

Total Quality Management, Entrepreneurial Orientation, and Market Orientation: Moderating Effect of Environment on Performance of SMEs

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The objective of this study was to examine the moderating effect of external environment on the relationships between total quality management, entrepreneurial orientation, market orientation, and performance of small and medium enterprises. The three variables; total quality management, entrepreneurial orientation, and market orientation were not investigated together within the context of small and medium enterprises. Data was collected from small and medium enterprises operating in Sialkot, Pakistan by using self-administered questionnaire. 260 questionnaires were distributed to the owner/managers of small and medium enterprises but only 186 of them were returned, giving a response rate of 71%. The finding showed that total quality management, entrepreneurial orientation, and market orientation were significant predictors of performance of small and medium enterprises. Furthermore, moderating effect of external environment on the relationships between total quality management, entrepreneurial orientation, market orientation, and performance was also found significant. The study is essential for practitioners, policy makers, and researchers in the field of small and medium enterprises. Finally, limitations of study and necessary recommendations for future research have been discussed.

Keywords: Total quality management, entrepreneurial orientation, market orientation, external environment, performance.

INTRODUCTION

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are main origin for employment generation (Asad, Haider, & Fatima, 2018). SMEs have been recognized globally as an engine of growth and development (Asad & Javaid, 2010; Ibrahim, Keat, & Abdul-Rani, 2016). The contribution of SMEs towards economic performance is now internationally accepted as significant (Kwamega, Li, & Ntiamoah, 2015). In Pakistan SMEs have significant concentration with 65.4% in Punjab. Estimated number of SMEs in Pakistan is 3.2 million with the share of 30% in total exports (Haider, Asad, Atiq, & Fatima, 2017). Due to growing market challenges over the last one-decade, top management of SMEs have been motivated to improve their effectiveness and re-evaluate their business strategies and management practices to satisfy their customers by providing high quality of products and services (Asad & Abid, 2018). Thus, satisfying the customer's needs and wants by providing them quality goods and services can create competitive advantage for organizations (Wanderi & Mberia, 2015). Applying TQM will enhance the overall quality and success of any business (Haque, Sarwar, Azam, & Yasmin, 2014). The critical factor behind such a poor growth are lack of Entrepreneurial Orientation (EO) (Asad, Shabbir, Salman, Haider, & Ahmad, 2018), lack of entrepreneurial networking (Asad, Sharif, & ALekam, 2016), access to finance (Asad, Shariff, & Haider, 2016), lack of skilled labor (Haider, Asad, Fatima, & Abidin, 2017), lack of Market Orientation (MO) (Asad, Sharif, & Hafeez, 2016), lack of government support to the sector (Asad & Javaid, 2010), and product quality (Shabbir, Asad, Faisal, & Salman, 2019).

The purpose of applying Total Quality Management (TQM) is to provide quality products or services to customers, which will decrease cost and increase productivity (Ahmad, et al., 2017). Similarly, the concept of entrepreneurship highlights over the

factors, which puts entrepreneurship in framework of management. EO has been studied in different kinds of organizations from micro firms to large with different kinds of structures (Haider, Asad, Atiq, & Fatima, 2017). Another important aspect is to adopt Market Orientation (MO) practices. MO is to implement the market culture which focuses on the market's competitiveness which increases customer satisfaction (Asad & Abid, 2018) and therefore, performance. Here the importance of environment cannot be ignored (Asad, Ahmad, Haider, & Salman, 2018). Environment is described as factors and situations that are effective and determine the performance of firms (Rogo, Shariff, & Hafeez, 2017).

Pakistan is famous for broad range and high quality of leather garments, leather jackets and leather gloves. In Punjab, Sialkot is the leading exporting city of Pakistan in leather and leather products (SMEDA, 2017). According to National Pakistan Tanneries association there are about 800 tanneries in Pakistan (Pakistan Tanneries Association, 2017). The leather industry of Pakistan has been facing a continuous decline in its share in international market. Furthermore, tanneries and leather sector has faced a decline from 1.2 Billion exports to 725 Million-dollar exports because export of leather jacket, gloves, and footwear has declined by 19% (Bhatti, Sheikh, Asgher, Mansha, & Zafar, 2016). Moreover, the leather sector has also shown decline of 6% (Zafar & Mustafa, 2017). Although many of researchers conducted several studies on the relationship between TQM, EO, and MO on the performance of SMEs however, yet there is a need to better understand the relationship with some moderating variable (Herath & Mahmood, 2013; Jabeen, Aliyu, & Mahmood, 2016; Hartanto, Wahyudi, & PH, 2017). Therefore, the objective of this research is to identify moderating effect of environment on the relationship between TQM, EO, MO, and performance SMEs in Pakistan.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The study examines the effect of TQM, EO, and MO with external environment as a moderating variable on the performance of tanneries and leather SMEs of Sialkot in Pakistan. Moreover, this study aims to provide empirical evidence from the selected literature review to support a theoretical framework and for the development of hypotheses.

