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IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCOUNTING STANDARDS BY SMEs: COERCION OR RATIONALITY?

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Abstract: This study explores the implementation of SMEs Accounting Standard and observes its motives. The research method uses a narrative paradigm with an interview and observation approach. The results of this study showed that not all informants used SAK EMKM. The findings refute prior research that considers education, perception, and understanding of the motive of compliance with the standard. Moreover, rationality and stakeholder theory become the strong motives underlying their decision to implement SMEs Accounting Standard.

Keywords: Accounting standard, SMEs, Rationality, Stakeholder Theory.

Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji implementasi serta menggali motif yang melandasi pengimplementasian SAK EMKM pada UMKM. Menggunakan paradigma naratif dengan pendekatan wawancara dan observasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tidak semua informan dalam penelitian ini menggunakan SAK EMKM. Motif yang mendasari keputusan mereka untuk memilih baik menggunakan maupun tidak menggunakan SAK EMKM adalah aspek rasionalitas seperti pertimbangan cost dan benefit serta unsur dalam teori stakeholder. Temuan dalam penelitian ini mengingkari penelitian terdahulu yang menyebutkan bahwa pemilik UMKM tidak menggunakan akuntansi karena mereka tidak memahami akuntansi, tingkat pendidikan yang kurang memadai, persepsi serta tidak adanya orang yang paham terkait bagaimana mencatat akuntansi yang benar.

Kata Kunci: SAK EMKM, UMKM, Rasionalitas, Teori Stakeholder.

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INTRODUCTION

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) have a strategic role in this country. The growth of SMEs in a country can provide various benefits, one of which is the potential to develop job opportunities and increase people's income. Coordinating Ministry for the Economic states that SMEs in Indonesia reach 64.2 million, contributing to gross domestic product (GDP) of 61.07% or worth 8,772.89 trillion rupiahs. Moreover, the Coordinating Ministry for the Economic states 97% of the workforce is absorbed through SMEs and can collect 60.4% of the total investment.

The rapid development of the number of SMEs underlies the Indonesian Institute of Accountants (IAI) to develop financial accounting standards (SAK) for micro, small and medium-sized entities (EMKM). SAK EMKM is prepared to meet the financial reporting needs of SMEs. Through Law No. 20 of 2008, entities can use these standards to prepare financial statements for accountability purposes. Reliable financial reports can be used to find out information on the financial condition of SMEs employee performance and make the right decisions. Furthermore, financial statements that comply with standards can be used by SMEs to obtain tax incentives and obtain funding from creditors and the government. DJP (2017) states that SMEs that do not want to be taxed for their sales turnover must maintain a bookkeeping system. This bookkeeping system requires SMEs to attach a balance sheet and income statement when submitting the Annual Income Tax Return (DJP, 2017). The birth of SAK EMKM does not necessarily encourage SMEs to apply accounting standards to their entities.

Various studies state that the application of SAK EMKM in Indonesia is still relatively low (Kirowati & Amir, 2019; Prajanto & Septriana, 2018; Putra, 2018). Several things that trigger the inadequate implementation of SAK EMKM on SMEs in Indonesia are limited human resources, lack of socialization by relevant agencies and feeling that accounting is useless (Purba, 2019; Putra, 2018). In addition, Kusuma (2019) states that this standard cannot be appropriately implemented in education, perception and understanding of MSME owners towards accounting is low. Using a different perspective, Herawati et al. (2020) examine gender and financial literacy as motives for implementing SAK EMKM in Indonesia. The study results indicate that women with high financial literacy skills strongly influence the implementation of SAK EMKM accounting standards. Various studies have explored the

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causes and factors for the reluctance to use accounting standards in SMEs and the more significant business sectors. In the international context, it is stated that even multinational institutions or businesses still question the relevance of following an international standard (Larson & Kenny, 1998; Susela, 1999). In addition, (Burchell et al., 1980) stated that accounting standards are practical if their use has a function right. Relevance and effectiveness seem to be important issues of accounting standards and are closely related to rationalization. Thus, Mir & Rahaman (2005) concluded that developing countries such as Bangladesh use accounting standards purely due to cost and benefit considerations. In addition to rationalization, Mir & Rahaman (2005) also revealed that the main factor that encourages companies to use accounting standards is stakeholder pressure.

