

## IMPACT OF ICT AND INSTITUTIONAL QUALITY ON THE GROWTH OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE ENTERPRISES IN AFRICA

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### Abstract

*The paper examines the impact of ICT and institutional quality on SMEs growth in Africa. Using pool OLS technique to estimate a cross-sectional panel data comprising of 43 African countries, the results revealed that institutional quality and ICT exhibit a significant positive impact and a positive but insignificant impact on SMEs growth respectively. The result further revealed that innovation and experience are also important factors necessary for firms' performance in the region. Therefore, the results emanating from the paper is indicative of the fact that technology advancement in itself is not sufficient for the growth of SMEs in Africa but require the existence of a qualitative and effective institution if the opportunities presented by the growth of ICT in term of wider market and reduction in marketing cost is to be optimized.*

**Keywords:** *Institution; ICT; SMEs, Africa; Cross-sectional Panel*