Performance is a basically measurement of how SMEs use their assets to make revenue (Keli, 2015). Performance may be defined as the outcome of the firm operations or achievement of firm's goal (Asad & Qadeer, 2014), efficient management of capital (Asad, 2011), satisfaction of employees (Shah & Asad, 2018) and customers (Asad, Ahmad, Haider, & Salman, 2018). Performance includes financial and non-financial performance (Mahmood, Qadeer, & Ahmed, 2015). Moreover, performance express overall profits and losses (Jaca & Psomas, 2015). Performance can be measured based on financial perspective, business process perspective, customer perspective, personnel commitment and learning and commitment perspective (Hidayat, Akhmad, & Mu'alim, 2015). As the major issue is decline in exports due to which financial performance is declining, therefore the study measured performance in term of financial performance, which is mainly affected by TQM, EO, and MO.

TQM is a process for providing quality of products and services to customers by improving the productivity. The concept of total quality control was first introduced by (Vallin, 1961) where he proposed a total system's approach to quality primarily emphasizing prevention-based rather than a corrective-based system. TQM process focuses on not only customers expectations but also decrease the cost by adopting a suitable quality management system (Majumdar, 2016). Thus, the discussion shows that importance of TQM cannot be ignored in getting high performance by SMEs.

In order to attain TQM firms, need to operate entrepreneurially. Entrepreneurship encloses uncertainty and risk taking. Entrepreneurship is economic creation including the characteristics of new established business activity of firms (Soininen, 2013). Entrepreneurial orientation may depend on the environment, when a firm engages in new entry and characterized by cultural differences it faces different challenges (Amin, Thurasamy, Aldakkhil, & Kaswuri, 2016). Similarly, it was indicated that enterprises with high EO surface their counterparts in term of performance (Kreiser, Marino, & Kuratko, 2013; Asad, Sharif, & ALekam, 2016). Thus, like TQM the importane of EO cannot be ignored.

Along with TQM and EO another important factor that influence performance of SMEs is Market Orientation. Market-orientation refers to generating and taking actions in response to market intelligence by the participation of variety of departments in the organization (Jabeen, Aliyu, & Mahmood, 2016). Market orientation is meant to attain customer satisfaction and to improve the performance of a firm (Asad, Sharif, & Hafeez, 2016). There is Positive and significant relationship between MO and firm performance (Herath & Mahmood, 2014). Market orientation and performance depends on the condition of

business environment of an organization (Rogo, Shariff, & Hafeez, 2017).

The external environment is outside factors of company that has the capacity to affect the company (Indris & Primiana, 2015). Organizations need to measure their internal and external environment to meet challenges in order to remain competitive in changing business environment (Faiz, 2015). The external environment has presented both challenges and opportunities for the industry (Ombaka, 2014). Some researchers have also studied the external environment as moderator with MO and performance relationship which focus more on competitive intensity and market turbulence (Abidemi, Halim, & Alshuabi, 2017; Milovanovic & Wittine, 2014). Furthermore, external environment has a strong impact on SMEs performance (Singh & Mahmood, 2014). External environment as a moderator successfully implement MO to achieve higher firm performance (Jabeen, Aliyu, & Mahmood, 2016). This study is also identifying the moderating role of environment.

In order to support the variable in the study, the study employed Resource Based View (RBV) which provides a comprehensive explanation on gaining competitive advantage that how firms can attain competitive advantage through their ability to utilize their resources and capabilities (Hitt, Carnes, & Xu, 2016). According to resource-based view, strategic capabilities i.e. TQM, EO, MO are a pool of internal resources that create competitive advantages (Gupta, Tan, Ee, & Phang, 2018). Therefore, this study examined the impact of TQM, EO, and MO on performance which is in line with the RBV theory and fill the gap in the body of knowledge by adding environment as a moderating variable in RBV. The literature discussed different variables that substantially moderate the relationship between different strategic orientations such as TQM, EO, MO, and performance. However, proper alignment between key organizational components with the context or environment leads to better results (Martin & Javalgi, 2016).

