with limited resources, may face difficulties in obtaining the services of skilled professionals with a strong understanding of international accounting standards (Wijekoon et al., 2023).

Figure 2: Challenges of IFRS for SMEs adoption and implementation

Source: Own compilation

4.6. Insufficient Accounting Professional Support

Accounting professionals are crucial in ensuring a seamless transition to IFRS (Sharma et al., 2017). Subsequently, the insufficient assistance provided by professional organisations to accounting professionals poses a major obstacle to the adoption and execution of IFRS for SMEs (Abraham and Adeiza, 2020). However, a lack of necessary skills might hinder the effectiveness of accounting professionals in effectively comprehending and implementing IFRS, perhaps resulting in errors throughout the adoption phase. To address this challenge, it is necessary for professional organisations, regulatory bodies, and businesses to work together to provide accounting professionals with the necessary assistance, allowing them to navigate the complexities of adopting and implementing IFRS more efficiently (Khlif et al., 2020; Mohamed, 2017).

4.7. IFRS FOR SMEs Continuous Updates and Improvements

The continuous state of change of the accounting standard may burden SMEs' resources, resulting in difficulties meeting regulatory requirements and inefficiencies in implementing processes (Sallem et al., 2017). Moreover, the necessity for regular modifications to internal procedures could interrupt daily activities and impose extra financial and administrative challenges (Nguyen et al., 2021).

4.8. Lack of Informative and Educational Campaigns or Initiatives

Without comprehensive awareness efforts, SMEs may not receive sufficient information on the benefits of adopting IFRS (Kiliç and Uyar, 2017). Consequently, they may lack the incentive to allocate time and resources towards transitioning to IFRS. According to Mohamed (2017), insufficient awareness can lead to misunderstandings, reluctance to accept change, and a delayed or disorganised implementation process.

4.9. Foreign Aid

The adoption and implementation of IFRS for SMEs presents a significant challenge in the context of foreign aid. Foreign aid refers to the provision of financial or material resources from one country to another as a type of international help (Mikesell,

2017). Foreign aid could provide financial assistance for adopting IFRS, but it also presents a series of challenges. Relying on foreign help can lead to a dependence on outside organisations, which can impact the speed and course of the adoption process. The conditions associated with foreign aid can also affect the autonomy of SMEs in customising the adoption process to suit their requirements and circumstances. Furthermore, the divergent aims and interests of foreign aid sources may not consistently coincide with the strategic objectives and practical needs of SMEs.

4.10. Level of Educational

To ensure successful implementation, it is necessary to have a staff that possesses a comprehensive comprehension of the principles and complexities of international accounting standards (Damak-Ayadi et al., 2020). Lack of adequate education among accounting practitioners and key stakeholders can lead to misinterpretation, poor implementation, or even opposition to the adoption of IFRS (Al-Absy and Ismail, 2019). (Shiferaw, 2020) concurs that in countries with lower educational attainment, there can be a scarcity of competent individuals who possess the necessary skills to effectively handle the intricacies of IFRS. Education is crucial in addressing this difficulty, as it empowers individuals to adapt to worldwide accounting norms effectively and confidently (Mawutor et al., 2019).

4.11. Psychological Burden

Accounting professionals and other stakeholders in SMEs may feel stressed and anxious while dealing with the challenges of adopting IFRS, particularly if they are used to following local or traditional accounting standards (Kim et al., 2023). The weight of this burden may arise from the inherent difficulties linked to adjusting to novel accounting standards and procedures. Moreover, the psychological strain may be intensified by worries about the increased workload, the necessity for retraining, and doubts regarding the potential impact of the changes on the organisation (Durguti and Arifi, 2021).

4.12. Economic Factors

Although investing in system upgrades, staff training, and revisions to reporting methods is essential, this can lead to substantial initial costs. Considering both the economic realities faced by SMEs, financial issues may also encompass concerns regarding the profitability of implementing foreign financial reporting standards, particularly for smaller organisations with a limited number of foreign stakeholders (Hamawandy et al., 2021; Qiucong, 2019; Bethlendi and Urbanics, 2018; Olaoye and Agugom, 2017). The following section deals with proposed intervention based in reviewed literature.

5. PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES OF IFRS FOR SMEs

5.1. Adoption and Implementation

5.1.1. Continuous educational training programmes

Due to the ongoing amendments of IFRS for SMEs, offering regular educational programmes could assist in alleviating the challenges encountered with adopting this accounting

standard (Sappor et al., 2023). Mohamed et al., (2019) state that challenges relating to the increase in the use of technology and its constant updates and developments, such continuous training could also be of great assistance. Moreover, (Cloete, 2018) mentioned that rather than offering generalised training, the specifications of the training should instead be personalised to ensure that the needs of the accounting practitioners are adequately addressed. That way, they would be motivated to attend the sessions and find it easy to adopt and implement the accounting standard. Since complying with the requirements of IFRS for SMEs remains the responsibility of entities, it is therefore encouraged that they keep updated with the regular changes by attending the seminars, training, and workshops to ensure that they remain updated with the accounting standard changes (Hamdan et al., 2021). To tackle this challenge, it is essential to implement focused measures to improve the expertise and understanding of accounting professionals through specific training programmes, workshops, and ongoing professional development initiatives.