Based on the explanation, no research explains the motif of the implementation of SAK EMKM on SMEs. Adila et al. (2021) and Lesmana (2021) conducted a similar case study on an MSME with research results that the MSME had not implemented SAK EMKM. Furthermore, Kartika et al. (2021) revealed that 100 MSME actors in Mataram were quite familiar with SAK EMKM but were not ready to implement these standards. The various studies above are only limited to whether SMEs use SAK EMKM or not. In addition, this research has not explored more deeply related to the motives of SMEs in implementing SAK EMKM. Based on this phenomenon, the purpose of the research is first to determine the implementation of SAK EMKM in SMEs. Second, this research explores SMEs motives for making decisions using SAK EMKM.

METHOD

This study uses a narrative paradigm to explore the informants' experiences (Creswell & Poth, 2018). Through this approach, interviews and observations focus on a person's personal experience and explore social, cultural, linguistic, family and institutional origins, including their expressions (Creswell & Poth, 2018). This research method was chosen to explore the implementation of SAK EMKM, the use of accounting information technology, and SAK EMKM's role in UMMKM during the pandemic. The selected informants are subjects with extensive experience and knowledge in the scope of social reality to be studied. The triangulation technique applied in this research includes triangulation of data sources, triangulation of methods and triangulation of theory. First, triangulation of data sources comes from informants who have different backgrounds and business sectors, but both feel the impact

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of the pandemic. Meanwhile, in-depth interviews through the zoom application and analysis of documents or financial records are triangulation techniques used in this study. Triangulation theory in this study uses theories from accounting and economics. These theories include standards or rules in MSME financial reporting (SAK EMKM), stakeholder theory and rational theory. After the analysis and conclusions have been made, the interview results will be verified for approval and correction. The use of the above technique is expected to increase the credibility and validity of qualitative research. The profiles of resource persons in this study are presented in Appendix 1.

RESULTS

Implementation of SAK EMKM on SMEs

MSME actors apply simple accounting records and tend to ignore standard financial administration rules (Narsa et al., 2012). The same thing was also expressed by Kirowati & Amir (2019), Prajanto & Septriana (2018), and Putra (2018) that the implementation of SAK EMKM on SMEs in several parts of Indonesia is still relatively low. The first informant stated as follows: This business is simple, the average person does not use bookkeeping. If we make a profit, we will use the money to meet our daily needs. I have simple thoughts. This is my opinion." Furthermore, the first informant stated that:

"I do not use PSAK. The business process in SMEs is very simple. The most important thing is that there is a sale, then we just need to calculate the turnover and how much is the purchase. Simple. I have employees who calculate daily financial statements. Then, I will verify every day. So I use the cash basis system and it is impossible to use accruals."

SMEs Financial reports are presented in Figure 1. The first informant did not use standards in recording his business but only simple notes.

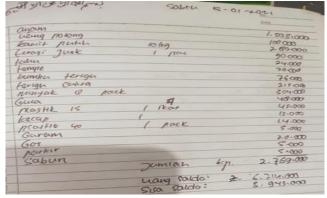


Figure 1 Bookkeeping Informan 1

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The first informant MSME financial records did not meet the principles required by SAK EMKM but only used a straightforward system, namely, cash basis and single entry. The profit or loss calculation technique is simple: all sales proceeds from direct sales plus online sales originating from e-commerce (Go Food / Shopee / Go-Pay / Ovo) minus the number of purchases of goods or expenses. The above calculations are recapitulated daily by employees. MSME owners will receive and verify a weekly summary of sales results. (Osuala, 1993) states that the single-entry accounting system is the most accessible recording to do. Theoretically, this record only records the inflow of income and any expenses incurred in one journal entry (Baker et al., 2002). Although there are many weaknesses in the recording technique above, they have the perception that financial recording according to standards is complicated and takes much time (Narsa et al., 2012).

