



Research Paper

Determinants of Financial Reporting Quality among Culinary MSMEs in Ambon City

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ABSTRACT: This study examines the effects of accounting literacy, digital accounting application utilization, and transaction-recording discipline on the financial reporting quality of culinary micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Ambon City. An explanatory quantitative design was employed using survey data collected from 169 culinary MSME owners and managers selected through purposive sampling. Data were obtained through a five-point Likert-scale questionnaire and analyzed using multiple linear regression with SPSS version 23. The results show that accounting literacy has a positive and significant effect on financial reporting quality ($\beta = 0.315$; $t = 5.473$; $p < 0.001$). Digital accounting application utilization also has a positive and significant effect ($\beta = 0.406$; $t = 5.545$; $p < 0.001$) and represents the strongest predictor in the model. Transaction-recording discipline similarly demonstrates a positive and significant effect on financial reporting quality ($\beta = 0.153$; $t = 2.454$; $p = 0.015$). These findings indicate that high-quality financial reporting depends on the integration of accounting knowledge, effective technology utilization, and consistent record-keeping practices. This study extends the literature on MSME financial reporting in eastern Indonesia and highlights the need for capacity-building programs that combine applied accounting training, digital application assistance, and systematic transaction-recording procedures.

Keywords: accounting literacy, culinary MSMEs, digital accounting applications, financial reporting quality, transaction-recording discipline

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I. INTRODUCTION

Accounting literacy is important because it reflects MSME owners' ability to identify transactions, classify accounts, calculate costs and profits, prepare financial reports, and use accounting information. From the perspective of Human Capital Theory, accounting knowledge and skills constitute human capital that enhances financial reporting capability. Accounting knowledge and financial reporting training have been shown to support the preparation of MSME financial reports in accordance with applicable standards (Bokol et al., 2020). Studies on financial literacy further indicate that financial knowledge strengthens access to finance, risk management, business sustainability, and MSME performance (Ye & Kulathunga, 2019; Kulathunga et al., 2020; Burchi et al., 2021). In Indonesia, financial and digital literacy contribute to business continuity, technology adoption, and MSME productivity (Yanto et al., 2022; Affandi et al., 2024; Sakti et al., 2025). However, empirical findings remain inconsistent. Bokol et al. (2020) identified a positive effect of accounting knowledge, whereas Budiantara and Hwihanus (2024) found no significant effect on financial reporting quality. This inconsistency suggests that conceptual knowledge may not produce high-quality financial reports unless it is consistently applied.

The utilization of digital accounting applications can accelerate record-keeping, reduce calculation errors, update balances, store data, and generate more systematic financial reports. The Technology Acceptance Model explains that technology use is influenced by perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use. Therefore, utilization should be assessed through actual use, frequency, consistency of data entry, and use of generated reports, rather than application ownership alone. Digital accounting has been shown to improve financial reporting quality and the usefulness of accounting information (Phornlaphatrachakorn & Na Kalasindhu, 2021), while digital transformation improves the quality of accounting information among MSMEs (Nguyen et al., 2025).

Digital accounting and financial literacy also positively affect financial reporting quality, particularly when supported by technological readiness (Ahsan et al., 2025). Digitalization helps MSMEs calculate profits, monitor financial conditions, and allocate funds, although its adoption remains constrained by costs, data security concerns, and limited technological knowledge (Rahman Hakim et al., 2024). The number of SIAPIK users increased from 17,837 in 2021 to 63,396 MSMEs in the first half of 2026 ([Bank Indonesia, 2022](#); [Bank Indonesia, 2026](#)). However, technology cannot ensure high-quality reporting when transactions are not recorded completely and promptly. Information Processing Theory suggests that information quality depends on the quality of data and the processes used to transform it (Cao et al., 2019). The success of accounting information systems also depends on system quality, information quality, system use, and user satisfaction (Lutfi, 2023).

