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• Sharma T., Kwatra, G. (2008) Effectiveness of Social Advertising: A Study of Selected Campaigns, Corporate Social Responsibility, Edited by David Crowther & Nicholas Capaldi, Ashgate Research Companion to Corporate Social Responsibility, Chapter 15, pp 287-303.

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Schemenner, R.W., Huber, J.C. and Cook, R.L. (1987), "Geographic Differences and the Location of New Manufacturing Facilities," Journal of Urban Economics, Vol. 21, No. 1, pp. 83-104.

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THE EFFECT OF ENTREPRENEURIAL ORIENTATION, MARKET ORIENTATION AND LEARNING ORIENTATION ON COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE AND BUSINESS PERFORMANCE (STUDY ON SMALL BUSINESSES OF FOOD PROCESSING IN PALEMBANG)

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ABSTRACT

The relationship between entrepreneurial orientation, market orientation, learning orientation, competitive advantage and business performance, especially small business of food processing is interesting to study. 179 people involved in small business of food processing are the sample of this study. Path analysis is used in this study to measure the magnitude of the influence between variables. The findings indicate that the entrepreneurial orientation variable and learning orientation has a significant effect on competitive advantage. Market orientation variable has no significant effect on competitive advantage. The results of this study can contribute to small businesses in increasing business excellence and performance.

KEYWORDS

entrepreneurial orientation, market orientation, learning orientation.

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INTRODUCTION

ompetition among business firms has increased with the rapid globalization of markets and has led to more dynamic and numerous markets all over the world (Kwak et al., 2013). In this scenario, small businesses are relatively more open to external pressures than large firms. Due to its size, small businesses tend to face difficulties in acquiring human resources and modern technology to make a profit. These businesses must rely on the resources and capabilities of the owners. Thus, these owner skills are critical to the success and survival of a small business. Both market orientation and entrepreneurship not only enable business to absorb the pressures created by the dynamic and complex business environment, but also help them to reap the benefits of new business opportunities. Businesses that do not adopt a market orientation and entrepreneurship soon disappear from the market. Resource Based View (RBV) explains that market orientation and entrepreneurship are two different complementary strategic orientations (Miles and Arnold, 1991).

Market orientation is described as a company's tendency to create and deliver superior value to customers (Narver and Slater, 1990b). This requires the recognition and understanding of customers and competitors to achieve a sustainable competitive advantage (Johnson et al., 2012). Market-oriented activities and behaviors involve proactively seeking opportunities in the marketplace, delivering superior customer value and future market positioning. Raju et al., (2011) in their conceptual study provide a summary of the studies conducted on SMEs and show that 13 of the 16 cases show a significant positive relationship between market orientation and firm performance. Liao et al., (2011) provide a summary of 38 studies and conclude that 36 studies show that market orientation contributes to performance in various ways such as customer focus, delivering superior customer value and shaping organizational culture. Some researchers have suggested that firms should adopt a market orientation and entrepreneurship to achieve more than normal returns (Kwak et al., 2013).

An entrepreneurial orientation is considered an important driver of sustainable growth and superior performance (Kraus et al., 2012). The entrepreneurial orientation construct represents the strategic posture of the organization and considers various aspects such as entrepreneurial methods, practices and decision-making styles (Lumpkin and Dess, 2001). According to Shane and Venkataraman (2000), entrepreneurial orientation represents the company's tendency towards identifying and exploiting market opportunities to achieve competitive advantage. The positive relationship of entrepreneurial orientation with performance in several cultural and operational environments has been studied in several studies (Rauch et al., 2009). In this context, entrepreneurial orientation has been viewed as a multidimensional construct, and should have a significant influence on firm performance. Although the effect of entrepreneurial orientation on firm performance is influenced by firm size and nation's culture (Rauch et al., 2009), learning orientation also plays an important role in improving firm performance (Wang, 2008). Therefore, this study attempts to investigate the effects of entrepreneurial orientation, and learning orientation on competitive advantage and Small Business performance.

LITERATURE REVIEW

ENTREPRENEURIAL ORIENTATION

The concept of entrepreneurship has received much attention by researchers over the last two decades (Eggers et al., 2013). It refers to an activity, based on opportunity and which creates value and is strongly linked to risk and innovation (Sexton and Kasarda, 1991). Entrepreneurial orientation refers to the strategic management style of companies that have entrepreneurial tendencies (Becherer and Maurer, 1997). Lumpkin and Dess (2001) define innovation as a company's tendency to engage in and support new ideas, novelty, experiment, and creative processes that can result in new products, services, or processes. Rauch et al., (2009) describe it as the willingness of entrepreneurs to encourage and support experimental creativity in the form of launching new or better products or services or in terms of technological supremacy through research and development in organizational procedures.