5.1.2. Integration of IFRS for SMEs in the high education curriculum

Hamdan et al. (2021) suggest that higher learning institutions should consider incorporating IFRS for SMEs into the teaching and learning content as part of alleviating the challenges encountered with IFRS for SMEs adoption and implementation. Moreover, Gonçalves et al., (2022) suggest that the availability of education programmes should be increased by collaborating with the government to offer graduates training, such as internships and apprenticeships. Since real-world scenarios will be used during these training programmes, this could make understanding and implementing IFRS for SMEs much easier. Consequently, this initiative could assist with filling the gaps in the curriculum and the adoption of IFRS for SMEs (Bakr and Napier, 2020). In line with this suggestion, LeSage and Casal (2019) contend that integrating IFRS for SMEs in the curriculum has been done in other institutions.

5.1.3. Ongoing monitoring and support of IFRS for SMEs adoption and implementation

Due to a lack of awareness and its complicated nature, it remains difficult for SMEs to adopt this accounting standard, or rather for the accounting practitioners to implement it when preparing the financial reports of these entities. As a result, it is suggested that regular monitoring of the adoption and implementation of IFRS for SMEs should be conducted (Abraham and Adeiza, 2020). Hamdan et al. (2021) add that this would be an efficient and effective way for professional accounting bodies to offer recommendations and suggestions on how accounting practitioners can easily deal with the difficulties relating to the disclosure requirements of IFRS for SMEs. To tackle this challenge effectively, it is necessary to establish strong mechanisms for staying updated on IFRS changes, offer continuous training to accounting professionals, and set up adaptable systems that seamlessly incorporate future updates without causing significant disruption to SMEs' financial reporting practices.

5.1.4. Simplified Guide for Implementing IFRS for SMEs

Due to the special characteristics of IFRS for SMEs contributing to its complexity, a simplified guide that could be used to apply this accounting standard should be developed (Bakr and Napier, 2020). Various researchers suggested that certain topics irrelevant to SMEs should be removed to reduce the difficulty of implementing this accounting standard (Marina, 2021; Poole et al., 2019; Tesfaye, 2019).

5.1.5. IFRS for SMEs awareness campaigns

It is imperative to initiate an awareness campaign aimed at educating SMEs about the essentiality of implementing IFRS for SMEs (Mawutor et al., 2019). According to Mpoma (2017) another impact of lack of awareness is ignorance about the existing accounting standards; as a result, clear communication should be spread using different platforms to ensure that participation is maximised. (Tsefaye, 2019) also suggested that stakeholders such as accounting professionals and SME owners should attend various accounting workshops to make them aware of various accounting standards available to them. Consequently, the majority of SMEs were reported to have not adopted IFRS for SMEs due to lack of awareness campaigns that were conducted (Mawutor et al., 2019). To address this challenge, it is necessary to implement extensive awareness campaigns, educational initiatives, and outreach endeavours conducted by regulatory entities, professional associations, and other relevant parties. Moreover, regulatory bodies, professional groups, and other stakeholders must collaborate and develop specific awareness activities.

5.2. Relevance of IFRS for SMEs in South Africa

Implementing IFRS for SMEs in South Africa demonstrates the country's dedication to adhering to internationally recognised standards and benchmarks. Additionally, it signifies a deliberate effort to harmonise the nation's financial reporting procedures with global norms. This adoption aligns with the global trend of recognising the difficulties encountered by SMEs and understanding the necessity for a standard that combines simplicity with the demands of high-quality financial reporting. Adopting IFRS for SMEs presents numerous benefits, such as enhanced comparability of financial statements, greater availability of finance, and higher credibility for SMEs participating in the South African market (IASB, 2015). This promotes international commercial transactions and encourages foreign investment. Consequently, South Africa's adoption of IFRS for SMEs aligns with its goal of enhancing its standing in the global economy.

In light of the above, it is worth noting that most South African SMEs are not internationally exposed. Furthermore, as noted by Naicker and Rajaram (2019), the majority of South African SMEs prepare financial statements for the purposes of tax returns and financial access from the banks. Moreover, among the numerous challenges prohibiting the smooth adoption and implementation of IFRS for SMEs are a lack of competent professionals, resources, and cultural dimensions. It is also noted in the literature that these challenges outweigh the benefits that come with adopting IFRS for SMEs (Gonçalves et al., 2022; TSEGAYE, 2021; Abraham and Adeiza, 2020; Sellami and Gafsi, 2018; TESFAYE, 2018; Khundadze and Amiridze, 2017).

Therefore, whether this standard is relevant for South African SMEs remains questionable.

6. CONCLUSION

The study was conducted to shed light into literature on the challenges faced by South African SMEs in adopting and implementing IFRS for SMEs and suggest the intervention strategies that can be adopted to address South Africa's SMEs barriers to adopt and implement IFRS for SMEs. The study emphasised that most developing countries adopt IFRS for SMEs due to limited resources to develop their own accounting standards. While this is the case, they continue to struggle with its adoption and implementation due to factors relating to culture, educational inadequacy, lack of proper support from regulatory bodies, and high implementation costs. Furthermore, the difficulty and lack of uniformity in defining SMEs is also a major challenge in adopting and implementing IFRS for SMEs. In this regard, Koppeschaar (2012) suggests that South Africa should consider developing its own accounting standards with less relevant disclosure requirements for its SMEs. Nevertheless, proper financial reporting is integral to SME success. Therefore, with the use of IFRS for SMEs bearing many benefits, such as the ability to access finance, consistency, transparency, and comparability of the financial statements, these entities are encouraged to adopt and implement this accounting standard. For this reason interventions are necessary to assist in adoption and implementation. Various researchers made suggestions that could ease the adoption of IFRS for SMEs, such as including IFRS for SMEs in higher learning institutions, raising awareness through campaigns, monitoring IFRS for SMEs adoption, and developing a simplified guide to IFRS for SMEs.