Previous studies have focused more extensively on financial literacy than accounting literacy, treated digitalization primarily as a determinant of performance or sustainability, and positioned record-keeping as a general component of financial management. Research integrating accounting literacy, digital accounting application utilization, and transaction-recording discipline as determinants of financial reporting quality remains limited, particularly among culinary MSMEs in eastern Indonesia. The gap between Indonesia's financial literacy index of 65.43% and financial inclusion index of 75.02% further indicates that access to financial services has not been fully accompanied by adequate information management capabilities ([OJK & BPS, 2024](#)). This study integrates Human Capital Theory, the Technology Acceptance Model, and Information Processing Theory to examine the effects of accounting literacy, digital accounting application utilization, and transaction-recording discipline on the financial reporting quality of culinary MSMEs in Ambon City. The findings are expected to extend the literature on MSME financial reporting and support capacity-building programs that integrate accounting literacy, technology utilization, and consistent record-keeping practices.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

This study integrates Human Capital Theory, the Technology Acceptance Model, and Information Processing Theory. Human Capital Theory conceptualizes accounting literacy as productive knowledge and skills that enable MSME owners to identify, record, classify, and interpret financial transactions. The Technology Acceptance Model explains that digital accounting application utilization depends on perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use. Information Processing Theory emphasizes that information quality depends on an organization's ability to acquire, process, store, and use data appropriately. Information-processing capability has been shown to improve decision-making effectiveness (Cao et al., 2019). Together, these theories explain financial reporting quality through business owners' capabilities, technological support, and the consistency of transaction-recording processes.

Financial reporting quality reflects the ability of financial reports to provide relevant, accurate, complete, timely, understandable, verifiable, and comparable information. These attributes are consistent with the qualitative characteristics of financial information established by the [Indonesian Institute of Accountants](#) (Ikatan Akuntan Indonesia, 2016). The Indonesian Financial Accounting Standards for Micro, Small, and Medium Entities also emphasize the separation of personal and business assets and require the preparation of a statement of financial position, an income statement, and notes to the financial statements ([Ikatan Akuntan Indonesia, 2023](#)). High-quality financial reports help MSMEs manage resources, evaluate performance, make decisions, and obtain access to finance (Rahmawati & Puspasari, 2017; Auliyah, 2024). These functions are particularly important for culinary MSMEs because of the high frequency of sales transactions, raw material purchases, inventory movements, production costs, and operating expenditures.

Accounting literacy reflects the ability to understand transactions, classify accounts, calculate costs and profits, interpret financial reports, and use accounting information. According to Human Capital Theory, these capabilities improve MSME owners' accuracy in processing financial data. Accounting knowledge and training support the preparation of financial reports in accordance with the financial reporting standards for MSMEs (Bokol et al., 2020). Financial and technological literacy also improve access to finance, risk management, performance, and business sustainability (Ye & Kulathunga, 2019; Kulathunga et al., 2020; Yanto et al., 2022). Affandi et al. (2024) found that financial literacy supports technology adoption and business performance, while Ahsan et al. (2025) reported a positive effect of financial literacy on financial reporting quality. In contrast, Budiantara and Hwihanus (2024) found no significant effect of accounting knowledge on financial reporting quality. These inconsistent findings indicate the need for further examination among culinary MSMEs in Ambon City. Therefore, **H1: Accounting literacy has a positive effect on the financial reporting quality of culinary MSMEs in Ambon City.**

Digital accounting application utilization refers to the actual use of applications to record, process, store, and report financial transactions. According to the Technology Acceptance Model, MSME owners are more likely to use these applications consistently when they perceive them as useful and easy to use. Digital accounting improves financial reporting quality, the usefulness of accounting information, and decision-making effectiveness (Phornlaphatrachakorn & Na Kalasindhu, 2021). Digital transformation also improves the quality of MSME

accounting information (Nguyen et al., 2025), while digital record-keeping helps MSMEs measure profits, monitor financial conditions, and allocate funds (Rahman Hakim et al., 2024). Ahsan et al. (2025) found that digital accounting positively affects financial reporting quality, whereas Lutfi (2023) emphasized that accounting information system success depends on system quality, information quality, system use, and user satisfaction. The expansion of SIAPIK, which had assisted 63,396 MSMEs by the first half of 2026, further demonstrates the growing opportunity for digital financial record-keeping ([Bank Indonesia, 2026](#)). Therefore, **H2: Digital accounting application utilization has a positive effect on the financial reporting quality of culinary MSMEs in Ambon City.**

