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To Link this Article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.6007/IJARAFMS/v13-i1/15923> DOI:10.6007/IJARAFMS /v13-i1/15923

Received: 17 November 2022, **Revised:** 21 December 2022, **Accepted:** 03 January 2023

Published Online: 24 January 2023

In-Text Citation: (Abdinur & Karcioglu, 2023)

To Cite this Article: Abdinur, M. A., & Karcioglu, R. (2023). Factors Affecting the Adoption of Accounting Information System in Small Medium Enterprises in Somalia. *International Journal of Academic Research in Accounting Finance and Management Sciences*, 13(1), 47–65.

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Vol. 13, No. 1, 2023, Pg. 47 - 65

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Factors Affecting the Adoption of Accounting Information System in Small Medium Enterprises in Somalia

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Abstract

Efficient management of business organizations necessitates the use of quality information systems to effectively handle organizational and financial data. Despite the fact that Somali SMEs operate in a rapidly digitizing economy, they have been sluggish to embrace information systems in general, and accounting information systems (AIS) in particular. The objectives of this paper was to examine at the factors that influence accounting information system adoption among Somali small and medium-sized businesses.

The study specifically attempted to determine the impact of perceived usefulness, top management support, staff competency, and perceived ease of use on the adoption of accounting information systems among Somali small and medium enterprises. The study was founded on the technology acceptance model, diffusion of innovations theory and the unified theory of acceptance and use of technology. A descriptive research design was used in the study. A total of 385 questionnaires were distributed to small and medium-sized businesses across Somalia. The structured questionnaire was distributed to financial officers, accountants, managers, and users of accounting information systems at selected SMEs across the country. Descriptive statistics such as percentages, frequencies, means, and standard deviations and multiple regression analysis were used to examine the collected data. Tables were used to present the findings. The study found that the Top management support ($\beta = 0.325$, $p = 0.016$) and employee competence ($\beta = 0.442$, $p < 0.05$) had a significant positive effect on adoption of AIS in small medium enterprises in Somalia. However, perceived ease of use ($\beta = -0.030$, $p = 0.821$) and perceived usefulness ($\beta = 0.096$, $p = 0.135$) did not have a significant effect on adoption of AIS in small medium enterprises in Somalia.

The study found that perceived ease of use had no effect on the adoption of AIS in Somalia's small and medium-sized businesses. The findings also revealed that accountants and AIS users in Somalia's small and medium-sized businesses were not concerned of making mistakes

while utilizing accounting information systems. Furthermore, data revealed that accountants saw AIS as straightforward to use, and accountants in SMEs found engaging with the AIS simple.

Keywords: Accounting Information System, Executive Support, Perceived Ease of Use, Perceived Usefulness Small Medium Enterprises, Somali Economy, and Staff Competency

Introduction

Accounting information systems gather, process, and present financial information to decision-makers. It encompasses each stage of the accounting cycle. It also comprises the papers that serve as documentation of the transactions, as well as the resulting records, trial balances, spreadsheets, and financial statements. Accounting systems can be manual or electronic. The majority of organizations employ some form of computerized accounting system (Zuriati et al., 2017). Certain fundamental concepts underpin efficient and successful accounting information systems. These concepts include cost-effectiveness, utility, and adaptability. Accounting systems may contribute to both individual and corporate goals if they are cost-effective, offer valuable output, and are flexible enough to meet future demands.

A company must embrace systems that enable it to improve efficiency and functioning in the information era. Successfully running a business necessitates the proper administration of organizational and financial data and statistics, as well as the use of high-quality information technology (Kamanga & Alexandra, 2019). The use of AIS is required to provide successful service delivery, increased efficiency, good judgment facilitation, and managerial enrichment. The use of AIS is critical for the adaptation and development of best practices. Accounting data from AIS is essential for the management to create and forecast the firm's prospective business strategy (Alamin et al., 2015; Lutfi et al., 2016). While knowledge management may increase business performance, its effectiveness is decided by the implementation of an accounting information system. Furthermore, it acts as a bridge between the accounting information system and the performance of the company. Knowledge management acts as a buffer between the accounting information system and organizational performance. As a result of improved knowledge management, the adoption of accounting information systems is more likely to result in increased performance (Ahmad & Al-Shbiel, 2019).