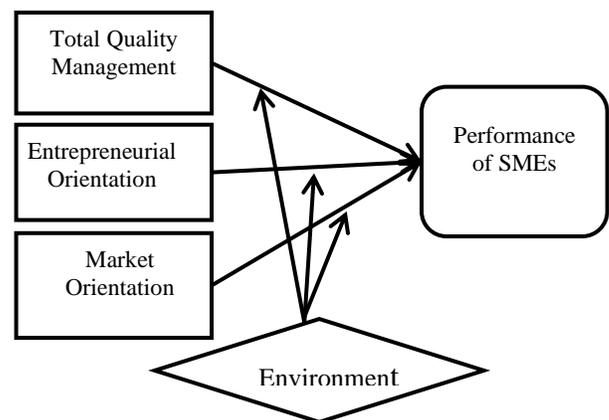


Figure 1: Framework

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The main aim of this study is to examine the moderating role of environment on the relationship between TQM, EO, MO, and performance of tanneries and leather sector SMEs of Sialkot, Punjab. Unit of analysis is firm. Target population of this study

was tanneries and leather sector SMEs of Sialkot, Punjab because of the significance as a source to generate employment and expanding labor force to provide attractive sustainability (Punjab Portal, 2017). Primary data has been collected from 260 out of 800 leather sector SMEs of Sialkot (National Tanneries of Pakistan, 2018) through survey technique using systematic sampling. The instrument of data collection was closed ended questionnaire. And response rate was 71%. PLS-SEM version 3.0 was used for analysis. In this TQM was measured in terms of leadership, customer focus, improvement, and process (Kaynak, 2003). Entrepreneurial orientation was measured by using innovativeness, pro-activeness, and risk taking (Haider, Asad, Fatima, & Abidin, 2017). Market orientation measured through customer orientation and competitor orientation (Asad, Shariff, & Hafeez, 2016). External environment measured through competitive intensity and market turbulence (Kohli, Jaworski, & Kumar, 1993). While dependent variable performance was measured through growth in sales, growth in number of employees and assets, and overall performance (Asad, Sharif, & Alekam, 2016; Haider, Asad, Atiq, & Fatima, 2017). 5-point Likert scale was used ranging from 1 “strongly disagree” to 5 “strongly agree” to measure the degree of agreement or disagreement of the respondent on each item.

DATA ANALYSIS

The Cronbach’s alpha was used to evaluate the reliability of instrument. After ensuring reliability convergent validity was measured which refers to the measurement of similar constructs that are relates and connected to each other’s (Jr, Sarstedt, Hopkins, & Kuppelwieser, 2014). The convergent validity was measured by examining Average Variance Extracted (AVE) value. Afterwards, there is need to ensure the internal consistency. Composite Reliability (CR) is used to measure the internal consistency. The reliability lies between 0 and 1, therefore, calculated value should not be less than 0.60 (Henseler, Ringle, & Sarste, 2015) but above 0.70 is considered more desirable.

Table 1: Reliability and validity

Variables	Cronbach’s Alpha	(AVE)	CR
TQM	0.880	0.734	0.917
EO	0.951	0.745	0.959
MO	0.900	0.667	0.923
EE	0.927	0.702	0.942
PSMEs	0.918	0.636	0.933

After ensuring the reliability of the instrument it is important to check the normality of the data. Values of Skewness and kurtosis are evaluated for normality of data. The Range of Skewness and kurtosis for all variables are acceptable which is <3 and <8. To identify the existence of multicollinearity issue among the variables this study used the tolerance value and Variance Inflation Factor (VIF).

Table 2: Skewness and kurtosis

Variables	Mean	Std. Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis	Tolerance	VIF
TQM	3.21	0.861	-1.163	-0.828	0.677	1.515
EO	3.43	0.590	-1.713	-0.852	0.982	1.708
MO	2.97	0.698	1.421	0.530	0.437	1.828
E.E	3.93	0.895	0.695	0.216	0.591	1.732
PSMEs	2.93	1.010	1.321	-1.543	0.637	1.091

Measurement model (outer model) is first step of PLS-SEM analysis. This model deals with the measurement which depict that how indicators load theoretically and associate with construct.