Transaction-recording discipline refers to the consistent recording of all transactions completely, accurately, systematically, and promptly, including retaining transaction evidence and verifying the accuracy of records. According to Information Processing Theory, the quality of financial reports as information outputs depends on the completeness and accuracy of the input data. An information system cannot generate high-quality information when transaction data are incomplete or inaccurate (Cao et al., 2019; Lutfi, 2023). Malauri et al. (2022) found that inconsistent record-keeping produces fragmented business information that is difficult to use, while Risal et al. (2020) showed that record-keeping practices are influenced by owners' perceptions of the importance of accounting. Among culinary MSMEs in Ambon City, financial record-keeping was the strongest determinant of effective financial management (Sitaniapessy et al., 2026). Disciplined record-keeping provides accurate data for calculating revenue, expenses, inventory, and profit. Therefore, **H3: Transaction-recording discipline has a positive effect on the financial reporting quality of culinary MSMEs in Ambon City.**

III. RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed a quantitative approach with an explanatory research design to examine the effects of accounting literacy, digital accounting application utilization, and transaction-recording discipline on the financial reporting quality of culinary MSMEs in Ambon City. Data were collected through a survey using a five-point Likert-scale questionnaire.

Accounting literacy was defined as the ability to understand and apply accounting concepts. Digital accounting application utilization referred to the actual use of applications in managing financial information. Transaction-recording discipline reflected the consistent, systematic, complete, and timely recording of transactions. Financial reporting quality represented the ability of financial reports to provide relevant, accurate, complete, timely, understandable, and comparable information.

The sample comprised 169 owners or managers of culinary MSMEs selected through purposive sampling. The data were analyzed using SPSS through descriptive statistics, multiple linear regression, t-tests. The study ensured voluntary participation and protected the confidentiality of all respondents.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A total of 169 owners and managers of culinary MSMEs in Ambon City participated in this study. Female respondents accounted for 57.99% of the sample ($n = 98$), while male respondents represented 42.01% ($n = 71$). Regarding age, 34.32% were 31–40 years old ($n = 58$), 27.81% were 41–50 years old ($n = 47$), 23.08% were 30 years old or younger ($n = 39$), and 14.79% were above 50 years old ($n = 25$). This distribution indicates that most respondents were within economically productive age groups. In terms of education, 48.52% of respondents had completed senior high school ($n = 82$), 25.44% held bachelor's degrees ($n = 43$), 17.16% were diploma graduates ($n = 29$), and 8.88% had completed junior high school ($n = 15$). Regarding business experience, 29.59% had operated their businesses for 4–6 years ($n = 50$), 25.44% for 7–10 years ($n = 43$), 23.67% for more than 10 years ($n = 40$), and 21.30% for 1–3 years ($n = 36$). These results suggest that most respondents possessed sufficient business experience to understand their enterprises' accounting and financial reporting practices. Food stalls constituted the largest business category at 30.77% ($n = 52$), followed by restaurants at 21.30% ($n = 36$), snack and beverage businesses at 20.12% ($n = 34$), caf  s at 15.98% ($n = 27$), and catering services at 11.83% ($n = 20$). Overall, the sample reflects varied demographic, educational, and business characteristics, providing an appropriate empirical basis for examining accounting literacy, digital accounting application utilization, transaction-recording discipline, and financial reporting quality among culinary MSMEs in Ambon City.

The research instrument was tested using validity and reliability analyses. Based on the test results, all questionnaire items were found to be valid, as each item loaded appropriately on its respective construct and all factor loading values exceeded the minimum threshold of 0.50. The results of the validity test are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Validity Testing

Item	Factor Loading				Decision
LA1	.838				valid
LA2	.790				valid
LA3	.850				valid
LA4	.855				valid
UD1				.508	valid
UD2				.796	valid
UD3				.789	valid
UD4				.521	valid
TR1		.807			valid
TR2		.807			valid
TR3		.845			valid
TR4		.764			valid
FR1			.786		valid
FR2			.767		valid
FR3			.633		valid

Source: Research Data Processed (2026)

Furthermore, the reliability test results indicate that all questionnaire items are reliable, as each item has a Corrected Item–Total Correlation value greater than 0.50 and a Cronbach’s Alpha coefficient exceeding 0.70. These findings demonstrate that the measurement instrument possesses satisfactory internal consistency and is suitable for use in subsequent data analysis.

Table 2. Reliability Testing.