MARKET ORIENTATION

Market orientation being a fundamental construct in the marketing literature has attracted the interest of many researchers over the last two decades (Theodosiou et al., 2012). Market orientation is considered as an important driver of business performance and its importance cannot be denied regardless of culture and market as its strong relationship with business performance (Kwak et al., 2013). Several studies have emphasized the relationship between the level of market orientation and business performance (Dubihlela, 2013). The majority of studies investigate market orientation from either a cultural or behavioral perspective (Theodosiou et al., 2012). Narver and Slater (1990) define market orientation from a cultural perspective as the organizational culture that most effectively creates the behaviors necessary to create superior value for buyers and, thus, sustainable superior performance for the business. The cultural perspective emphasizes organizational values and norms related to market orientation and consists of three components, namely competitor orientation, customer orientation and coordination between functions (Narver and Slater, 1990).

LEARNING ORIENTATION

Learning orientation is conceptualized as basic attitudes towards learning, for example, organizational and managerial characteristics that facilitate organizational learning processes (Real et al., 2012). In this context, learning orientation is seen as corporate values that influence the company's tendency to create and use knowledge (Zhao et al., 2011), and management's commitment to support a culture that encourages learning orientation as one of the main values (Real et al., 2012). As the company gets bigger, commitment to learning plays an important role in developing assets and capabilities related to its main activities (Wang, 2008). If a company is small and less learning-oriented than its competitors, it may have less innovation (Pesämaa et al., 2013) and substantial difficulties in terms of survival (Rhee et al., 2010). Previous studies have found that learning orientation has a significant impact on the performance of SMEs (Real et al., 2012). Maes and Sels (2014) considers that learning is the main component of any effort to improve competitive advantage and organizational performance.

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Competitive advantage is the company's ability to create superior value by utilizing various available resources. Competitive advantage is a set of features of a company and its products that are accepted by the target market as an important factor in competition (Lamb, Hair, and McDaniel, 2001). There are three types of competitive advantage, namely cost competitive advantage, differential competitive advantage and niche competitive advantage. Competitive strategy is divided into three general strategies, namely differentiation, cost advantage and focus strategy. Differentiation is a strategy to provide a different offer compared to the offers provided by competitives. Cost advantage is a strategy to streamline all production costs so as to produce products or services that can be sold cheaper than competitors. Competitive advantage can be achieved through customer focus, achievement of quality, integrity and responsibility, innovation and creativity, low-cost production.

BUSINESS PERFORMANCE

Improving performance is the main target of entrepreneurial organizations (Wiklund and Shepherd, 2003). Various performance measures, which were applied in different entrepreneurship studies, however, did not provide a justification for choosing a course of action (Murphy *et al.*, 1996). According to Murphy *et al.*, (1996), most of the empirical studies of entrepreneurial orientation research are associated with performance as the dependent variable. Stam and Elfring (2008) contribute to the performance of learning orientation as a measurement of organizational performance through the speed of service delivery. O'Sullivan and Abela (2007) contributed market share as a measurement dimension of contextual performance measurement. A review of the literature shows that measurement can be carried out both subjectively and objectively for many researchers and realize that self-reported data or subjective measurements are easier (Stam and Elfring, 2008).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

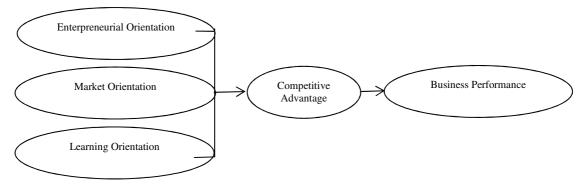
- 1. To find the effect of entrepreneurial orientation, market orientation and learning orientation on competitive advantage.
- 2. To find out the effect of competitive advantage on business performance.

RESEARCH METHODS

The population in this study are small and medium industries engaged in food products in Palembang with the total of 325 respondents, then the number of samples as many as 179 people. The analytical method used in this research is path analysis. Path analysis is a study of the dependence of the dependent variable with one or more independent variables with the aim of estimating the values of the dependent variable based on the known value of the independent variable (Ghozali, 2005).

Validity test is used to measure how accurate a test carries out its measuring function. In this study, the item validity test was used using internal criteria, namely comparing the suitability of each question with the overall score of each question with the overall total score. Validity test is also the ability of indicators to measure the level of accuracy of a concept (Sugiyono, 2010). With a significance level of 95%, a variable is said to be reliable if the variable has a coefficient *Cronbach* 0.60. A good framework will explain theoretically the relationship between the variables to be studied. Therefore, theoretically, it is necessary to explain the relationship between the independent and dependent variables. The conceptual framework of the research can be explained in the following figure.

FIGURE 1: RESEARCH FRAMEWORK



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of respondents based on age, last education, type of business and business ownership duration can be explained in table 1 below.