(Lutfi, 2022) investigated the elements that impact accountants' continued desire to utilize an accounting information system (AIS) in the setting of Jordanian small and medium-sized firms (SMEs). Accountants are the primary AIS users, and their system adoption and use are critical in determining the system's success. The findings demonstrated that the factors studied, namely effort expectation, performance expectancy, and enabling circumstances, had a beneficial influence on accountants' continued desire to use AIS, but TMS has a substantial and negative effect on such intention to use. Furthermore, social impact was shown to be highly associated to intention to continue, indicating the importance of supporting technologies such as AIS among SMEs. One of the most important systems in any company is the accounting information system (AIS). In a data-intensive, knowledge-based economy, data quality is crucial. Quality financial data is critical to the government's responsibility to its citizens and how it fulfills its financial management obligations (Wang & Miraj, 2018).

Several attempts have been undertaken to determine the elements that influence AIS adoption. Perceived simplicity of use, government backing, performance expectations,

human resource and senior management support all affected AIS adoption in Ethiopian hospitals. Whereas, cost-benefit perception and business size are unrelated to computerized accounting information system adoption (Tilahun, 2019).

AIS implementation studies in Ghana have showed a lack of efficacy. Adoption theories, rather than being integrated, are either centered on technology, organizations, and the environment, or on humans, organizations, and technology. However, neither one of these concepts incorporates the human, organizational, technological, and environmental dimensions. (Mahama & Dahlan, 2022) SMEs all over the world are now confronted with the issues of incurring high expenses and limited resources, yet based on the current business climate, SMEs are at the top of the chart in regard to risk vulnerability when compared to their bigger counterparts. (Mohamed et al., 2015) researched the variables influencing the use of computerized accounting systems (CAS) in small and medium-sized businesses in Somalia. Management commitment, human capital efficiency, business user expertise, and cost capabilities all play important roles in CAS implementation in Bakara Market SMEs. Furthermore, CAS simplified report preparation, boosted trust in decision-making, and improved report quality.

Small and medium businesses are the backbone of Somalia's economic growth. In order to expand and grow SME's rely on funds from Islamic banks operating in the country. Small and medium-sized business owners and employees feel that Islamic finance has assisted their companies in obtaining the cash needed to grow and extend outside existing markets. (Abdinur & Ondes, 2022). Using AIS is very beneficial for small and medium businesses. It can be seen that small medium enterprises in Somalia do not use AIS extensively. Therefore, this research aims to examine the factors that influence SME adoption of accounting information systems in Somalia. The factors that this research examines have not been previously investigated. The factors examined in this study are perceived ease of use, top management support, employee competence and how perceived usefulness.

Literature and Theoretical Review

Theoretical Review

The technology acceptance model (TAM) and the unified theory of acceptance and use of technology were the two theories used in this study (UTAUT). The following sections address the authors of these ideas, the years they were formed, and their applicability to the subject.

Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology

Venkatesh and Davis (2000) established the unified theory of acceptance and use of technology (UTAUT), which is a theory that describes the process of technology adoption and utilization. This theory describes how enabling factors, social influence, effort expectation, and performance expectancy impact people's intentions to utilize technology and their eventual usage of it (Sumak et al., 2017). Park et al (2012) tested the theory and found that it explained 50% of variance in actual uses and 70% of variance in intention to use. According to the UTAUT, the cornerstones of the elements that drive technology adoption are facilitating conditions, effort expectancy, and performance expectancy (Kim et al., 2017). This theory has been used in a number of studies looking at the factors that influence technology adoption. This theory was utilized to explain how employee competency may have influenced AIS adoption in Somalia's SMEs.

Technology Acceptance Model

Davis (1989) developed the technology acceptance model (TAM) to explain why people and organizations adopt technology. It is assumed that the perceived usefulness, self-efficacy, and perceived ease-of-use of a technology impact the users' decision to accept it. TAM is regarded as one of the most prominent ideas in the field of technology adoption and innovation. According to this idea, two key elements impact technology adoption in any organization: perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use. For a person or organization to accept technology, it must be valuable to them. However, if a person does not believe the technology is valuable, they will not embrace or utilize it (Stone, 2016). The theory has been criticized for failing to explain what impacts potential adopters' views (Wilkening, 2011). This theory, on the other hand, acts as a critical framework that has been demonstrated consistent in a number of empirical investigations on the elements that impact individuals' and organizations' adoption and use of technology. The TAM might be used to describe how SME adoption decisions in Somalia are influenced by the perceived usefulness of the AIS. Employees, senior management, and business leaders will be able to push and support AIS adoption if they believe it will benefit the company. However, if they believe AIS is ineffective, they will be hesitant to employ it (Iskandar, 2015). This theory has been used to a number of research on technology adoption, innovation, and information systems (Tilahun, 2019; Smith & Puasa, 2016; Iskandar, 2015; Padachi, 2012). As a result, it was employed in this study to explain how perceived usefulness and simplicity of use are likely to impact SME adoption of AIS.