Based on the analysed data, only a few studies made suggestions on how to alleviate the challenges relating to adopting and implementing IFRS for SMEs. It is for this reason that more studies should be conducted on this topic. Insights into the challenges of IFRS for SMEs from the standpoint of institutional theory. Institutional theory highlights the impact of society norms, laws, and regulations on the conduct of SMEs. Studies have shown that the institutional theory substantially impacts how SMEs perceive and address the issues associated with adopting IFRS for SMEs. Furthermore, a direct link can be made between the institutional setting in which SMEs operate and the challenges of adopting this accounting standard, including legal and regulatory demands, cultural concerns, and lack of awareness. Furthermore, research suggests that regulatory demands and the legal environment significantly impact the decision-making process of SMEs regarding IFRS. In general, the empirical evidence supports the institutional theory in relation to the adoption and implementation of IFRS for SMEs. It highlights the significance of considering the broader institutional setting when examining the effects of these standards on SMEs' decision-making and financial reporting procedures. Future research may focus on possible integration of IFRS for SMEs in higher education, possible design a South African based reporting framework for SMEs, the link of professional's knowledge and guidance in adoption and application of IFRS for SMEs. These results could be used by academic institutions and

accounting professional bodies to address the challenges SMEs face regarding financial reporting in South Africa. Further, policy makers may get insights and advocate for a change or rather a more relaxed reporting framework for South African SMEs.

REFERENCES

- Aboagye-Otchere, F., Agbeibor, J. (2012), The international financial reporting standard for small and medium-sized entities (IFRS for SMEs): Suitability for small businesses in Ghana. *Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting*, 10(2), 190-214.
- Abraham, V.O., Adeiza, M.O. (2020), Adoption of IFRSs by SMEs in Sokoto State, Nigeria: Issues, challenges and prospects. *International Journal of Research and Scientific Innovation*, 7(6), 174-180.
- Aburous, D. (2019), IFRS and institutional work in the accounting domain. *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*, 62, 1-15.
- Adams, C.A., Mueller, F. (2022), Academics and policy makers at odds: The case of the IFRS Foundation Trustees' consultation paper on sustainability reporting. *Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal*, 13(6), 1310-1333.
- Adekanmi, A.D., Jimba, K., Ogungbade, O., Adeyemi, S.O., Bojuwon, M. (2021), International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) sustainability in Nigeria. *Fuoye Journal of Accounting and Management*, 4(1), 33-33.
- Adhana, D.K. (2020), Convergence of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in Indian accounting Curriculum. *Alochana Chakra Journal*, 9, 470-486.
- Agana, J.A., Zamore, S., Domeher, D. (2023), IFRS adoption: A systematic review of the underlying theories. *Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting*, 11, 3-17.
- Akintelu, S.O., Akinpelu, S.F., Philip, G.T. (2021), Firms Attributes and Financial Reporting Among Smes in Nigeria. In: *Pandemic in the 21st Century: Pandemic*. p167.
- Al-Absy, M.S.M., Ismail, K. (2019), Accountants perception on the factors affecting the adoption of international financial reporting standards in Yemen. *International Journal of Financial Research*, 10(4), 128-142.
- Alon, A., Dwyer, P.D. (2016), SEC's acceptance of IFRS-based financial reporting: An examination based in institutional theory. *Accounting, Organizations and Society*, 48, 1-16.
- Alon, A., Haaland, G., Røsok, K.O. (2022), Multi-mode standardisation and comparability: Norway's failed attempt to adopt the IFRS for SMEs. *Accounting and Business Research*, 52(6), 734-764.
- Alshbili, I., Elamer, A.A. (2020), The influence of institutional context on corporate social responsibility disclosure: A case of a developing country. *Journal of Sustainable Finance and Investment*, 10(3), 269-293.
- Antonelli, V., D'Alessio, R., & Cuomo, F. (2017). Beyond Stakeholders Theory: Financial reporting and voluntary disclosure in Italian SME according to a System dynamics point of view. *Economia Aziendale Online*, 7(4), 285-304.
- Amoah, J., Belas, J., Dziwornu, R., Khan, K.A. (2022), Enhancing SME contribution to economic development: A perspective from an emerging economy. *Journal of International Studies*, 15, 63-76.
- Arafat, I., Dunne, T., Ahmed, A.H. (2020), Splitting accountability hairs: Anomalies in the adaptation of IFRS for SMEs in the UK and Ireland. *Accounting in Europe*, 17(2), 183-203.
- Arhin, T., Perprem, A., Hulede, A. (2017), The challenges of adopting and implementing IFRS for SMEs in Ghana: The case of SMEs in the Kumasi metropolis. *Research Journal of Accounting*, 5(4), 1-13.
- Aziz, F. (2023), Beyond the Ledger: Enhancing Global Sustainability through Data-Driven Accounting Frameworks. *Islamaba: Farooq Aziz*.

