The Role of Fintech and Financial Literacy on SMEs Sustainability

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Abstract. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) is a worldwide economy whose development is still constrained in various fields. One of the obstacles is in the financial sector. In this digitalization era, financial technology (fintech) can be widely used because of the increasing penetration of internet users. Nevertheless, SMEs actors are expected to be selective in choosing fin-tech. This aims to avoid losses, so that the SMEs sustainability is created. This study determined the effect of financial technology (fintech) used by SMEs actors on business sustainability mediated by financial literacy. This study used purposive sampling method and involved 300 respondents who are SME actors in Semarang, Kudus and Surakarta. The results of this study indicated that financial technology (fintech) is proven to have a positive effect on financial literacy. Likewise, financial literacy is proven to mediate the relationship of fintech on business sustainability. Thus, SME actors must understand knowledge in the field of financial literacy in order to make the best decisions and the business can develop properly. As the result, the business continuity can be maintained.

Keywords: Fintech, Financial Literacy, SMEs, Sustainability

1 Introduction

The existence of small and medium industries (IKM) plays a strategic role in improving Indonesia economy, especially in facing ASEAN economic community. Specifically, the existence of SMEs is believed to be able to contribute to alleviate poverty through job creation (Carrer and Klomp, 1996; Adomoko, Danso, and Damoah, 2016). The contribution of SMEs for national gross domestic product (GDP) is 57.6%, and absorbs a workforce of 96.7% from the total workers in Indonesia

As one of the driving in Indonesia economy, the growth of SMEs needs to be increased through various facilities, including access to capital and marketing. Problems that often arise from the capital aspect are inadequate access to banking facilities and financial literacy. As the result, the network distribution of formal financial services institutions is uneven, due to the geographic structure and dispersed population and low financial literacy. If SME actors have an understanding on financial literacy, the management and accountability can be properly accounted for, so that it will have an impact on business sustainability. Business sustainability is a form of consistency in business conditions. It is also a process for the ongoing business, including growth, development and strategies to maintain business sustainability and resilience. Therefore, the government, through financial service authority (OJK) collaborates with the Ministry of Finance and Bank Indonesia, develop fintech in Indonesia.

Fintech is a technology-based financial service with various services that are considered safer, faster, and more practical. It is because the use of e-cash (electronic money) as a means of payment. In addition, there are advantages such as transparent management and transactions that can cross regional boundaries. Thus this digital payment provides an advantage for micro, small and medium enterprises.

Based on the background of the study, the problem formulation is; does financial literacy mediate the relationship between fintech and business sustainability?

The purpose of this study is to determine the role of financial literacy in mediating the relationship between fintech and business sustainability. Thus the contribution in this research is as a discourse for knowledge development in the field of financial planning, financial services. Furthermore, this study also contributes as an input in formulating policies related to the role of fintech in increasing financial literacy of SMEs, so that the business sustainability can be improved.

2 Literature Review

2.1 Financial Technology (Fintech)

Fintech is an innovation in financial sector that gets a touch of modern technology. Fintech industry (financial technology) is one of the methods of financial services in digital era, where digital payment is one of the most developed sectors. This sector is then the most expected by the Indonesia government and society to gain an increase in the number of people who have access to financial services.

The development of fintech has become a tangible manifestation of technological development [3] and has disrupted the banking sector [20], [18]. Stated that the presence of fintech was able to increase 75% of the population towards financial literacy and inclusion [8]. Through innovation and technology-based financial products, it will have the ability to encourage financial inclusion in the future [12].

Fintech with financial services such as crowdfunding, mobile payments and money transfer services result a revolution in the startup business. Fintech also has an important role in changing consumer behavior and expectations, including: a.) can access data and information anytime and anywhere. b) generalizing large and small businesses so that they tend to have high expectations even for small and newly built business.

Globally, fintech industry continues to grow rapidly. This is proven by the emergence of startup companies and the huge amount of global investment in it. Especially in Indonesia, this business is growing rapidly and attracting the attention of all business actors in Indonesia. The fintech services for SMEs are such as corporate capital loans, digital payment services and financial regulatory service.