Empirical Review

Ease of use increases the culture of corporate adoption and usage of accounting information system. Human factors such as ease of use perception play a critical part in the deployment of AIS in the corporate environment (Turner et al., 2020). Users' perceptions of AIS, are critical in guaranteeing optimal deployment and use inside businesses (Daoud & Triki, 2013). Similarly (Mustapha & Obid, 2015) found out that perceived ease of use has a substantial impact on the adoption of accounting information systems to manage taxation (Permatasari et al., 2018) studied the acceptability of AIS in schools in a related research. The study's goal was to look at the influence of perceived ease of use on school financial managers' adoption of AIS. The outcomes of the study show that perceived simplicity of use has a substantial impact on attitudes toward utilizing AIS.

According to Suratman and Ridwan (2017), accounting managers' expertise and dedication, contribute to the effective deployment of accounting information systems (AIS). Senior management plays an important role in the AIS implementation and acceptance process. Senior executives are responsible for ensuring that AIS is implemented effectively inside their organizations. Top management support for AIS implementation, according to Suratman and Ridwan (2017); Ouko (2013), improves efficacy. Top management commitment and support is the most significant element influencing the adoption of computerized payment management systems, and a successful deployment of an AIS inside institutions is dependent on top management's commitment to motivate staff members (Qatawneh et al., 2015). This study supports Micheni's (2017) claim that the strongest determinant in the adoption of information technology inside enterprises and organizations is senior management. According to Lundu and Shale (2015), senior management has a good impact on addressing complicated challenges and assuring team performance during the implementation phase. The necessity of senior management assistance in the

implementation process of an AIS is demonstrated by the research. The accuracy in AIS implementation is dependent on their ability to mobilize their employees' skills and proficiency (Koitumet et al., 2018).

Haleem and Kevin (2018) studied the role of user competency in the success of AIS adoption in Sri Lanka's banking industry. Competence, is found to be a vital aspect in AIS's effective performance. Technical abilities and expertise, also contribute to efficacy rather than having absolute worth. Napitupulu and Dalimunthe (2017) conducted a comparative research to determine the influence of human resource management competencies on the efficacy and quality of accrual accounting implementation. Employee competency has a substantial association with the effective deployment of AIS as a tool for managing accounting information. Hendriks (2013) conducted study on integrated financial management information systems in the South African public sector. The study found out that one of the primary hurdles for efficient IFMIS deployment is ensuring staff competency. The failure to adopt the IFMIS structure and accuracy was blamed for the staff's lack of skills and talents. This is supported by Endrahia's (2016) research, which emphasizes the role of user competency in determining favorable AIS adoption results.

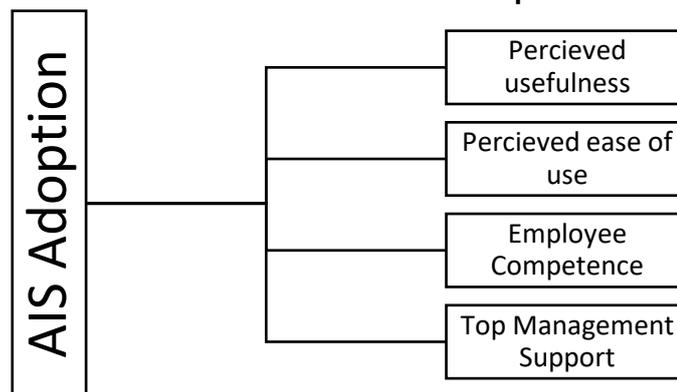
Perceived usefulness is identified as a consideration to consider when adopting and implementing AIS inside enterprises. The AIS's perceived usefulness increases management's perception that the system may boost effectiveness and productivity and the behavioral intention to integrate and use AIS rises with performance expectation (Tilahun, 2019). Perceived usefulness, has a considerable impact on the adoption of computerized information systems inside firms Lanlan and Ahmi (2018), similarly Roztocki and Weistroffer (2016) examined the factors that influence ICT adoption on socioeconomic development and found out that perceived usefulness is a key factor in user adoption of information technology. Almahamid et al (2010) investigated the link between perceived usefulness and desire to implement e-government systems. The two factors have a favorable link, according to the research findings. Users are more likely to support the implementation and adoption process if they believe it will benefit them. Zhang (2017) explored the association between perceived usefulness and AIS usage among SMEs in the Chinese cities of Shann Xi and Xian. The study found out that perceived usefulness has a substantial influence on the adoption of computerized accounting systems inside institutions. Performance expectations are the primary regulator of behavioral intents and hence an important factor affecting the adoption of AIS. Performance anticipation helps organizations enhance efficiency when implementing accounting information system initiatives (Zaini et al., 2020).