- Bakr, S.A., Napier, C.J. (2020), Adopting the international financial reporting standard for small and medium-sized entities in Saudi Arabia. *Journal of Economic and Administrative Sciences*, 38(1), 18-40.
- Bakr, S.A., Napier, C.J. (2022), Adopting the international financial reporting standard for small and medium-sized entities in Saudi Arabia. *Journal of Economic and Administrative Sciences*, 38(1), 18-40.
- Baratovna, E.Z. (2022), The first application of international financial reporting standards in the Republic of Uzbekistan. *Journal of Marketing, Business and Management*, 1(1), 109-111.
- Batrancea, I., Morar, I.D., Masca, E., Catalin, S., Bechis, L. (2018), Econometric modeling of SME performance. Case of Romania. *Sustainability*, 10(1), 192.
- Bautista-Mesa, R., Muñoz-Tomás, J.M., Horno-Bueno, M.P. (2019), Does the IASB know the needs of SMEs? A comparative analysis between the IFRS for SMEs and full IFRS due processes: ¿Conoce el IASB las necesidades de las PYMES? Un análisis comparativo de los procesos debidos de la NIIF para las PYMES y de las NIIF completas. *Revista de Contabilidad-Spanish Accounting Review*, 22(2), 203-217.
- Bayu, K.B., Hunde, D.A. (2020), Transiting to international financial reporting standards for small and medium sized enterprises in Ethiopia: Benefits and costs. *Journal of Economics, Management and Trade*, 26, 72-87.
- Bethlendi, A., Urbanics, R. (2018), Critical financial and accounting issues of early-stage innovative enterprises. *Investment Management and Financial Innovations*, 15(4), 144-157.
- Biesenthal, C., Clegg, S., Mahalingam, A., Sankaran, S. (2018), Applying institutional theories to managing megaprojects. *International Journal of Project Management*, 36(1), 43-54.
- Booth, A. (2016), Searching for qualitative research for inclusion in systematic reviews: A structured methodological review. *Systematic Reviews*, 5, 74.
- Botzem, S., Quack, S., Zori, S. (2017), International accounting standards in Africa: Selective recursivity for the 'Happy few'? *Global Policy*, 8(4), 553-562.
- Chatzigeorgiou, I.M, Andreou, G.T. (2021), A systematic review on feedback research for residential energy behavior change through mobile and web interfaces. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 135, 110187.
- Cloete, G. (2018), The Development of an SME Risk analysis Tool for Professional Accountants. United States: NorthWest University.
- Coetzee, S.A., Schmulian, A. (2013), The effect of IFRS adoption on financial reporting pedagogy in South Africa. *Issues in Accounting Education*, 28(2), 243-251.
- Damak-Ayadi, S., Sassi, N., Bahri, M. (2020), Cross-country determinants of IFRS for SMEs adoption. *Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting*, 18(1), 147-168.
- De Bruyckere, S., Verplancke, F., Everaert, P., Sarens, G., Coppens, C. (2017), The role of external accountants as service providers for SMEs: A literature review. *Accountancy and Bedrijfskunde*, 4, 49-62.
- De Ruijter, V.N., Redondo-Hasselerharm, P.E., Gouin, T., Koelmans, A.A. (2020), Quality criteria for microplastic effect studies in the context of risk assessment: A critical review. *Environmental Science and Technology*, 54(19), 11692-11705.
- Dowa, A., Elgammi, A.M., Elhatab, A., Mutat, H.A. (2017), Main worldwide cultural obstacles on adopting international financial reporting standards (IFRS). *International Journal of Economics and Finance*, 9(2), 172.
- Durguti, E.A., Arifi, E.A. (2021), Challenges and difficulties for micro-businesses in adapting IFRS for SMEs requirements: Kosovo evidence. *Journal of Liberty and International Affairs*, 7(3), 85-101.