Table 3: Outer loading

Variables	Items	Loading	
TQM	TQM2	0.888	
	TQM3	0.840	
	TQM4	0.844	
	TQM5	0.85	
	TQM5	0.856	
Entrepreneurial Orientation	EO1	0.795	
	EO2	0.814	
	EO4	0.887	
	EO5	0.875	
	EO6	0.913	
	EO7	0.856	
	EO9	0.865	
	EO10	0.894	
	Market Orientation	MO1	0.757
		MO5	0.779
MO6		0.769	
MO7		0.894	
MO9		0.825	
MO10		0.867	
Environment		EE1	0.930
PSMEs	EE2	0.726	
	EE3	0.867	
	EE4	0.927	
	EE5	0.848	
	EE6	0.794	
	EE8	0.747	
	PSMEs1	0.796	
	PSMEs2	0.778	
PSMEs3	0.774		
PSMEs4	0.837		
PSMEs5	0.762		
PSMEs6	0.808		
PSMEs7	0.815		
PSMEs8	0.806		

After choosing the items having factor loading above 0.7 it is necessary to ensure that the items of a variable are measuring the variable that the item is supposed to measure rather measuring any other variable. Discriminant validity means the ability to measure the only one variable (Voorhees, Brady, Calantone, & Ramirez, 2016).

Table 4: Discriminant validity

Variables	EO	EE	PSMEs	MO	TQM
EO	0.863				
EE	0.633	0.838			
PSMEs	0.598	0.563	0.797		
MO	0.621	0.875	0.535	0.817	
TQM	0.606	0.617	0.716	0.574	0.857

Results obtained by running PLS-SEM version 3.0:

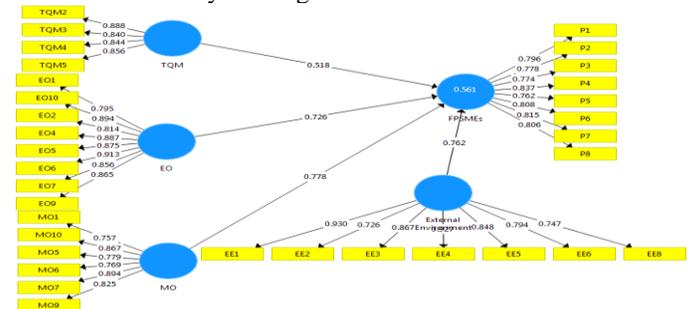


Figure 2: Measurement Model

To identify the significance of relationships PLS-SEM bootstrapping calculated with the help of Smart PLS3. The results of PLS-SEM direct relationships are shown in figure 3.

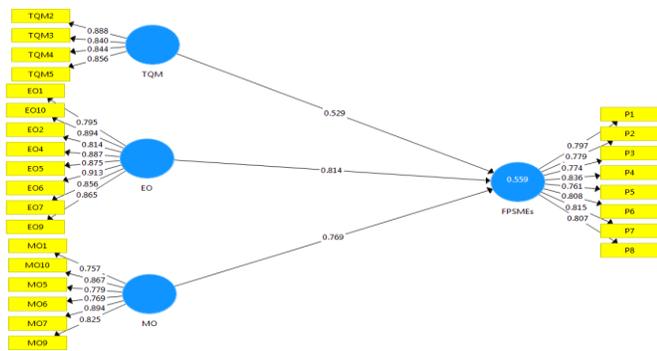


Figure 3: PLS Algorithm Direct Relationship

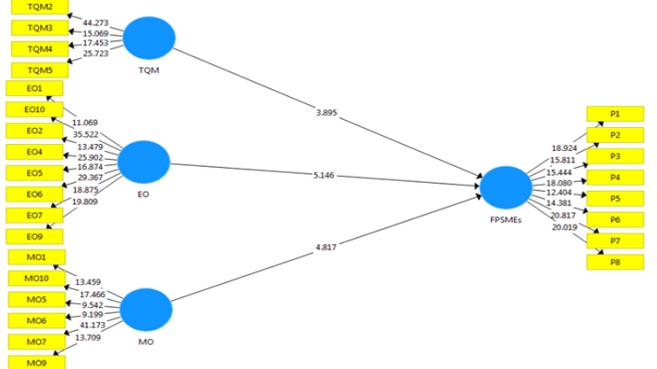


Figure 4: PLS-SEM Bootstrapping Direct Relationships

Table 5: Results of Hypothesis Testing of Direct Relationship

Hypothesis/ Path	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics ((O/STDEV))	P Values
TQM-> PSMEs	0.529	0.537	0.135	3.895	0.000
EO -> PSMEs	0.814	0.226	0.158	5.146	0.000
MO -> PSMEs	0.769	0.087	0.159	4.817	0.000

After introduction of the interaction term the moderation value presents the beta values of interaction term in figure 5. The moderation model presented in figure 5 and figure 6 tests whether the prediction about the performance of SMEs from TQM, EO, and MO can be affected when environment is introduced as a moderator.