A survey of the literature on the factors that influence information system adoption has shown various theoretical, contextual, and conceptual gaps that the current study will attempt to fill. Lanlan and Ahm (2018) in China, Haleem and Kevin (2018) in Sri Lanka, Hendriks (2012) in South Africa, and Komala (2012) in Indonesia, for example. Maina (2019) Kenya et al (2015); Kenya et al (2015) Kenya were undertaken in nations with political, economic, social, and technical situations that differed from Somalia's. As a result, the results of these research may not be applicable to the Somali setting. Furthermore, there were no previous studies or study on the variables influencing the acceptance and implementation of AIS in Somalia. As a result, the goal of this study is to close that information gap.

Proposed Conceptual Framework

Dependent variable

Independent variable



The hypothesized link between the independent variables (easy of use, top management support, staff competency, and perceived usefulness) and the adoption of AIS in SMEs in Somalia is presented in the conceptual framework (Figure 1). According to Saunders et al (2015), constructing a rigorous conceptual framework is key in research because it allows the study to concentrate on the most important features of the variables under investigation. The factors under investigation and their predicted correlations are depicted in Figure 1's conceptual framework.

Research Methodology

Research Design

The study used a descriptive research approach to analyze the characteristics that influence AIS adoption in Somalia's small medium enterprises. The study's approach allowed it to determine whether perceived ease of use, top management support, perceived usefulness, and staff competency have any impact on AIS adoption in Somalia's SMEs. A descriptive study, can help determine the link between variables by providing an account of the research variables Fisher (2017). This design was chosen for the study because it allowed the researchers to meet the study's goals by establishing a relationship between the variables. A descriptive design is a quantitative strategy for gathering quantitative data that will be used to answer research questions.

Sampling Technique and Sample Size

According to Zikmund et. al (2013) the sampling procedure refers to the process or approach used to choose research participants from the study population. The study's target population is Somalia's SMEs. The study used a stratified random sample approach to pick SME participants from the eight main cities in Somalia according to their respective strata. In order to get the responses of each group, the stratified random sampling approach was used in this study. Furthermore, each firm has an equal probability of being chosen for the sample. As a result, sampling error and bias are reduced (Fisher, 2017).

Table 1

Sample size

N/A	Category (Cities)	No. of SME.s	percentage
1	Mogadishu	70	18.2%
2	Hargeisa	55	14.2%
3	Bosaso	45	11.7%
4	Lasanod	45	11.7%
5	Burco	45	11.7%
6	Galkacayo	45	11.7%
7	Kismayo	40	10.4%
8	Baydhabo	40	10.4%
#	Total	385	100%

Instrumentation

Sharp et. al (2017) a data collecting instrument is a tool that a researcher uses to gather information for a study. The quantitative data for the study was collected using a standardized questionnaire. A questionnaire is appropriate for obtaining quantitative data since it promotes clarity and may be completed at the respondents' convenience (Fisher, 2017). In each SME, the questionnaires were sent to the accountants, managers, and finance officials. It was created in accordance with the conceptual framework and the research questions in order to satisfy the study's objectives. The survey was used to collect data on perceived ease of use, top management support, staff competency, perceived usefulness, and AIS adoption.