- Edeigba, J. (2017), An Investigation of the Challenges in International Financial Reporting Standards' Adoption: Evidence from Nigerian Publicly Accountable Companies. United States: Lincoln University.
- Eluyela, D.F., Adetula, D.T., Oladipo, O., Nwanji, T.I., Adegbola, O., Ajayi, A., Faleye, A. (2019), Pre and post adoption of IFRS based financial statement of listed small medium scale enterprises in Nigeria. *International Journal of Civil Engineering and Technology*, 10(1), 1097-1108.
- Ezeagba, C. (2017), Financial reporting in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria. Challenges and options. *International Journal of Academic Research in Accounting, Finance and Management Sciences*, 7(1), 1-10.
- Fatoki, O. (2019a), Entrepreneurial marketing and performance of small and medium enterprises in South Africa. *Journal of Reviews on Global Economics*, 8(1), 1429-1437.
- Gassen, J. (2017), The effect of IFRS for SMEs on the financial reporting environment of private firms: An exploratory interview study. *Accounting and Business Research*, 47(5), 540-563.
- Gardi, B., Abdalla Hamza, P., Sabir, B. Y., Mahmood Aziz, H., Sorguli, S., Abdullah, N. N., & Al-Kake, F. (2021). Investigating the effects of financial accounting reports on managerial decision making in small and medium-sized enterprises. Bawan Yassin and Mahmood Aziz, Hassan and Sorguli, Sarhang and Abdullah, Nabaz Nawzad and Al-Kake, farhad, Investigating the Effects of Financial Accounting Reports on Managerial Decision Making in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (April 28, 2021).
- Gardi, B., Aga, M., & Abdullah, N. N. (2023). Corporate governance and financial reporting quality: The Mediation Role of IFRS. *Sustainability*, 15(13), 9869.
- Ghio, A., Verona, R. (2018), Accounting practitioners' attitudes toward accounting harmonization: Adoption of IFRS for SMEs in Italy. *Journal of International Accounting Research*, 17(2), 103122.
- Gonçalves, F.J.A., De Moura, A.A.F., Motoki, F.Y.S. (2022), What influences the implementation of IFRS for SMEs? The Brazilian case. *Accounting and Finance*, 62(2), 2947-2992.
- Hamawandy, N. M. H., Omer, A. J., Kakil, R. M., & Qader, A. N. (2021). Perceived Challenges of IFRS Acceptance among Iraqi Firms: Do Benefit of IFRS matter. *Review of International Geographical Education Online*, 11(10).
- Hamdan, M., Besar, M.H.A., Salleh, N.A.H., Anshari, M. (2021), Small and Medium Enterprises and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS): Evidence from Emerging Economy. In: 2021 International Conference on Sustainable Islamic Business and Finance.
- Hellman, N., Nilsson, H., Tylaite, M., Vural, D. (2022), The impact of an IFRS for SMEs -based standard on financial reporting properties and cost of debt financing: Evidence from Swedish private firms. *European Accounting Review*, 31(5), 1175-1205.
- Hunde, D.A., Bayu, K.B. (2020), Transiting to international financial reporting standards for small and medium sized enterprises in Ethiopia: Benefits and costs. *Journal of Economics, Management and Trade*, 26(8), 72-87.
- Hussain, M.B. (2022), Evaluating international financial reporting standards and generally accepted accounting principles in a local context: A case from Pakistan. *Academy of Education and Social Sciences Review*, 2(2), 70-80.
- Hýblová, E. (2019), The current problems of harmonization of accounting for small and medium-sized enterprises. *Economic Research-Ekonomska Istraživanja*, 32(1), 604-621.
- Ilori, E., Ile, I.U., Allen-Ile, C.O. (2018), A review of the impact of the national micro small and medium enterprise policy on youth employment and enterprise development: A case of the small medium enterprises development agency of Nigeria. *Journal of Reviews on*