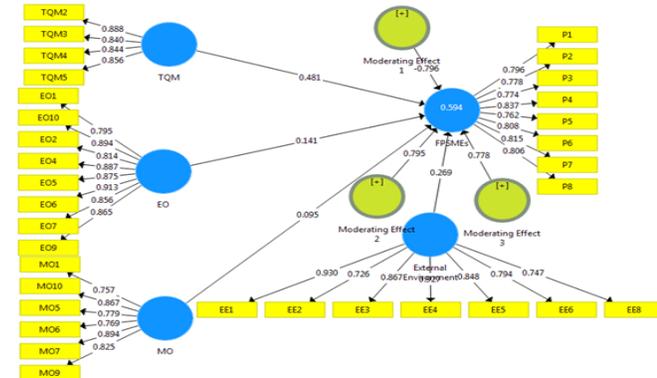


Figure 5: PLS-SEM Algorithm Moderators

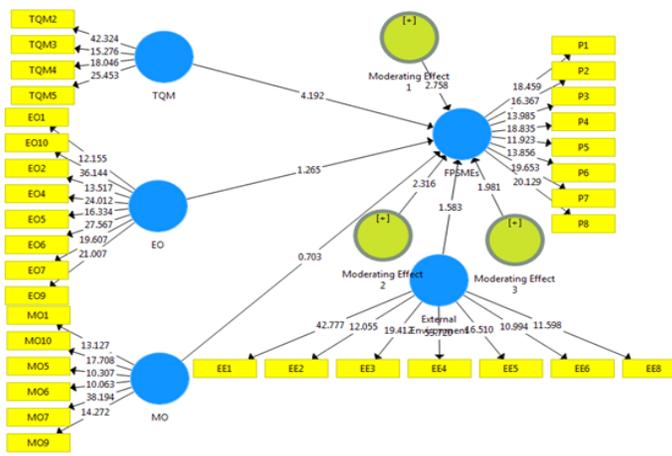


Figure 6: PLS-SEM Bootstrapping Moderator

Table 6: Path coefficients

Hypothesis/ Path	Original Sample	Sample Mean	Standard Deviation	T Statistics ((O/STDEV))	P Values
EE -> PSMEs	0.269	0.258	0.170	1.582	0.114
ME1 -> PSMEs	-0.769	-0.060	0.278	2.766	0.005
ME2 -> PSMEs	0.795	0.217	0.343	2.317	0.048
ME3 -> PSMEs	-0.778	-0.100	0.392	1.985	0.022

As reported in above in table 5 and 6, it can be concluded that there is significant positive relationship between TQM ($\beta=0.529$; $t=3.895$; $p=0.000$) and performance, thus, supporting the first hypothesis. The significant finding on the relationship of TQM and performance of SMEs is in line with Kaynak (2003). Similarly, findings from Table 5 shows that EO ($\beta=0.814$; $t=5.146$; $p=0.000$) has significant relationship with the performance. Hence, the second hypothesis related to these relationships is accepted. The relationship between MO and performance was found to be significant ($\beta=0.769$; $t=4.817$; $p=0.000$). This finding is consistent with the findings of Asad and Sharif (2016). The findings of moderation also supported hypotheses 4, 5, and 6. Different environmental factors effect on different organizations. This study found that environmental factors moderate the relationship between TQM, EO, MO, and performance of SMEs.

CONCLUSIONS

The theoretical framework of this study was developed within the assumption of Resource Based Value and contingency theory. The results revealed that TQM and MO are important drivers that contribute to higher performance in the context of SMEs in Pakistan. The foreign markets have a high concern for quality as well as and to meet their demands it is important to be market oriented. To be market oriented entrepreneurial orientation is compulsory because any firm cannot change with the changing demand of the market if the firm is not innovative. Hence the findings of the study supporting entrepreneurial orientation are in line with the practical scenario. Similarly, the findings of the study revealed that environment truly plays a moderating role. The environment of Pakistan is very dynamic and mostly challenging. The major reason behind instable performance of SMEs in Pakistan is the dynamic and challenging environment of business. The outcome of this study would assist

managers and policy makers to develop and implement strategies to develop and enhance the Performance of SMEs in the leather sector. This study also faced certain limitations which were tried to be catered by taking environment as a moderating variable, however, this can be further divided into political environment, legal environment, and market environment. Thus, future researchers are guided to take the different aspects of environment in their study so that proper guidelines may be given to the policy makers.

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