Data Analysis and Presentation

After the questionnaires were gathered from the field, the data processing began. Data analysis is the act of analyzing, cleaning, coding, and transforming data so that it may be transformed into meaningful information (Babbie, 2011). The information gathered was quantitative. The data was cleansed and reviewed for consistency and completeness during the gathering period. This guaranteed that any surveys that were not completely filled out were not utilized in the data analysis. After that, the data was coded and placed into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), which assisted in the analysis. Descriptive statistics, such as frequencies and percentages, were used to analyze quantitative data. The distribution of the various replies was also described using mean and standard deviations. The quantitative data collected from the surveys were utilized to answer the study questions. Multiple regression analysis was used to answer the questions. According to Easterby-Smith et al (2018), multiple regression is a useful technique for determining the effect of independent variables on the dependent variable. The impact of the four independent factors on the dependent variable was determined using multiple regression analysis. The influence of perceived ease of use, top management support, perceived usefulness, and staff competency on AIS adoption in Somalia SME's was investigated using a multiple regression model.

$$IAAS = \beta_0 + \beta_1PU + \beta_2PEU + \beta_3EC + \beta_4MGTS + \epsilon$$

Whereby: IAAS = Implementation and adoption of Accounting System

PU= Perceived usefulness

PEU= Perceived ease of use

EC= Employee Competence

MGTS= Management Support

B0: Constant

$\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4, \beta_5$: Regression Coefficient

ϵ = Error Term

Analyses and The Results

Introduction

The study's goal was to figure out what factors influence accounting information system adoption in Somalia's small and medium businesses. The study's four goals were to determine the impact of perceived ease of use, top management support, staff competency, and perceived usefulness on AIS adoption among Somali small and medium businesses.

Descriptive Analysis

This section provides the descriptive statistics (means and standard deviations) on the study variables

Table 2

Implementation of accounting information System

Statements	Mean	Standard deviation
This company has successfully built a dependable accounting information system that is utilized by all accountants and other users of AIS.	4.00	.734
The installed accounting information system has been implanted, and every user uses it to complete tasks.	3.94	.864
All accountants utilize the established accounting information system for all financial reporting reasons.	4.08	1.035
The accounting information system is effectively connected with the organization's other information systems.	4.04	.960
The accounting information system in place at this organization is well-suited to the accountants' needs and plans.	4.13	.878
The accounting information system is widely approved by the organization's accountants.	3.81	.900

The results provided in Table 2 indicate that there was a high degree of adoption and use of AISs in small medium enterprises in Somalia. The results specifically indicated the accounting information system in place at this organization is well-suited to the accountants' needs and plans (mean = 4.13, Standard deviation = 0.878). The results also indicate that respondents, agreed that all accountants utilize the established accounting information system for all financial reporting reasons (mean = 4.08, Standard deviation = 1.035). The accounting information system is effectively connected with the organization's other information systems (mean = 4.04, Standard deviation = 0.960), similarly, the respondents agreed that SME's had effectively implemented reliable AISs used by all accountants (mean = 4.00, Standard deviation = 0.734) and also agreed that the installed accounting information system has been implanted, and every user uses it to complete tasks (mean = 3.94, Standard deviation = 0.864). Likewise, the respondents agreed that the accounting information system

is widely approved by the organization's accountants (mean = 3.81, Standard deviation = 0.900).

Table 3
Perceived ease of use

Statements	Mean	Standard Deviation
This company's AIS users believe that the accounting information system is simple to use and run.	4.00	.710
This organization's AIS users are not frightened of making mistakes when utilizing an accounting information system.	4.23	.714
AIS users at this organization have no trouble interacting with the accounting information system.	4.08	.860
AIS users perceive the accounting information system as user-friendly.	4.12	.840
The accountants at this organization do not have to exert much mental effort in order to use the accounting information system.	3.62	1.004
This organization's AIS users find it simple to complete duties utilizing the accounting information system.	3.96	.995

The results presented in Table 3 show that the study participants agreed that accountants and users of AIS are not frightened of making mistakes when utilizing an accounting information system (mean = 4.23, Standard deviation = 0.714). Besides, results show that AIS users perceive the accounting information system as user-friendly (mean = 4.12, Standard deviation = 0.840). The results further show that AIS users have no trouble interacting with the accounting information system (mean = 4.08, Standard deviation = 0.860). The respondents also agreed that AIS users believe that the accounting information system is simple to use and run (mean = 4.00, Standard deviation = 0.710). Moreover, results showed that the respondents agreed that AIS users find it simple to complete duties utilizing the accounting information system (mean = 3.96, Standard deviation = 0.995). Additionally, results indicated that the respondents agreed that the users of AIS do not have to exert much mental effort in order to use the accounting information system (mean = 3.62, Standard deviation = 1.004). As a conclusion, the aforementioned findings indicate that respondents' perceived ease of use of AIS has a substantial effect on Accounting Information System adoption in small and medium-sized businesses in Somalia.