While the second informant, where the type of business is in the form of a credit server and laundry using a modern recording system, the following is the review:

"I have a server credit that uses a modern system. I use a sales and purchase application, the name is pulsa otomax. In addition, for my laundry business, I use the 1010dry application."

In line with the statement above, the third informant also emphasized the implementation of accounting in his coffee business as follows:

"I use a simple accounting system with an application. Buku warung application helps me in recording SMEs finances."

The daily recording display for the credit business is shown in Figure 2 below.

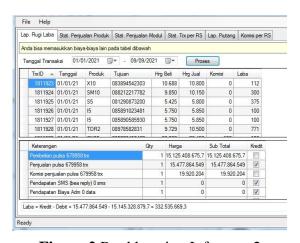


Figure 2 Bookkeeping Informan 2

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The third informant also made simple financial reports such as balance sheets and income statements. Meanwhile, the brief financial report prepared by the second informant is in the form of a balance sheet, income statement and cash flow statement as follow:

Laporan Arus Kas					
Saldo 31 Jan		310.337.848			
	02/03/19 Pelunasan piutang	8.500.000			
	31/12/19 Pembayaran tagihan	1.716.472.724			
	31/12/19 Biaya Admin	750000			
	31/12/19 Biaya Operasional	1.664.202.782			
Kas Akhir		370.357.790			

CV KPMxxx				
Neraca				
Per 31 Des 2019				
Aktiva		Passiva		
kas dan bank	370.357.790	Modal Usaha	300.000.000	
		Laba Di tahan	18.837.848	
		Laba Tahun Ber	51.519.942	
Total Aktiva	370.357.790	Total Passiva	370.357.790	

CV KPMxxx			
Laporan Laba Rugi			
Periode 2019			
Pendapatan	1.717.331.390		
Biaya	1.665.811.448		
Laba	51.519.942		

Figure 3 Financial Statement Informan 2

IAI (2016) states that in SAK EMKM, three basic assumptions that must be met by entities in preparing their financial statements are the basic principles of accruals, business continuity and the concept of business entities. On the basic principle of accrual, recording and matching of income and expenses is done when the transaction occurs. Furthermore, in addition to having to comply with these principles, the MSME financial report must at least contain a balance sheet, profit and loss statement, as well as notes to financial statements that contain additions and details of certain relevant accounts (IAI, 2016). The standard account in SAK EMKM is simple and not as complex as the financial statements of companies that have gone public. The balance sheet or statement of financial position presents information about assets, liabilities and equity at the end of the reporting period (IAI, 2016). While the income statement only includes three accounts such as income, finance expenses and tax expense. The last report that should be made is the notes to the financial statements, which contain an information that the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with SAK EMKM. Based on this explanation, it can be concluded that the first informant did not implement SAK EMKM. In contrast, both informants are good at using financial applications such as bookstalls; automatic pulse and 1010dry. These various applications can assist them in compiling simple financial records in accordance with SAK EMKM.

Rationality and Stakeholder are the basis for making decisions on the use of SAK EMKM

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Various studies conclude that rationality is the basis for humans to take action (Firmansyah et al., 2012; Gerrard, 2006; Vanberg, 2004). This can also be linked in the context of the application of accounting standards for SMEs. The informant explained the reasons for not using SAK EMKM as follows:

"I use cash basis and it is not possible to use accrual. Business processes in SMEs are very simple and not complex. Accounting is not important for a business with a small turnover. Too expensive!!"