- Global Economics, 7, 901-912.
- Inrawan, A., Silitonga, H.P., Halim, F., Sudirman, A., Lie, D. (2021), Impact of adoption of financial standards and innovations on SME business performance: The role of competitive advantage as a mediation. *Jurnal Ilmu Keuangan Dan Perbankan*, 11(1), 80-93.
- IASB. (2015). Basis for Conclusions on the Exposure Draft Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting. www.ifrs.org
- Issam, P.B., Ibtissam, P.Z. (2023), Determinants of IFRS for SMEs adoption worldwide. *International Journal of Accounting and Finance Studies*, 6(2), 12-39.
- Kayode-Ajala, O. (2023), Establishing cyber resilience in developing countries: An exploratory investigation into institutional, legal, financial, and social challenges. *International Journal of Sustainable Infrastructure for Cities and Societies*, 8(9), 1-10.
- Khlif, H., Ahmed, K., Alam, M. (2020), Accounting regulations and IFRS adoption in francophone North African countries: The experience of Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia. *The international journal of accounting*, 55(1), 2050004.
- Khundadze, S., Amiridze, G. (2017), Challenges of Meeting International Financial Reporting Standards for SMEs in Georgia. *Journal of Business*, 6(2), 47-56.
- Kiaupaite-Grušniene, V., Alver, L. (2019), Comparability of cash flow statements: Evidence from Baltic Countries. *Journal of Accounting and Management Information Systems*, 18(3), 307-329.
- Kılıç, Merve, Ali Uyar, and Başak Ataman. "Preparedness for and perception of IFRS for SMEs: evidence from Turkey." *Journal of Accounting & Management Information Systems/Contabilitate si Informatica de Gestione* 13.3 (2014).
- Kiliç, M., Uyar, A. (2017), Adoption process of IFRS for SMEs in Turkey: Insights from academics and accountants. *Journal of Accounting and Management Information Systems*, 16(2), 313-339.
- Kim, T.H., Lee, S.H., Vourvachis, P. (2023), Accounting standard-setting for an emission trading scheme: The Korean Case. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 182(4), 1003-1024.
- Kimmel, P.D., Weygandt, J.J., Kieso, D.E. (2020), *Financial Accounting: Tools for Business Decision-making*. United States: John Wiley and Sons.
- Klein, V. B., & Todesco, J. L. (2021). COVID-19 crisis and SMEs responses: The role of digital transformation. *Knowledge and Process Management*, 28(2), 117-133.
- Koppeschaar, Z. (2012), International financial reporting standard for small and medium-sized entities. *The Southern African Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management*, 5(1), 54-68.
- Krasniqi, E., Durguti, E. (2023), Evaluating business performance and the impact of funding diversity during Covid-19: Kosovo evidence. *Ekonomski Pregled*, 74(3), 387-408.
- Krawczyk, P. (2021), Non-financial reporting-standardization options for SME sector. *Journal of Risk and Financial Management*, 14(9), 417.
- Kurpayanidi, K.I. (2021), The institutional environment of small business: Opportunities and limitations. *ISJ Theoretical and Applied Science*, 9(101), 1-9.
- Lackson, B., Muba, S. (2021), Factors affecting the adoption of financial reporting standards by Micro, small and medium enterprises in Tanzania: The case of Mbeya City council. *East African Journal of Business and Economics*, 4(1), 46-61.
- Lægreid, P. (2017), Getting to Norway-30 years of public management research: Theoretical, empirical and practical challenges. *International Journal of Public Sector Management*, 30(6-7), 584594.
- LeSage, J.C., Casal, F. (2019), KPMG maste's program expands into tax. *The CPA Journal*, 89(9), 16-17.
- Lewis, A.C., Cardy, R.L., Huang, L.S. (2019), Institutional theory and HRM: A new look. *Human Resource Management Review*, 29, 316-335.
- Mahmood, Z., Khan, A.B., Ur Rehman, A., Atta, S. (2018), Preliminary insights on the adoption of international financial reporting standard (IFRS) for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Pakistan. *Journal of Accounting and Finance in Emerging Economies*, 4(1), 95-110.
- Marina, A.G. (2021), Perspectives of different stakeholder groups about the alignment of IFRS for SMEs with IFRS standard. *Studies in Business and Economics*, 16(3), 109-122.
- Mawutor, J.K.M., Williams, S., Oduwaa, M.A. (2019), Assessment of the adoption and implementation of IFRS for small and medium scale entities (SMEs). "A study of selected SMEs GA East of Ghana". *Asian Journal of Finance and Accounting*, 11(1), 241-258.
- Mbatha, N., Ngibe, M. (2017), Factors affecting financial stability of small and medium enterprises: A case study of emerging markets. *Risk Governance and Control: Financial Markets and Institutions*, 7(1), 7-17.
- Mbawuni, J. (2018), Perceived benefits and challenges of IFRS adoption in Ghana: Views of members of institute of chartered accountants, Ghana (ICAG). *International Journal of Financial Research*, 9(1), 99-114.
- Mhedhbi, K., Essid, M. (2022), National cultural dimensions and adoption of the international financial reporting standard (IFRS) for small and medium-sized entities (SMEs). *The international journal of accounting*, 57(1), 2250004.
- Mikesell, R.F. (2017), *The Economics of Foreign Aid*. United Kingdom: Routledge.
- Mohamed, R., Ghazali, M., Samsudin, M.A. (2020), A systematic review on mathematical language learning using PRISMA in Scopus database. *Eurasia Journal of Mathematics, Science and Technology Education*, 16(8), em1868.
- Mohamed, W. (2017), IFRS for SMEs: The Current Perception of South African Practitioners. South Africa: University of the Witwatersrand, Faculty of Commerce, Law and Management.
- Mohamed, W., Yasseen, Y., Nkhi, N. (2020), International financial reporting standards for small and medium-sized entities: A survey showing insights of South African accounting practitioners. *Journal of Economic and Financial Sciences*, 13(1), a489.
- Mohamed, W., Yasseen, Y., Omarjee, F.Z. (2019), The perceptions of South African accounting practitioners on the post-implementation of IFRS for SMEs in an institutionalised environment. *Journal of Economic and Financial Sciences*, 12(1), a393.
- Mokhtar, E., Elharidy, A., Mandour, M. (2018), Compliance with IFRS: The case of risk disclosure practices in Egypt. *Arab Economic and Business Journal*, 13(1), 1-14.
- Motsetse, M.J. (2015), The Role of Government in Developing Sustainable SMEs in the Construction Sector in the Free State Province. South Africa: University of the Free State.
- Mpoma, G.E. (2017), The Compliance and Challenges of Implementing International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Tanzania.
- Mroua, M. (2019), The Impact of Determinants on the Adoption of the International Financial Reporting Standard for the Small and Medium-Sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs).
- Mukokoma, M.M.N., Tushabwomwe, N. (2019), Enablers and Inhibitors of IFRS for SMEs' Adoption in Uganda. Kampala, Uganda: Atlas Publications.
- Mvunabandi, J.D. (2023), The difference between non-profit organization financial reporting practices and financial performance in relation to IFRS for SMEs and government requirements. *Management and Accounting Review*, 22(2), 149-182.
- Mvunabandi, J.D., Mbonigaba, J. (2023), Perceptions of Non-Government Organisations Managers About International Financial Reporting Standards in the NGOs Sector: A Case Study of a Large NGO in Durban, South Africa. *International Journal of Environmental,*