Table 4
Perceived Usefulness

Statements	Mean	Standard Deviation
AIS users and accountants at the company believe that implementing an accounting information system improves the accuracy and quality of accounting information in the organization.	3.72	1.081
Accountants at the organization believe that using an accounting information system improves the organization's financial reporting quality.	3.90	0.960
This company's top management believes that the deployment of an accounting information system has improved its decision-making.	3.80	1.008
Accountants at this firm believe that using an accounting information system will increase their efficiency.	4.20	.840
Organization's Management believes that using accounting information systems allows them to efficiently obtain pertinent information.	3.50	1.113

Table 4 shows the study findings, which reveal that respondents agreed with the claims that the Accountants at this firm believe that using an accounting information system will increase their efficiency (mean = 4.20, Standard deviation = 0.840) and also findings indicate that the Accountants believe that using an accounting information system improves the organization's financial reporting quality (mean = 3.90, Standard deviation = 0.960). The respondents agreed that AIS users and accountants at the company believe that implementing an accounting information system improves the accuracy and quality of accounting information in the organization (mean = 3.72, Standard deviation = 1.081). Furthermore the study found out that the company's top management believes that the deployment of an accounting information system has improved its decision-making (mean = 3.80, Standard deviation = 1.008). Similarly, Organization's Management believes that using accounting information systems allows them to efficiently obtain pertinent information (mean = 3.50, Standard deviation = 1.113). These findings show that accountants in small and medium-sized businesses believe AIS is valuable and may help them increase productivity. This is seen as critical for the successful adoption and application of AIS.

Table 5

Management Support

Statements	Mean	Standard Deviation
This company's top management supports the accounting department by providing adequate funding for an accounting information system.	3.98	.856
This company's top management acts as champions, driving the adoption of information systems.	3.87	1.002
Management puts pressure on the accounting department to embrace and institutionalize the usage of accounting information systems.	3.69	.940
Top management devotes resources to teaching employees on how to use accounting information systems.	3.98	.850
Top management devotes sufficient resources to the accounting information system's upkeep.	3.80	1.264
In this company, top management supports the use of information systems in the majority of organizational operations.	4.12	.835

Table 5 indicates that participants agreed with all of the statements presented. Respondents explicitly agreed that senior management in small and medium-sized businesses supported the use of information technologies in the majority of organizational operations (mean = 4.12, Standard deviation = 0.835) and also agreed that top management devotes resources to teaching employees on how to use accounting information systems (mean = 3.98, Standard deviation = 0.850). Likewise, the results show that respondents acknowledged that senior management in small and medium-sized businesses help the accounting department by allocating enough funds for accounting information systems (mean = 3.98, Standard deviation = 0.856). They also agreed that senior management in small and medium-sized businesses serve as advocates for information system implementation (mean = 3.87, standard deviation = 1.002). Moreover, the results demonstrate that top management assigns ample funding for accounting information system maintenance (mean = 3.80, standard deviation = 1.264). Besides, top management puts pressure on the accounting department to adopt and implement the use of accounting information systems (mean = 3.69, standard deviation = 0.940). According to the results above, top management in small and medium-sized enterprises supported AIS deployment by lobbying for it, encouraging its use in various accounting operations, and allocating enough financial resources for AIS training and maintenance.

Table 6

Employee Competence

Statements	Mean	Standard Deviation
This company's AIS users and accountants are technically capable of using the accounting information system.	3.70	.820
This company's AIS users feel they are capable of using an accounting information system.	4.32	.865
Employees at this organization have received suitable accounting information system training.	4.09	.960
The company's staff are properly taught on how to use information systems when they are deployed in this organization.	4.40	.835
When employees at this organization experience problems using information systems, they are adequately assisted.	4.14	.990
External trainers are often invited to give accounting information system training to the organization's workforce.	3.78	1.109
Employees in the organization are sponsored to attend external accounting information system training courses.	3.90	1.002