2.2 Financial Literacy

Financial literacy is the ability and knowledge of finances of a person has to manage his certain amount of money in order to improve his life standard [17]. Therefore, financial literacy is related to behavior, habits and external factors. In addition, it is defined as the level of knowledge, skills and confidence, which influence attitudes and behavior.

Financial literacy aims to improve the quality of decision making and financial management, so that the welfare of the wider community can be achieved. In financial literacy, there is an index as a value measured based on several components, such as financial knowledge. Financial knowledge is the individual decision making that uses a combination of skills, resources and contextual knowledge to manage information and make decisions. A good understanding of financial literacy, entrepreneurs are able to use their skills in the financial field for making the right decisions.

The level of financial literacy from an individual or family point of view has an impact on the ability to have long-term savings that are used to own a number of assets, such as land or houses, education and future savings. If the money management is not effective, it will have an impact on the family financial crisis [4]. SMEs that have good financial literacy will be able to achieve their company goals, and have a business development orientation. Furthermore, financial literacy helps a person to survive in difficult economic conditions and increase the company growth [7].

2.3 Business Sustainability

Business sustainability is a state or condition where there are ways to maintain, protect and develop the resources of business. Business sustainability is a form of consistency in business condition, and it is supported by several factors. They are: the compilation of a business plan, regular business plan updates, analyzing the competitors, the ease of entering a new business and the ability to consider risks.

Business sustainability of SMEs can be seen from the success of the company in terms of innovation, employee and customer management, also return on initial capital. A sustainable company also usually has an orientation to develop and see opportunities for continuous innovation [13]. The measurement of business continuity of SMEs refers to the perceived business performance approach adapted from the Balance Score Card [14].

2.4 Hypothesis Development

a) The Effect of Fintech on Financial Literacy

Fintech helps people more easily get access to financial products and financial literacy [11]. The financial technology (fintech) industry is an attractive method of financial services in today's digital era. The collaboration between banking and fintech can be a solution in increasing financial literacy and inclusion in Indonesia (Vincent, 2019). The presence of fintech is a new breakthrough for the community in making transactions using financial services [5]. It is crucial for SMEs actors to have financial literacy in order to utilize financial technology [25].

The synergy between banking and fintech, that provides payment infrastructure and digital financial transactions, enables Indonesians to transact non-cash and non-card safely and more efficiently, without being constrained by balance limits in their applications. Thus, the

existence of fintech can increase financial literacy. Based on the description above, the hypothesis is as follows:

H1: Fintech has positive effect on financial literacy

b) The Effect of Financial Literacy on Business Sustainability

Financial literacy program aims to help Indonesians manage their financial intelligently. A good understanding of financial literacy means that entrepreneurs are able to understand finance so that make an appropriate decision. Thus, SME managers can make complex and strategic decisions in the financial sector, in order to achieve business sustainability. [10] explained, this relationship logically shows that good financial literacy will be able to strategically identify and respond to changes in the business, economic and financial climate. As the result, the right decisions are made to create innovative and targeted solutions in order to achieve business sustainability. Based on the description above, the hypothesis is formulated as follows:

H2: Financial literacy has positive effect on business sustainability

c) The Effect of Fintech on Business Sustainability

Fintech companies provide easier and safer digital payments for businesses, so it can attract more consumers and give benefits for SMEs players. The presence of fintech is one of the solutions to overcome problems, especially for people who live far from the city and for people who are classified as unbanked [23]. Moreover, the existence of financial planner services will provide several applications that offer financial management services. These applications help to manage business finances such as recording expenses, monitoring investment performance, buying and selling shares and financial consulting. The number of consumers result a profit for SMEs, which in the end the business can survive and even increase. Based on the description above, the hypothesis is:

H3: Fintech has positive effect on business sustainability

d) The Role of Financial Literacy Mediates the Relationship between Fintech and **Business Sustainability**

Fintech will help SMEs to find facilities and solutions in the financial sector. Loans can be assessed from various aspects, not only relying on business credit scores. As the result, SMEs can manage all their financial processes transparently and effectively. SMES actors who understand knowledge in the field of financial literacy, they can make the best decisions. SME actors are also able to adapt to the digital world in the financial sector through the use of fintech companies. Therefore by understanding fintech, it will give benefir for MSMEs' business in the future. Furthermore, the business can develop properly, so that business sustainability can be maintained. Based on the description above, the hypothesis is formulated as follows:

H4: Financial literacy moderates the relationship between fintech and business sustainability

Based on the explanation above, the research model can be drawn as follows:

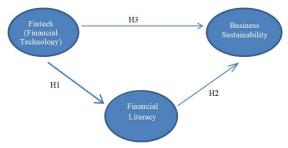


Fig. 1. Research Framework model

3 Research Method

The population in this study were SME actors in Semarang, Kudus and Surakarta of Central Java. The sampling technique was using purposive sampling method. with the following criteria:

- a) The business has been running for at least 2 years
- b) Make records of existing transactions
- c) The minimum market target is local market

3.1 Data Sources and Types

The data used in this research were primary data obtained from questionnaires. The questionnaires were distributed to a number of SME actors in Semarang, Kudus and Surakarta.

3.2 Data Collecting Method

The data collection method used in this study is questionnaire method In the measurement, each respondent was asked for his opinion regarding a statement measured on a Likert scale from 1 to 5 which means 1: strongly disagree; 2: disagree, 3: neutral, 4: agree, 5: strongly agree.

3.3 Variable and Indicator

The variables used in this study consisted of one independent variable, namely fintech (X), and mediation variable, namely financial literacy (Y1) and business sustainability (Y2). The relationship between the dependent and independent variables will be tested separately to obtain specific results. It is related to the influence of the independent variable on the dependent variable and the presence of the mediating variable. The following are the assessment indicators of each variable:

Table 1. Assessment Indicators of Each Variable			
Variable	Indicator		
Fintech (X1)	1. The use of market aggregator		
	2. Risk and investment management		
	3. Understanding on financial technology		
Financial Literacy (Y1)	1. Financial knowledge		

Variable	Indicator
	2. Financial behavior
	3. Financial attitude
Business Sustainability (Y ₂)	1. BEP (Break Event Point)
	2. Customer satisfaction tracking system
	3. Employee/manager satisfaction tracking system

3.4 Data Analysis Technique

The data used in this study were analyzed by using descriptive analysis method. In data management, researchers used SPSS version 26 and the analysis techniques included: descriptive statistical test, data quality test, classical assumption test, and hypothesis test.

3.5 Descriptive Statistic Analysis

Descriptive statistic uses to provide an overview of the variables studied. Descriptive statistical test includes range, minimum value, maximum value, average value (mean), and standard deviation of the data for each variable.

3.6 Data Quality Test

a) Validity Test

Validity is a condition that describes the level of the ability of an instrument in question in measuring what will be measured [28]. The questionnaire used in a study must be valid.

b) Reliability Test

Reliability is actually a tool to measure a questionnaire as an indicator of a variable or construct. In order to find out whether a variable is reliable or not, a statistical test is performed by looking at the Cronbach Alpha (α). The criteria used are a construct or variable that is considered be reliable if it has a Cronbach Alpha value for > 0.70 [28].

3.7 Classical Assumption Test

a) Normality Test

Normality test aims to test whether in the regression model, disturbance variable or residual have a normal distribution.

b) Multicollinearity Test

According to [28], multicollinearity test aims to test whether in the regression there is a correlation between independent variables.

c) Heteroscedasticity Test

Heteroscedasticity test is used to test whether the regression model has variants inequality from the residuals of one observation to another [28]. It is called heteroscedasticity if the

variants of the residuals from an observation are different. However, if the residual variant from one observation to another is constant, it is called homocedasticity.