- Sustainability, and Social Science, 4(3), 915-926.
- Naicker, Y., Rajaram, R. (2019), Factors that influence tax compliance of SMEs in South Africa. *Acta Universitatis Danubius: Administratio*, 10(2), 94-111.
- Natário, M. M. (2020). Country attributes on the adoption of the IFRS for SMEs (Master's thesis).
- Nguyen, P.V., Huynh, H.T.N., Lam, L.N.H., Le, T.B., Nguyen, N.H.X. (2021), The impact of entrepreneurial leadership on SMEs' performance: The mediating effects of organizational factors. *Heliyon*, 7(6), e07326.
- Niazi, M. (2015), Do systematic literature reviews outperform informal literature reviews in the software engineering domain? An initial case study. *Arabian Journal for Science and Engineering*, 40, 845-855.
- Nkansah-Sakyi, E.A. (2023), Challenges Small and Medium Manufacturing Entities (SMMES) encounter in accessing financial support in Ghana. *Central European Management Journal*, 31(2), 286-293.
- Nurudeen, S.O., David, D.O., Samson, A.A. (2022), Value relevance of IFRS 7 financial instruments disclosures for listed insurance firms in Nigeria. *International Journal of Economics, Management and Accounting*, 30(1), 125-149.
- Nurunnabi, M. (2017), Auditors' perceptions of the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in a developing country. *Journal of Accounting in Emerging Economies*, 7(1), 108-133.
- Odum, A.N., Cheche, K.C. (2023), Challenges of implementation of international financial reporting standards amongst SMES In Anambra State, Nigeria. *Global Journal of Finance and Business Review*, 6, 65-76.
- Okoye, E.L., Nwoye, U.J. (2018), IFRS compliance appraisal: Evidence from Nigeria and Ghana. *Academic Journal of Economic Studies*, 4(4), 19-27.
- Olaoye, S.A., Aguguom, T.A. (2017), Justification for IFRS in Sub-Saharan African countries: A case of multinational corporations. *International Journal of Economics and Business Management*, 3(7), 56-68.
- Osinubi, I.S. (2020), The three pillars of institutional theory and IFRS implementation in Nigeria. *Journal of Accounting in Emerging Economies*, 10(4), 575-599.
- Owolabi, S.A., Izang, J.U. (2020), Cloud accounting and financial reporting qualities of SMEs in Nigeria: An overview. *Social Sciences and Psychology*, 60(1), 21-28.
- Panagiotakopoulos, A. (2011). Barriers to employee training and learning in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). *Development and Learning in Organizations: An International Journal*, 25(3):15 – 18
- Page, M.J., McKenzie, J.E., Bossuyt, P.M., Boutron, I., Hoffmann, T.C., Mulrow, C.D., Shamseer, L., Tetzlaff, J.M., Akl, E.A., Brennan, S.E. (2021), The PRISMA 2020 statement: An updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. *International Journal of Surgery*, 88, 105906.
- Pais, C.A.F., Bonito, A.L.M. (2018), The macroeconomic determinants of the adoption of IFRS for SMEs. Los determinantes macroeconómicos en la adopción de las IFRS para las pymes. *Revista de Contabilidad-Spanish Accounting Review*, 21(2), 116-127.
- Perera, D., Chand, P. (2015), Issues in the adoption of international financial reporting standards (IFRS) for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMES). *Advances in Accounting*, 31(1), 165-178.
- Perera, D., Chand, P., Mala, R. (2023), Users' perspective on the usefulness of international financial reporting standards for small and medium-sized enterprises-based financial reports. *Meditari Accountancy Research*, 31(5), 1133-1164.
- Poole, V., Rivat, L., Berger, J. (2019), The IFRS for small and medium-sized entities. In: *New Models of Financing and Financial Reporting for European SMEs: A Practitioner's View*. Cham: Springer. p133-159.
- Qiuotong, Z. (2019), IFRS Adoption in China and Its Implication: The Case of Chinese Listed Companies. (Doctoral dissertation).
- Radipere, S., Dhliwayo, S. (2014), The role of age and business size on small business performance in the South African small enterprise sector. *Problems and Perspectives in Management*, 12(4), 7-12.
- Rajkoomar, M., Marimuthu, F., Naicker, N., Damascene Mvunabandi, J. (2022), A meta-analysis of the economic impact of carbon emissions in Africa. *Environmental Economics*, 13(1), 89-100.
- Ram, R., & Newberry, S. (2017). Agenda entrance complexity in international accounting standard setting: The case of IFRS for SMEs. *Abacus*, 53(4), 485-512.
- Ramanna, K., Sletten, E. (2014), Network effects in countries' adoption of IFRS. *The Accounting Review*, 89(4), 1517-1543.
- Rashid, N., Daud, W.N.W., Zainol, F.A., Salleh, F., Yazid, A.S., Endut, W.A., Yaakub, N., Ghazali, P.L., Afthanorhan, A., Abdullah, B. (2018), The uses of financial reporting standard for small medium enterprise companies. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 8(11), 1331-1338.
- Roszkowska, P. (2020), Fintech in financial reporting and audit for fraud prevention and safeguarding equity investments. *Journal of Accounting and Organizational Change*, 17(2), 164-196.
- Rudzani, S., Charles, M.D. (2016), An assessment of the challenges of adopting and implementing IFRS for SMEs in South Africa. *Problems and Perspectives in Management*, 14(2), 212-221.
- Sadaka, S.F. (2022), Challenges of IFRS implementation in emerging economies: The case of Lebanon. *Accounting History*, 27(4), 497-523.
- Salah, W. (2020), The international financial reporting standards and firm performance: A systematic review. *Applied Finance and Accounting*, 6, 1-10.
- Sallem, N.M., Nasir, N.E.M., Nori, W., Kassim, C. (2017), Small and medium enterprises: Critical problems and possible solutions. *International Business Management*, 11(1), 47-52.
- Sappor, P., Atta Sarpong, F., Ahmed Seidu Seini, R. (2023), The adoption of IFRS for SMEs in the Northern sector of Ghana: A case of structural equation modeling. *Cogent Business and Management*, 10(1), 2180840.
- Sassi, N., Damak-Ayadi, S. (2022), IFRS for SMEs adoption, corporate governance, and quality of financial statements: Evidence from Dominican Republic and El Salvador. *Journal of Accounting in Emerging Economies*, 13(5), 922-946.
- Schutte, D., Buys, P. (2011a), A comparative evaluation of South African SME financial statements against the IFRS requirements. *Journal of Accounting and Taxation*, 3(1), 8-22.
- Sellami, Y.M., Gafsi, Y. (2018), What drives developing and transitional countries to adopt the IFRS for SMEs? An institutional perspective. *Journal of Corporate Accounting and Finance*, 29(2), 34-56.
- Sharma, S., Joshi, M., Kansal, M. (2017), IFRS adoption challenges in developing economies: An Indian perspective. *Managerial Auditing Journal*, 32(4-5), 406-426.
- Shiferaw, A. (2020), The Effectiveness of Project Management Practices of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Implementation Project in Public Enterprises in Ethiopia. San Antonio, TX: St. Mary's University.
- Smith, C., Venter, E.R., Stiglingh, M. (2021), Substance and form adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards and financial statement comparability: Evidence from South Africa. *The International Journal of Accounting*, 56(4), 2150017.
- Stainbank, L. (2010), An examination of the due process in South Africa which led to the adoption of the draft International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities. *Meditari: Research Journal of the School of Accounting Sciences*, 18(2), 57-71.
- Stainbank, L. (2011), The suitability of international financial reporting