Table 6 present the data, which show that the research participants agreed with all of the statements given. This demonstrates that staff competency in the use of AIS was excellent. The findings show that when information systems are implemented in small and medium-sized businesses, staff are successfully educated on how to utilize them (mean = 4.40, standard deviation = 0.835). Participants also agreed that the users of AIS and accounting professionals in small and medium-sized businesses believe they have the ability to use accounting information systems (mean = 4.32, standard deviation = 0.865) and that employees are adequately supported when they encounter difficulties using information systems in this organization (mean = 4.14, standard deviation = 0.990). Furthermore, participants believe that staff is properly trained to use AIS (mean = 4.09, Standard deviation = 0.960), that employees are sponsored to attend external AIS training sessions (mean = 3.90, Standard deviation = 1.002), that small and medium enterprises regularly invite external trainers to provide AIS training to staff (mean = 3.78, Standard deviation = 1.109), and that accountants have the requisite knowledge to use AIS (mean = 3.70, Standard deviation = 1.109).

Aforementioned findings confirm that the management of small and medium-sized businesses empowers its staff to utilize AIS and Staff competency has a significant influence on AIS adoption in Somalia's small and medium-sized businesses .According to the findings, small and medium-sized enterprises have adopted a range of strategies to increase their employees' AIS knowledge and abilities. Examples include funding external training, financing on-the-job training, and giving adequate ongoing help.

Regression Analysis

This section presents the results of the fitted multiple linear regression model. The model's input variables were created by averaging the components. Following that, a multiple linear regression was performed, obtaining the results presented in Tables 7, 8, and 9. Table 7 summarizes the regression model's findings.

Table 7

Regression model summary

R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Standard Error of the Estimate
.872	.760	7.25	.3425

Table 7 shows that the correlation coefficient (r) was 0.872, indicating that the combined independent variables had a positive relationship with the dependent variable. The results also show that the r squared was 0.760, suggesting that the four independent variables included in the model explained 76% of the variation in AIS adoption among small and medium-sized enterprises. This remains a 24% unexplained variation that might be explained by factors not included in the model. This suggests that the model has a high level of explanatory power. After correcting for the number of independent variables in the model, the adjusted r squared revealed that the model explained 72.5% of the variation in AIS adoption in small and medium-sized enterprises in Somalia.

Table 8

Anova

Source of variance	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Regression	13.984	4	3.624	33.021	.000
Residual	5.390	48	.110		
Total	19.374	52			

The findings in Table 8 demonstrate that the model was significant (f = 33.021, p 0.05). This means that at least one of the independent factors had a statistically significant influence on the dependent variable. The data also suggest that the model had some predictive potential. The study attempted to determine which particular independent variables were crucial in affecting the adoption of AIS in Somalia's small and medium-sized businesses. T-tests were used to determine the importance of the independent variables.

Table 9

Significance of Independent Variables in the Model

	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
	B	Standard Error	Beta	T	Sig.
(Constant)	.863	.320		2.693	.010
Perceived ease of use	-.030	.127	-.031	-.253	.821
Management Support	.323	.121	.338	2.626	.016
Perceived usefulness	.096	.060	.138	1.564	.135
Employee Competence	.442	.084	.537	5.199	.000

Table 9 shows the variables that had significant coefficients and those that did not. These factors with p values more than 0.05 were not significant, whereas those with p values less than 0.05 were. Employee competence ($\beta = 0.442$, p 0.05) and top management support ($\beta =$

0.325, $p = 0.016$) had a substantial beneficial influence on AIS implementation in Somalia's small and medium firms. However, reported simplicity of use ($\beta = -0.030$, $p = 0.821$) and perceived usefulness ($\beta = 0.096$, $p = 0.135$) had no influence on AIS adoption in Somali small and medium-sized enterprises.

Conclusion

Table 10

Summary of key findings

No	Examined Variables	Key findings
1	Perceived usefulness	Perceived usefulness has moderate impact on the adoption of AIS in Somalia's small-medium firms
2	Perceived ease of use	Perceived ease of use had little impact on the adoption of AIS in Somalia's small and medium businesses
3	Employee Competency	Employee competency has a significant positive influence on the adoption of AIS in small-medium firms in Somalia
4	Management Support	Top management support influences the adoption of AIS in Somalia's SMEs in a favorable and substantial way. They are also enthusiastic about the implementation of AIS
5	Adoption & implementation of AIS.	Top Management support and employee competency have a positive significant influence on the adoption and implementation of AIS in SMEs in Somalia. Whereas perceived use of use and perceived usefulness were found to have a moderate influence on the adoption and implementation of AIS by SMEs in Somalia.