3.8 Regression Analysis

Simple regression analysis is used to simply predict the value of a dependent variable based on the value of other variables. Regression analysis can also be used to see the effect of the independent variable (X) on the dependent variable (Y). This is to determine whether there is an effect between the independent variable (X) and the dependent variable (Y). In this study, the regression formulation is as follows:

$$Y_1 = \beta_{01} + \beta_1 X + e Y_2 = \beta_{02} + \beta_2 Y_1 + e$$
(1)

Description:

 $\begin{array}{lll} Y_1 & : \mbox{Financial literacy} \\ Y_2 & : \mbox{Business sustainability} \\ \beta_{01}, \beta_{02} & : \mbox{Constant} \\ \beta_1, \beta_2 & : \mbox{Regression coefficient variable} \\ X & : \mbox{Fintech} \\ E & : \mbox{Error term model/residual} \end{array}$

3.9 Model Feasibility

a) F Statistic Test

The F statistical test aims to provide an overall picture. The independent variables in the study have a joint effect on the dependent variable. If the significance value is <0.05, the independent variable has an effect on the dependent variable, and vice versa if the significance value is > 0.05 then the independent variable has no effect on the dependent variable.

b) Determination Coefficient Test (Adjust R²)

The determination coefficient (adjusted R^2) test is used to find out how far the model's ability to explain variations in the dependent variable [28]. A value close to 1 means that the independent variable provides almost all the information needed to predict the variation in the dependent variable.

c) Hypothesis Test (t-test)

The t test is used to determine the individual influence between each independent variable in explaining the dependent variable. Below is statistical hypothesis:

- 1) $H_0: \beta_1 \le 0$, means fintech has no effect on financial literacy
- 2) $H_a: \beta_1 > 0$, means fintech has positive effect on financial literacy
- 3) $H_0: \beta_2 \le 0$, means financial literacy has no effect on business sustainability
- 4) $H_a: \beta_2 > 0$, means financial literacy has positive effect on business sustainability
- 5) $H_0: \beta_3 \le 0$, means fintech has no effect on business sustainability
- 6) $H_a: \beta_3 > 0$, means fintech has positive effect business sustainability By the hypothesis test, it considered; a. α significant level is 5%, b. criteria for acceptance /

rejection of Ho pay attention to significant values, c. the intervening variable (mediation) causes direct and indirect test.

4 Result and Discussion

4.1 Validity Test

Based on the validity test, all instruments show valid results.

4.2 Reliability Test

Reliability test shows the three variables, namely fintech, financial literacy and reliable business sustainability. The following are the results of the reliability test:

	Table 2. Reliability Test Result				
No	Variable	Cronbach's Alpha	Information		
1	Fintech	0.862	Reliable		
2	Financial literacy	0.835	Reliable		
3	Business sustainability	0.761	Reliable		

4.3 Classical Assumption Test

a) Normality Test

The normality test aims to test whether in the regression model the disturbance variable or residual have a normal distribution or not. The following is the result of the normality test for the fintech variable on financial literacy.

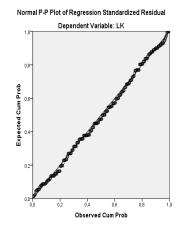


Fig. 2. The Result of Normality Test

In figure 2 above the normal p-p plot graph shows that the normal p-p plot graph is normally distributed. It is because the data spreads out and follows the direction of the diagonal line. Following are the results of normality test with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov (K-S) statistical test:

Table	e 3. Normality Test Resu	ılt
One-Samp	ole Kolmogorov-Smirn	ov Test
	Unsta	ndardized Residual
N		300
Normal Parameters ^{a,b}	Mean	.0000000
	Std. Deviation	8,13963257
Most Extreme Differen	cesAbsolute	.036
	Positive	.036
	Negative	025
Test Statistic	0	.036
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		.200°
a. Test distribution is N	ormal.	
b. Calculated from data		
c. Lilliefors Significanc	e Correction.	

Based on table 3, the normality test by Kolmogrov-Smirnov with a significance level of 0.200 indicates that it is greater than 0.05. In conclusion, the disturbance variable or residual is normally distributed and H0 is accepted.

b) Multicolonierity Test Result

4. Multicolonierity	y Test Result
Coefficients	a
Collinearit	y Statistics
Tolerance	VIF
1.000	1.000
	Collinearit Tolerance

a. Dependent Variable: Financial literacy

Based on table 4, the VIF value of each variable is <10. This indicates that for the independent variable, there is no multicollinearity to the dependent variable. It can be concluded that the regression model does not experience multicollinearity symptom.