Variable	Item	Uji Reliabilitas		Decision
		Corrected Item-Total Correlation	Cronbach Alpha	
Accounting literacy	LA1	0.761	0.876	Reliable
	LA2	0.713		
	LA3	0.703		
	LA4	0.758		
Utilization of digital accounting applications	UD1	0.545	0.727	Reliable
	UD2	0.513		
	UD3	0.508		
	UD4	0.513		
Transaction recording discipline	TR1	0.658	0.831	Reliable
	TR2	0.670		
	TR3	0.694		
	TR4	0.613		
Financial reporting quality	FR1	0.613	0.751	Reliable
	FR2	0.564		
	FR3	0.561		

Source: Research Data Processed (2026)

The results of the descriptive statistical analysis, including the mean and standard deviation of each variable, are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Descriptive Statistics variable

Variable	N	Mean	SD
Accounting literacy	169	3.6923	0.50958
Utilization of digital accounting applications	169	3.7382	0.41171
Transaction recording discipline	169	3.6967	0.47259
Financial reporting quality	169	3.7140	0.46190

Source: Research Data Processed (2026)

Hypothesis testing was conducted using multiple regression analysis with the assistance of SPSS version 23. The results indicate that all three hypotheses proposed in this study are supported. The significance values for all hypothesis tests were below the threshold of 0.05, indicating statistically significant relationships between the independent variables and financial management effectiveness. A summary of the hypothesis testing results is presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Hypothesis Testing

	Hypothesis	β	t-value	Sig.	Decision
1.	Accounting literacy has a positive effect on Financial reporting quality	0.315	5.473	0.000	Supported
2:	Utilization of digital accounting applications a positive effect on Financial reporting quality	0.406	5.545	0.000	Supported
3:	Transaction recording discipline has a positive effect on Financial reporting quality	0.153	2.454	0.015	Supported

Source: Research Data Processed (2026)

The first hypothesis test shows that accounting literacy has a positive and significant effect on the financial reporting quality of culinary MSMEs in Ambon City. Therefore, H1 is supported. Accounting literacy enables owners to identify transactions, classify revenues and expenses, distinguish assets from liabilities, calculate profits, and interpret financial information. It also supports the separation of personal and business finances, as required by SAK EMKM. Consistent with Human Capital Theory, accounting knowledge and skills constitute productive capital that enables owners to transform business transactions into accurate, complete, and understandable financial reports. This finding supports Bokol, Ratnawati, and Perdana (2020), who demonstrated that accounting knowledge and financial reporting training enable MSMEs to prepare reports in accordance with SAK EMKM. It is also consistent with Ahsan et al. (2025), who found that financial literacy improves MSME financial reporting quality. Similarly, Ye and Kulathunga (2019), Kulathunga et al. (2020), and Yanto et al. (2022) showed that financial literacy and entrepreneurial capabilities improve risk management, decision-making, and business sustainability. Although financial literacy has a broader scope, these findings confirm that owners' knowledge is an important resource for managing business information. However, this result differs from Budiantara and Hwihanus (2024), who found that accounting knowledge did not affect MSME financial reporting quality in Sleman. This difference may reflect variations in respondent characteristics, business types, regional settings, and the practical application of accounting knowledge. For culinary MSMEs in Ambon City, accounting literacy is essential because owners must manage frequent transactions involving raw materials, production costs, labor, sales, inventory, and profits. Therefore, MSME development programs should strengthen applied accounting skills, including separating personal and business finances, recording transactions, calculating production costs, preparing income statements, and interpreting financial information.

The second hypothesis test demonstrates that digital accounting application utilization has a positive and significant effect on the financial reporting quality of culinary MSMEs in Ambon City. Therefore, H2 is supported. Digital applications help owners record and classify transactions, update balances, calculate profits, store data, and generate reports more quickly and systematically. However, application ownership alone does not guarantee high-quality reporting. Owners must consistently enter transactions, use available features, verify recorded data, and utilize the reports generated. This finding supports the Technology Acceptance Model, which explains that sustained technology use depends on perceived usefulness and perceived ease of use. This finding is consistent with Phornlaphatrachakorn and Na Kalasindhu (2021), who showed that digital accounting improves financial reporting quality, accounting information usefulness, and decision-making effectiveness. Nguyen et al. (2025) similarly found that accounting digitalization improves MSME accounting information quality by creating more structured and timely data. Ahsan et al. (2025) demonstrated that digital accounting improves report accuracy, readability, timeliness, and compliance. Rahman Hakim, Narulita, and Iswahyudi (2024) also found that digital record-keeping enables MSMEs to measure profits or losses, monitor financial conditions, plan activities, and allocate resources more accurately. This result is also consistent with Lutfi (2023), who emphasized that accounting information system success depends on system quality, information quality, system use, and user satisfaction. Digital applications can help culinary MSMEs manage frequent transactions and reduce their reliance on owners' memory, but their effectiveness still depends on users' accounting capabilities and consistency. Incorrect entries, inappropriate account classifications, and delayed updates can reduce reporting quality. This finding also supports Bank Indonesia's SIAPIK program, although its success should be evaluated through actual utilization and the quality of generated information. Therefore, local governments and MSME support institutions should provide practice-based training and continued assistance to promote consistent application use.