The study discovered that perceived ease of use had little impact on the adoption of AIS in Somalia's small and medium businesses. The findings also revealed that accountants and AIS users in Somalia's small and medium-sized businesses were not concerned of making mistakes while utilizing accounting information systems. Furthermore, accountants saw AIS as adaptable to use, and accountants in SMEs found communicating with the AIS to be simple. Furthermore, the results showed that accountants in SMEs considered it simple to execute activities using the accounting information system and that utilizing the AIS did not require much mental effort. Furthermore, data on ease of use revealed that accountants in Somalia's small and medium businesses found the accounting information system to be simple to use and run. These data revealed that accountants considered AIS to be quite simple to use. Because perceived ease of use has been identified as one of the essential elements impacting AIS acceptance and usage, it was predicted that perceived ease of use would have a substantial impact on AIS adoption and use in Somalia's small-medium firms. Despite their belief that AIS is simple to use, perceived ease of use had no meaningful impact on AIS adoption among Somalia's small and medium businesses.

Besides, the study found that top management support influenced the adoption of AIS in Somalia's SMEs in a favorable and substantial way. The study discovered that upper management was enthusiastic about AIS deployment. Of particular, senior management in SME's encouraged the use of information systems in most organizational activities, dedicated resources for accounting information system training, and supported the accounting

department by providing enough funds for the accounting information system. Top management of SMEs has been observed to lead the adoption of information systems as champions. They aid in assigning suitable resources for the accounting information system's upkeep. Management urged most accounting departments in SMEs to adopt and institutionalize accounting information systems, according to the report. Top management in SMEs supported AIS implementation by assigning suitable resources, promoting the adoption, supporting AIS usage in different accounting activities, and allocating sufficient financial resources for AIS training and maintenance, according to the findings. This top-level assistance has a considerable beneficial impact on the adoption of AIS in Somalia's small and medium-sized businesses.

Employee competency, on the other hand, had a considerable positive influence on the adoption of AIS in small-medium firms in Somalia, according to the findings. Employee competency in the use of AIS was found to be high in the research. Employee competency is improved by successfully chancing and teaching them on how to use any information systems that SMEs have established. Furthermore, employees' knowledge and abilities enable them to efficiently use the accounting information system that has been implemented. Employees were also given enough help by SMEs in the event that they ran into any challenges or problems while utilizing the installed AIS. Employees in small and medium-sized businesses are well educated to utilize AIS. This was accomplished by paying for them to attend external AIS training sessions or by requesting external trainers to deliver AIS training to the personnel on a regular basis. Employees can gain the necessary knowledge and abilities to utilize AIS as a result of this. Employees at small and medium businesses have become proficient in utilizing AIS as a result of this. Employee competency has a big impact on the adoption of AIS in Somalia's SMEs as a result of this.

Finally, the study discovered that perceived usefulness had little impact on the adoption of AIS in Somalia's small-medium firms. Despite the fact that accountants and users of accounting systems in small and medium businesses believe that using accounting information systems will improve their efficiency and that implementing accounting information systems will improve the organization's financial reporting quality, this is the case. According to the findings, accountants and users of accounting systems in SMEs believe that implementing accounting information systems improves the accuracy and quality of accounting data in the firm. These findings suggest that accountants at small and medium-sized businesses believe AIS is valuable and may help them increase productivity. However, according to the findings of the study, senior management in SMEs was not entirely satisfied that implementing an accounting information system had improved their decision-making. Similarly, several managers did not believe that management's usage of accounting information systems had helped them to acquire essential information efficiently, according to the findings. These findings show that, while some SMEs' senior executives see AIS as a tool to help them make better decisions, others have reservations.

Since most of the literature on the adoption of AIS for SMEs was conducted in countries other than Somalia, and no previous research was conducted in Somalia regarding the factors affecting the adoption and implementation of AIS by SMEs in Somalia, this research will add to the stock of knowledge on the adoption of AIS by SMEs in Somalia through empirical contributions. The results of this study is crucial because it reveals the important characteristics that influence AIS adoption in Somalia's SMEs and thus inspire evidence-based interventions that might improve AIS adoption in SMEs. Managers and owners of SMEs,

policymakers, senior management of SMEs, government agencies, accountants, scholars, and researchers will all benefit from the contribution of this paper.

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