Holmes & Nicholls (1989) said that the extent to which the use of standardized accounting practices was carried out was dependent on several factors such as age, size and nature of the business being run. The statement by Holmes & Nicholls (1989) above is confirmed by the following information from the second informant:

"During the pandemic, I have had several SMEs go bankrupt, some stable. However, none of my SMEs have increased. My Server credit is stable. Currently, the business is normal and stable. At the beginning of the PSBB, many bussines was drop. Large-scale businesses such as the server credit, are already using the system. This business is impossible to use a manual system because there are thousands of transactions in a day and uses a deposit. If the recording is not good, then the receivables can be lost. Accounting department make a balance sheet and income statement at the end of each year. We make financial statements because the scale of my business, the tax directorate requires and for capital debt to banks"

The first informant is an accounting graduate and understands the preparation of financial reports because he has worked as an accounting staff in a private company. Even with this educational background and experience, MSME actors choose to ignore the use of accounting according to existing standards for reasons of small business size and profit scale. This fact denies previous research conducted by Ezeagba (2017), Kusuma (2019), Narsa et al. (2012), Purba (2019), and Putra (2018) that MSME owners do not use accounting because they do not understand accounting, inadequate education levels, perceptions and the absence of people who understand how to record correct accounting.

Different attitudes, the second and third informants also have a strong accounting background and choose to use accounting records according to SAK EMKM standards. The selection of this record is due to the nature of the business with a very large turnover and a very significant amount of receivables.

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Based on the facts above, the behavior of the two MSME actors can be explained by the concept of rationality. The first informant stated that accounting is "expensive and has no benefits" so they decided to use accounting according to standards. Rationality states that humans are considered to act rationally by always considering costs and benefits (Firmansyah et al., 2012). Humans will tend to choose a simple, pragmatic attitude and try their best to achieve certain goals by comparing the benefits that will be obtained when issuing something. In line with the above statement, Graafland (2009), Kyriacou (2005), and Landa & Wang (2001) conclude that humans are rational beings, so that every decision is based on self-interest and wants to maximize satisfaction. Mankiw et al. (2016) also agree that a person will respond if there is an incentive for a decision. So it can be concluded that the aspect of rationality is one of the main considerations for informants to apply SAK EMKM.

In addition to rationality, the second informant revealed that there are external factors that encourage them to apply SAK EMKM. This statement is in accordance with the findings of research conducted by Dang-Duc (2011) and Lalin & Sabir (2010) that stakeholders are an important consideration for an institution to report financial records in accordance with standards. Furthermore, (Dang-Duc, 2011) and (Lalin & Sabir, 2010) revealed that cases of neglect of accounting implementation occurred because of the absence of pressure from the government and legal issues. In addition, the pressure exerted by stakeholders will affect the behavior of the entity in running its business (Husillos & Álvarez-Gil, 2008). Based on the facts and theories above, it can be concluded that accounting plays a role for SMEs in meeting the needs of external users or stakeholders. The first stakeholder in this case is taxes, the second informant was forced to make accounting according to standards because during the pandemic, there were various incentives echoed by the directorate general of taxes. The second stakeholder is banks; incentives that can be provided by banks in the form of business loans and relaxation during the pandemic encourage the second informant to want to make accounting according to SAK EMKM.

CONCLUSION

This study aims to examine the implementation and uncover the motives underlying the implementation of SAK EMKM in SMEs. Based on the facts in the field, it shows that the first informant with a small business scale and turnover chose not to implement SAK EMKM. Meanwhile, the two informants who have a larger business scale and turnover choose to use

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SAK EMKM. To help with their financial records, they use financial applications such as bookstalls, otomax credit and 1010dry.

The findings in this study refute previous research, which states that MSME owners do not use accounting because they do not understand accounting, inadequate education levels, perceptions and the absence of people who understand how to record correct accounting. The facts and existing theories reveal two things that underlie their decision to choose whether or not to use SAK EMKM. First, rationality aspects such as cost and benefit considerations are an absolute consideration for informants to implement SAK EMKM. This is because humans are rational creatures, so that every decision taken there will always be a consideration of satisfaction and self-interest. Second, the element of stakeholder theory encourages them to carry out accounting records properly and in accordance with SAK EMKM standards.

There are some recommendations could be use for further. Research are could increase their informants from more varied sectors. In addition, testing with the mixed method that uses quantitative data and in-depth interviews from informants will be better because the results obtained are more comprehensive.

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