- standards for small and medium-sized entities. *Alternation*, 4, 103-127.
- Stainbank, L.J. (2008), The development of financial reporting for SMEs in South Africa: Implications of recent and impending changes. *African Journal of Accounting, Economics, Finance and Banking Research*, 3(3), 1-17.
- Tackie, G. (2017), IFRS for SMEs: Presentation and disclosure compliance by SMEs in Ghana. In: *Accounting and Auditing Practices in Africa. South Africa: African Sun Media*. p29-44.
- Tesfaye, T. (2018), Benefits and Challenges of Adopting International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) In Ethiopian Public Enterprises. San Antonio, TX: St. Mary's University.
- Tesfaye, T. (2019), Implementation progress of IFRS for SMEs by the SMEs in Wolaita Sodo, Southern Ethiopia: From the SMEs owner managers' perspective. *Journal of Modern Accounting and Auditing*, 15(9), 432-444.
- Toudas, K. (2018), The international standards on auditing as a convergence parameter between US GAAP and IFRS. *Corporate Board: Role, Duties and Composition*, 14(3), 15-22.
- Tsatsenko, N. (2020), Small enterprise development and African economic growth: Country-study of Ghana and South Africa. *Journal of Economics*, 8(1), 33-52.
- Tsegaye, A. (2021), Assessment of Benefits and Challenges of IFRS Implementation (The Case of Ethiopian Construction Design and Supervision Works Corporation (ECDSWC)). San Antonio, TX: St. Mary's University
- Uddin, M.S., Toha, M.A., Faruq, M.O. (2019), International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) for SMEsSMEs and its impact on reporting quality. *Jagannath University Journal of Business Studies*, 7, 139-150.
- Vardiashvili, M., Maisuradze, M. (2017), On recognition and measurement of the revenues according to IFRS 15. *Economy and Business Journal*, 11, 182-190.
- Vendy, V., Suchayati, D. (2022), Issues and Challenges of Adoption of IFRS for SMEs in Malaysia. In: *Nusantara Science and Technology Proceedings*. p6-12.
- Walter, P.R. (2017), GAAP AND IFRS: The Convergence Phenomenon. Selected Honors Theses.
- Warren, R., Carter, D.B., Napier, C.J. (2019), Opening up the politics of standard setting through discourse theory: The case of IFRS for SMEsSMEsSMEsIFRS for SMEs. *Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal*, 33(1), 124-151.
- Watchman, A. (2019), Financial reporting by quoted SMEsSMEs. In: *New Models of Financing and Financial Reporting for European SMEsSMEs: A Practitioner's View*. Cham: Springer. p117-131.
- Wazzan, M., Wazzan, M. (2019), An exploratory study to deepen understanding of the decision-making processes of national accounting standards boards: The case of adoption or otherwise of IFRS for SMEs in the EU. *Academy of Management Review*, 32(3), 836-863.
- Weygandt, J.J., Kimmel, P.D., Aly, I.M. (2020), *Managerial Accounting: Tools for Business Decision-Making*. United States: John Wiley and Sons.
- Weygandt, J.J., Kimmel, P.D., Kieso, D.E. (2018), *Financial Accounting with International Financial Reporting Standards*. United States: John Wiley and Sons.
- Wijekoon, N., Sharma, U., Samkin, G. (2023), SME owners and accountants' perceptions of financial information in small-and medium-sized entities: A Sri Lanka case study. *Journal of Accounting in Emerging Economies*, 14, 422-449.
- Xolmirzaev, U., Juraev, E., Axmadjonova, M. (2021), The role of accounting in small business management. *Интернаука*, 197(21-25), 20-22.
- Yusrina, H., Mukhtaruddin, M., Fuadah, L.L., Sulong, Z. (2017), International financial reporting standards convergence and quality of accounting information: Evidence from Indonesia. *International Journal of Economics and Financial Issues*, 7(4), 433-447.
- Zahid, R.A., Simga-Mugan, C. (2019), An analysis of IFRS and SME-IFRS adoption determinants: A worldwide study. *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade*, 55(2), 391-408.