

**BPI Review Form 070520**

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| Book Name:  | Business, Management and Economics Research - Research Progress |
| Manuscript Number:  | **Ms\_BPR\_1602** |
| Title of the Manuscript:  | **The Effects of High Lending Interest Rates on SMEs in Sierra Leone: A Glance at Lenders’ Perspectives** |
| Type of the Article  | **Book chapter** |

EA Checked by: ME Approved by: CEO Version: 1.6 (10-04-2018)

**BPI Review Form 070520 PART 1: Review Comments**

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|  | **Reviewer’s comment**  | **Author’s comment** *(If agreed with the reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. Authors must write his/her feedback here)* |
| Is the manuscript important for the scientific community? Please write a few sentences explaining your answer | The manuscript titled "The Effects of High Lending Interest Rates on SMEs in Sierra Leone: A Glance at Lenders’ Perspectives" holds significant importance for the scientific community, particularly in economics, finance, and development studies. It provides a detailed examination of the impact of high lending interest rates on the growth and sustainability of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in a developing country context. Since SMEs are often the backbone of emerging economies, understanding the challenges they face due to financial policies is crucial for designing effective economic interventions. Additionally, the manuscript's use of both quantitative and qualitative data enriches the discourse on financial inclusion and economic development, offering valuable insights for policymakers, researchers, and financial institutions. |  |
| Is the title of the article suitable? Do you have any alternative Title in your mind? | The title "The Effects of High Lending Interest Rates on SMEs in Sierra Leone: A Glance at Lenders’ Perspectives" is suitable as it indicates the focus of the study. It highlights the main subject (high lending interest rates), the target group (SMEs), and the geographical context (Sierra Leone). The mention of "Lenders’ Perspectives" adds depth, suggesting that the study incorporates viewpoints from financial institutions, which is a crucial aspect of the research. An alternative title could be: "High Lending Interest Rates and Their Impact on SMEs in Sierra Leone: Perceptions from Lenders" This alternative maintains the key elements of the original title while emphasizing the impact on SMEs and retaining the focus on lenders' insights. |  |
| Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? If your answer is No, please provide suggestions | The abstract of the article is generally comprehensive as it outlines the study's context, methodology, key findings, and recommendations. However, it can be improved for clarity and conciseness. Here are a few suggestions: + Clearly state the use of both quantitative and qualitative methods. + Highlight the key findings more succinctly. |  |
| Do you think the English quality of the article is suitable for scholarly communications? If your answer is No, please provide suggestions | The English quality of the article is generally understandable but requires improvement for clarity, coherence, and scholarly tone. Here are some specific suggestions: + Ensure proper sentence structure, punctuation, and grammar. + Maintain consistent terminology throughout the article. + Avoid unnecessary repetition and ensure sentences are clear and concise. Suggestions for Improvement Grammar and Syntax: Current: "Therefore, this study recommends that the Central Bank should through its monetary policy influence the fixing of interest rates by commercial banks and microfinance institutions by insisting on its reserve requirements..." Improved: "Therefore, this study recommends that the Central Bank should use its monetary policy to influence the setting of interest rates by commercial banks and microfinance institutions, by enforcing reserve requirements..." Consistency: Current: "However, the major challenge of especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are the soaring interest rates attached to these loans..." Improved: "However, the major challenge for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) is the high interest rates attached to these loans..." Formal Tone: Current: "However, this study through longitudinal or time-series data collected and primary data gathered through a semi-structured interview with respondents from a sample of commercial banks and microfinance institutions discovered that borrowers are  |  |

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|  | saddled with the cost of interest rates." Improved: "This study, utilizing longitudinal data and primary data from semi-structured interviews with respondents from commercial banks and microfinance institutions, discovered that borrowers are significantly burdened by high interest rates." Clarity and Conciseness: Current: "Nevertheless, our argument is strongly supported by Kevin L. Kliesen who emphasized that, to most economists, the prime benefit of low interest rates is its simulative effect on economic activity." Improved: "Kevin L. Kliesen supports our argument, emphasizing that most economists believe the primary benefit of low interest rates is their stimulative effect on economic activity." By addressing these areas, the chapter will be better suited for scholarly communication, ensuring it is clear, professional, and academically rigorous. |  |
| Please provide your comments regarding the appropriateness of different sections of the manuscript. | + The abstract is comprehensive but needs refinement for clarity and conciseness. It effectively summarizes the study's objectives, methods, findings, and recommendations but should be more succinct. + The introduction provides a good background and context for the study. However, it could benefit from a clearer statement of the research problem and objectives. + The literature review is thorough and covers relevant studies. However, it should be more focused on how the current study builds upon or differs from existing research. + The methodology section is detailed and explains the data collection and analysis processes well. + The data presentation is clear, with appropriate use of figures and tables. However, the interpretation of the data could be more precise. + The results section effectively presents the study's findings. + The discussion section provides a good interpretation of the results. However, it needs to be more focused on the implications of the findings. + The conclusions summarize the study well but could be more impactful. Suggest specific areas for future research. + The references are comprehensive but should follow a consistent citation style. By addressing these comments and suggestions, the manuscript will be more appropriate and impactful for scholarly communication. |  |
| Do you think that the references in the manuscript are proper, recent and sufficient? If you have any suggestions, please write here. | The references used in the manuscript are relevant and appropriate to the study's topic. They include foundational works and significant studies in the field of high lending interest rates and their impact on SMEs. While some references are recent, there are several older references that might need to be updated to reflect the latest research and data (Replace or supplement older references with more recent studies published in the last 5-7 years. This will ensure the manuscript reflects the current state of research and recent developments in the field). The number of references is adequate, covering various aspects of the topic. However, incorporating more recent studies could strengthen the manuscript's foundation . Ensure all references follow a consistent citation style as required by the journal. This includes formatting for authors, publication year, title, journal name, volume, issue, and page numbers. Include additional references that specifically address recent trends in interest rates, inflation, and their impacts on SMEs, particularly in developing countries like Sierra Leone. This will provide a broader and more current context for the study. By incorporating these suggestions, the manuscript will have a more robust and up-to-date reference list, enhancing its credibility and relevance to the scientific community. |  |

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| **PART 2:**  |
|  | **Reviewer’s comment** | **Author’s comment** *(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)* |
| **Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?**  | *(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)* |  |

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| Reviewer Details: |
| Name: |  **Ahmed Ghezal** |
| Department, University & Country | **Abdelhafid Boussouf University Center of Mila, Algeria** |