

## **An Investigation into Challenges as well as Means to Overcome Challenges Facing Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in South Africa**

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**KEYWORDS** Policy Makers. Economic. Social. Growth. Development. Proactive. Attitudes. Strategies

**ABSTRACT** The operations of SMEs are not well understood and have rarely been addressed globally. The aim of this study is to establish a base level of understanding of the operational core values of SMEs in South Africa. Data was collected through self-administered questionnaires and the use of random sampling. Findings from previous literature revealed that there are constraints faced in the operations of SMEs. The field survey confirmed some of the operational challenges to include lack of finance and lack of managerial skills as well as training. The findings also identified the search for solutions to the challenges faced by SME owner/managers in South Africa by providing an insight for further research regarding the institutional weaknesses and policy issues in this part of the world. The implications of the findings are that unless the limitations named above are resolved, SMEs in South Africa will continue to experience poor economic growth, development and display inferior competitiveness. Recommendations to overcome these challenges are suggested.