c) Multicollinearity test of Fintech and Financial Literacy variables on Business **Sustainability**

Table 5. Multicolli	nearity test of Fir	liech and Financial Literacy
Varia	bles on Business	Sustainability
	Coefficien	ts ^a
Madal		Collinearity Statistics
Model	Tolerance	VIF
Fintech	0.954	1.049
Financial Literacy	0.954	1.049

Table 5 Multicellinearity test of Fintesh and Financial Literacy

Based on table 5, the VIF value of each variable is <10. This shows that for the independent variable there is no multicollinearity to the dependent variable. It is because the VIF value does not exceed the value of 10 and for the tolerance value approaches the number 1 (tolerance exceeds 0.1). It can be concluded that the regression model does not experience multicolonierity symptoms.

d) Heteroscedasticity Test Result

		Т	able 6. Heterosce	dasticity Test Result		
			Coeff	icients ^a		
	Model	Unstandardiz	zed Coefficients	Standardized Coefficier	nts 🔒	S:a
	Widdel	В	Std. Error	Beta	— i	Sig.
1	(Constant)	7,421	0,886		8,373	0,000
	Fintech	-0,095	0,082	-0,06	-1,153	0,250
a.	Dependent '	Variable : AbsU	Jt			

According to the test result, it shows that the significance value is greater than 0.05. so it can be concluded that this study is free from heteroscedasticity symptom.

e)	Heteroscedasticity	Test of Fintech	and Financial L	iteracy for Busines	ss Sustainability

 Table 7. Heteroscedasticity Test of Fintech and Financial Literacy for Business Sustainability

 Coefficients^a

	Model		dardized ficients	Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	-	В	Std. Error	Beta	-	e
1	(Constant)	3,996	0,653		6,123	0,000
	Fintech	-0,114	0,042	-0,161	-2,742	0,065
	Financial Literacy	0,019	0,017	0,065	1,101	0,272
b.	Dependent Variable : Ab	sUt				

According to the test results, the significance value is greater than 0.05. In conclusion, this study is free from heteroscedasticity symptom.

4.4 Linier Regression Analysis

A good multiple regression model is a model that meets the criteria of classical assumptions. The criteria are disturbance variable or residuals that are normally distributed, free from multicollinearity, avoid autocorrelation and there is no any heteroscedasticity. From the previous analysis, it is proven that the model in this study meets the criteria of classical assumptions, so that the model in this study is considered as good model.

		Table 8. Reg	ression Test		
	Multiple Linear	Regression Analys	is (Fintech \rightarrow Financial Literation	cy)	
		Coeffic	ients ^a		
Madal	Standardized Coefficients	s т	S :-		
Model	В	Std. Error	Beta	1	Sig.
1 (Constar	nt) 27,848	1,462		19,049	0,000
Fintech	0,516	0,136	0,215	3,805	0,000
a. Dependen	t Variable: Finan	cial Literacy			

The regression equation is as follows:

$$Y = 27.848 + 0.516 [X]_{1} + \epsilon$$
(2)

Multiple Linear Regression Analysis of Fintech and Financial Literacy variables on Business	;
Sustainability	

			Coefficients ^a			
	Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Т	Sig.
		В	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	14,397	1,141		12,621	0,000	
	Fintech	0,258	0,073	0,182	3,544	0,000
	Financial Literacy	0,257	0,030	0,434	8,459	0,000

The regression equation is as follows:

$$Y = 14.397 + 0.258 [X] - 1 + 0.257 X - 2 + \epsilon$$
(3)

4.5 Model Feasibility Test

a) F Statistic Test

The F test aims to determine whether the independent variables can influence the dependent variable or not.