The third hypothesis test shows that transaction-recording discipline has a positive and significant effect on the financial reporting quality of culinary MSMEs in Ambon City. Therefore, H3 is supported. Transaction-

recording discipline involves documenting transactions completely, accurately, systematically, and promptly, retaining supporting evidence, updating records, and reconciling them with cash or bank balances. Because financial reports are generated from transaction data, incomplete or inaccurate records will distort reported revenues, expenses, cash, liabilities, receivables, inventory, and profits. This result supports Information Processing Theory, which explains that information quality depends on the quality of data and the processes used to transform them. It is consistent with Cao, Duan, and Cadden (2019), who found that information-processing capability improves decision-making effectiveness. Malaury, Mpogole, and Wiketye (2022) also identified a significant relationship between financial record-keeping and the performance of micro and small enterprises. Similarly, Sitaniapessy, Salhuteru, and Hursepuny (2026) found that financial record-keeping had the strongest positive effect on financial management effectiveness among culinary MSMEs in Ambon City. The present study extends these findings by demonstrating its contribution to financial reporting quality. Lutfi (2023) emphasized that information quality is influenced by data quality and system use. Therefore, even well-designed accounting applications cannot generate reliable reports when users enter incomplete or inaccurate data. Transaction-recording discipline remains essential for culinary MSMEs because their daily activities involve cash and digital sales, raw material purchases, inventory, labor, transportation, electricity, and other operating expenses. MSMEs should establish simple daily procedures for recording, classifying, verifying, and reconciling transactions. Support programs should reinforce these habits through practical formats, recording schedules, checklists, periodic evaluations, and continued assistance.

V. CONCLUSION

This study examines the effects of accounting literacy, digital accounting application utilization, and transaction-recording discipline on the financial reporting quality of culinary MSMEs in Ambon City. Based on the hypothesis-testing results, several conclusions can be drawn. First, accounting literacy has a positive and significant effect on financial reporting quality. The stronger the owners' or managers' ability to understand transactions, classify accounts, calculate profits, and interpret financial information, the higher the quality of the resulting reports. Accounting literacy enables business owners to provide more accurate, complete, relevant, and understandable financial information. Second, digital accounting application utilization has a positive and significant effect on financial reporting quality. Consistent application use helps MSMEs record transactions, reduce calculation errors, store data systematically, and prepare reports more efficiently. However, these benefits depend on actual application use rather than ownership alone. Third, transaction-recording discipline has a positive and significant effect on financial reporting quality. Complete, accurate, systematic, evidence-based, and timely recording produces more reliable transaction data. These data provide the foundation for preparing accurate and verifiable reports that faithfully represent business conditions. Overall, the financial reporting quality of culinary MSMEs in Ambon City is determined by the combination of human capabilities, technology utilization, and record-keeping behavior. Accounting literacy provides the ability to understand and process transactions, digital accounting applications facilitate information processing, and transaction-recording discipline ensures the availability of complete and timely data. These factors should be developed in an integrated manner to strengthen business accountability and financial management quality.

Culinary MSME owners and managers should improve their accounting literacy through training, mentoring, and independent learning. Priority topics should include separating personal and business finances, classifying revenues and expenses, calculating production costs, preparing income statements, managing cash, and interpreting financial reports. MSME owners should also use digital accounting applications regularly. Applications should be selected based on ease of use, feature suitability, data security, and business needs. Owners should use the generated reports not only to record transactions but also to control costs, set selling prices, evaluate profits, and plan capital requirements. Each MSME should establish simple record-keeping procedures. All transactions should be recorded on the same day, supported by appropriate evidence, and classified by type. Owners should also periodically reconcile their records with cash balances, bank accounts, inventory, liabilities, and receivables.

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