TABLE 1: CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS				
Characteristics of Respondents	Total (n = 179)	%		
Age				
< 25 years	58	32.4		
25 – 35 years	50	27.9		
36 – 48 years	44	24.6		
> 48 years	27	15.1		
Education				
Junior High School	23	12.8		
Senior High School	100	55.9		
Vocational Education	53	29.6		
Undergraduate degree	3	1.7		
Type of business				
Traditional food	97	54.2		
Modern food	82	45.8		
Business Ownership duration				
< 1 year	53	29.6		
1 - 5 years	89	49.7		
> 5 years	37	20.7		

The largest respondents are business owners under 25 years old (58 people). Followed by business owners with age category of 25-35 years old (50 people) and 36-48 years old as well as older than 48 year old with number of respondents 44 and 27, consecutively. In terms of education, most of the business owners are graduated from high school (100 people) and follow by vocational education (53 people), junior high school (23 people) and undergraduate degree (3 people). These respondents are mostly involved in traditional food business (97 people) and the businesses have been running for 1-5 years (89 people). Validity test is a measurement of the processed data showing the extent to which the measuring instrument is able to measure what is expected to be measured.

This test was conducted to determine whether the questionnaire could be included in the next analysis. The test is carried out by comparing the product moment or commonly referred to as r table with r count where r count must be greater than r table.

TABLE 2: VALIDITY TEST						
	Entrepreneurial Orientation	Market Orientation	Learning Orientation	Competitive Advantage	Business Performance	
Entrepreneurial Orientation	1.000	.656**	.680**	.726**	.682**	
Market Orientation	.656**	1.000	.755**	.694**	.623**	
Learning Orientation	.680*	.755**	1.000	.727**	.686**	
Competitive Advantage	.726**	.694**	.727**	1.000	.718**	
Business Performance	.682**	.623**	.686**	.672**	1.0000	

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

The results of the calculation of r count of entrepreneurial orientation, market orientation, learning orientation, competitive advantage and business performance shows that the value of r count is greater than r table, this means that the data on entrepreneurial orientation, market orientation, learning orientation, competitive advantage and business performance are generally valid and reliable.

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TABLE 3: RESEARCH VARIABLE RELIABILITY TEST RESULTS					
Variable	No of Item	Item Deleted	Alpha		
Entrepreneurial Orientation	10	-	0.9160		
Market Orientation	12	-	0.9139		
Learning Orientation	10	-	0.9064		
Competitive Advantage	11	-	0.8992		
Business Performance	10	-	0.9126		

The results of the analysis show that all variables have a Cronbach Alpha above 0.60 and all concepts measuring each variable from the questionnaire are reliable and the items for each variable are feasible to be used for the instrument.

TABLE 4: PATH ANALYSIS						
Independent Variable	Dependent Variable	В	t- value	Sig.		
Entrepreneurial Orientation	Competitive Advantage	0.359	5.680	0.000		
Market Orientation	Competitive Advantage	0.139	1.851	0.066		
Learning Orientation	Competitive Advantage	0.214	2.685	0.008		
Competitive Advantage	Business Performance	0.333	4.850	0.000		
Constant = 5.704						
R Square = 0,662						
Adj R Square = 0,654						
F Stat = 85.220						
Sig F = 0,000						

Based on the analysis entrepreneurial orientation is significant on the competitive advantage meaning that the relationship between the entrepreneurial orientation variable and competitive advantage is positive and significant. This research supports the research that has been done by Wiklund and Shepherd (2003); Tovstiga and Tulugurova (2009); Mahmood and Hanafi (2013) where the research results state that there is a linear relationship between the entrepreneurial orientation variable and competitive advantage.

Furthermore, market orientation has no effect on competitive advantage indicating that the relationship between market orientation variables and competitive advantage is positive and insignificant. This study supports the research of Zainul *et al.*, (2016) which states that there is no relationship between market orientation variables and competitive advantage. However, the results of this study differ from the research conducted by Juan and Zhou (2010) where the results of his research state that there is a linear relationship between market orientation variables and competitive advantage.

Moreover, the relationship between learning orientation and competitive advantage is found to be significant. This research supports the research that has been done by Maes and Sels (2014); Rhee *et al.*, (2010); Baron *et al.*, 2012; Brettel and Rottenberger, (2013); Hung *et al.*, (2011); Pesämaa *et al.*, (2013); Real *et al.*, (2012); Wincent *et al.*, (2014) which state that there is a linear relationship between learning orientation and competitive advantage.

Lastly, the results of competitive advantage and business performance is also found to be significant and positive. This finding supports the research conducted by Juan and Zhou (2010); Story *et al.*, (2011); Zainul *et al.*, (2016) that found a linear relationship between the variables of competitive advantage and business performance.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This study aims to determine the effect of entrepreneurial orientation, market orientation, learning orientation on competitive advantage and the relationship between competitive advantage on business performance. The results showed that the entrepreneurial orientation variable had a significant effect on competitive advantage. Market orientation variable has no significant effect on competitive advantage. The learning orientation variable has a significant effect on competitive advantage. The competitive advantage variable has a significant effect on business performance. The results of this study can be used as input by small business owners in Palembang in compiling and implementing business strategies so that they can compete and improve business performance.

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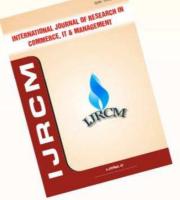
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