ANOVA ^a						
Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	
1 Regression	962,315	1	962,315	14,476	,000 ^b	
Residual	19809,832	298	66,476			
Total	20772,147	299				
a. Dependent Variable: Financial Literacy						
b. Predictors: (Constant): Fintech						

Table 10. Fintech Variable Statistical Test on Financial Literacy

Table 10 shows that the significance level of 0.00 is smaller than 0.05. This means that the regression model can be used to predict financial literacy.

b) Fintech Statistical Test for Fintech Variables and Financial Literacy on Business Sustainability

Table 11. Fintech Statistical Test for Fintech Variables						
ANOVA ^a						
Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	
1 Regression	1856,550	2	928,275	50,865	$0,000^{b}$	
Residual	5420,180	297	18,250			
Total	7276,730	299				
a. Dependent Va	ariable: Business sus	tainabili	ity			
b. Predictors: (C	Constant): Financial	Literacy	, Fintech			

Table 11 shows that the significance level of 0.000 is less than 0.05. This means that the regression model can be used to predict business sustainability or the fintech and financial literacy variable have an effect on business sustainability.

c) Coefficient Determination Test (Adjusted R²)

The determination coefficient is useful for measuring how far the entire independent variable can explain the dependent variable.

Table 12. Coefficient Determination Test						
Model Summary ^b						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	,215ª	,046	,043	8,153		
a. Predictors: (Constant), Fintech						
b. Dependent Variable: Financial Literacy						

Based on the table above, it is obtained the Adjusted R Square value is 0.043 or 4.3%. This indicates that the contribution of financial literacy variable is 4.3% and the remaining 95.7% is influenced by other variables outside the research.

d) Fintech Variable Determination Coefficient Test, Financial Literacy on Business Sustainability

Table 13. Fintech Variable Determination Coefficient Test						
Model Summary ^b						
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate		
1	0,505ª	0,255	0,250	4,272		
a. Predictors: (Constant), Financial Literacy, Fintech						
b. Dependent Variable: Business Sustainability						

Based on the table above, it is obtained the Adjusted R Square value is 0.250 or 25%. This indicates that the contribution of the financial literacy variable is 25% and the remaining 75% is influenced by other variables outside the research.

4.6 Hypothesis Test

a) The Effect of Fintech on Financial Literacy

Based on test results, it can be concluded that the fintech variable has a regression coefficient value of 0.516 in a positive direction and with a significant value of 0.00, less than 0.05. This means that fintech variable has a positive effect on financial literacy thus the first hypothesis is accepted.

b) The Effect Financial Literacy on Business Sustainability

Based on the test result, it can be concluded that the financial literacy variable has a regression coefficient value of 0.257 in a positive direction and with a significant value of 0.00, less than 0.05. This means that the financial literacy variable has a positive effect on business sustainability, thus the second hypothesis is accepted.

c) The Effect of Fintech on Business Sustainability

Based on test result, it can be concluded that the financial literacy variable has a regression coefficient value of 0.258 in a positive direction and with a significant value of 0.00, less than 0.05. This means that the financial literacy variable has a positive effect on business continuity, so that the second hypothesis is accepted.

d) The Role of Financial Literacy as Moderating Variable in the Relationship between Fintech and Business Sustainability

Based on the results of data processing, it shows that the indirect effect of fintech has a positive effect on business sustainability through financial literacy. These results indicate that the better understanding of fintech and supported by the ability in the field of financial literacy, the results will have a significant impact on improving SMEs business sustainability. Thus the results of this study provide evidence that financial literacy in the relationship between fintech and business sustainability is significant.

5 Conclusion

The conclusions of this study are; first, fintech is proven to have an effect on financial literacy. This shows that the synergy between fintech and banking that provides digital financial payments and transactions allows Indonesians to transact efficiently and safely without being constrained by balance limit in their applications. Second, financial literacy is proven to have a positive effect on business sustainability. Therefore, SMEs managers can make complex and strategic financial decisions in order to achieve business sustainability. Third, fintech is proven to have an effect on business sustainability. Fintech understanding gives an easier and safer digital payment for business people, so it attracts consumers and give benefits for business can survive and even increase. The last, financial literacy has been proven to mediate the fintech relationship with business sustainability. This means that business actors must understand knowledge in the field of financial literacy in order to make the best decisions. Furthermore, it also makes the business can develop properly, so that business sustainability can be maintained.

There are two suggestions of this study, first for the SMEs not only develop the role of fintech as payment but for other purposes such as financing, financial arrangements, investment and others. Second, for business actors, they should increase their knowledge in the field of software applications that are trending in the digital era in accordance with current digital development.

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