

Impact of Covid – 19 on Performance of SMEs in Uva Province

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COVID – 19 as a globally spread virus, has led to inactive almost all the economies in the world and it has been created a negative impact on all businesses especially including SMEs worldwide. This study provides a detailed analysis of how the COVID - 19 has affected the performance of SMEs in the Uva Province of Sri Lanka. Moreover this study has been focused to identify SME holders ability to conduct the business siring the pandemic situation. This study has adopted the quantitative approach as research design. In addition the questionnaire was the major instrument of data collection administered to the one hundred and twenty (120) respondents from two (02) districts in Uva Province namely, Monaragala (56) and Badulla (64). The data obtained under three constructs consisting of 38 dimensions were analyzed employing both descriptive analysis and t - test analysis by using IBM SPSS software. The findings of the study have revealed that COVID – 19 has affected the performance of SMEs in Uva Province in both positive and negative manner. It further revealed that there is a significant difference in the financial performances and marketing performances of SMEs in Uva Province during the COVID – 19 and before the COVID - 19. However, innovative performances of SMEs have increased during COVID – 19 compared to the Pre COVID – 19 Period. Moreover, the study provides details about SME holders’ ability to conduct the business even under a pandemic situation. The studt revealed that the majority of SME holders (give the percentage if available) have the ability to continue their businessess only about 3 to 6 months under this pandemic situation.

Keywords: COVID – 19; Small and Medium Enterprises; Performance of SMEs; Financial Performance; Innovative Performance; Operational performance