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## A STUDY ON PERCEPTION OF BUSINESSMAN TOWARDS PATTERN OF KEEPING AND MAINTAINING ACCOUNTING SYSTEM IN MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Accounting is oldest and most stable of business & management disciplines. Accounting has seen significant changes during the last century, despite its stability and continuity. It would be astonishing if, a century from now, accounting is same as it is now in terms of its principles, regulations, and financial procedures. The main aim of this study is to investigate the businessman perception towards pattern of keeping and maintaining accounting information system in medium enterprises of Dharwad district of Karnataka state. This research are indicates that the majority of medium-sized businesses are using information accounting systems to write accounting systems. Thus, maximum medium-sized businesses review their accounting system functioning on an annual basis. It demonstrates that the majority of medium-sized business owners are in charge of managing and maintaining the accounting system.

**Keywords:** Accounting Information System, pattern of preserving and maintaining accounting systems, medium enterprises industry etc.

### **INTRODUCTION**

A strong accounting system has a significant influence on the performance of any economic activity, particularly for medium and big businesses. According to Sibley, 40 percent of all new businesses fail during the first year owing to a lack of personal finance and tracking. [1] Technology has advanced greatly over time, and it now has the ability to completely transform the way organizations function. Every product and service, including accounting, has experienced this. As a result, while the accounting system is basic, its implementation and adoption/use are critical for any business's long-term survival, no matter its size.

Because it can handle the tedious sifting of information automatically, adoption and usage of such a system has allowed accountants & owners to spend more time making choices. [2] Because of the recent availability of large amounts of historical data, as well as the significant increase in computer processing capability, many decision makershave come to rely on computerised decision supportsystems to aid them with complex decision tasks. [3]

The spike in corporate competitiveness in the late twentieth century encouraged corporations to use new technology to restructure company operations, create things, and meet organizational expectations for enhanced quality. The activity information and accounting system is one part of new technology. According to one study, knowledge technology has given actionable insights for implementing business charges in American and Japanese companies [4], and knowledge accounting systems are no exception, with robotic transaction cycles, online sources, electronic tax record keeping requirements, increased coverage of encrypting data methods and object-oriented coding, digital certificates, bar coding, and automatic identity. [5] Despite the fact that many medium-sized companies recognise the need of information



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accounting in keeping up with the information technology era, there hasbeen little research on adoption of information accounting systems by MLEs, with greater focus on large organisations.

The information technology revolution has affected the nature of medium and large corporations. Because of advent of e-commerce, cross-border transactions are now possible. In order to satisfy the needs of contemporary worldwide standards in a timely manner, these innovations in business necessitate the transformation of organisations' accounting systems. Only those with a good accounting system will be able to make business decisions in this changing atmosphere. According to Brecht and Martin, an accounting system should include non-financial data to supportfinancial data for better decisionmaking. [6] Accounting systems must give users with accurate, reliable, trustworthy, & timely information in this informationage.

Adopting and implementing an information accounting system in any organisation, small, allows management/owners to improve decisionmaking, internal controls, & financial information while also allowing financialreporting and statements tobe produced in a standardised format and on a timely basis to stakeholders. As the number of transactionsincreases, it becomes increasingly difficult to combine them manually, necessitating the use of an accounting information system. Accounting systems must also be capable of recording non-financial data in order to augment financial data for better decision making. In this era of innovation, the accounting reporting system should be able to provide users with relevant, accurate, trustworthy, and timely information, and the information system for accounting plays a critical part in this.

MEs account for more than 40% of domestic output in India, approximately 50% of total exports, and 45% of industrial employment. More importantly, they employ nearly 19 million people, placing them second only to agriculture in terms of overall manpower. Various professionals, surveys, and researchers investigated different ME aspects and suggested solutions for ME development, expansion, and problem resolution. However, they have not sufficiently addressed the accounting information system's difficulties. Few individuals are interested in ME accounting information system difficulties, but a lack of understanding complicates the job. [7] This is a study to fill some of the gaps. The study was carried out by evaluating several research works produced in India and overseas on ME's accounting information system and its connected elements. It helps researchers in establishing a logical and suitable direction for the present work. The idea they tested and the results obtained tremendously assisted in drawing a comparison and addressing problems that were overlooked. Various journals and other sites related to accounting information system and MEs were also searched, as were periodicals in India and abroad related to MEs and accounting information system. The researcher was inspired to conduct a study on extent of accounting information system related to MEs in the Dharawad district of Karnataka State as a model study area, and the researcher felt that this study was necessary because the researcher believed that MEs' full and proper adoption of accounting information system provides many benefits for their survival, growth, & expansion, such as providing a clear sense of vision and mission for the organisation. As a result, the highlighted gap in earlier research served as a point of reference for the current study.

In any country, including India, medium firms are a highly competitive sector that contribute considerably to the country's economy and growth. MEs are becoming increasingly essential in the global economy, according to Ang and Hussin, notably in terms of job creation,



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revenue generation, engagement in social activities, and poverty alleviation. [8] Several research studies have shown this. [9]

MEs encourage entrepreneurship and the proliferation of industries across the country. It also generates a large number of employment possibilities (which are desperately needed in India), and the capital cost per person is quite inexpensive. With the service sector accounting for a substantial share of GDP and relying on increasing FDI inflows into MEs in the future, the breadth and relevance of accounting information system adoption for MEs has expanded dramatically. The government is also committed to increasing GDP and MEs through infrastructure development, skill India/Karnataka, start India/Karnataka, technological innovation, and improving the SIDBI's role (SIDBI). As a result, accounting system upgrades are a requirement of the hour, and accounting information systems are a new innovative instrument or strategy for easily updating and managing accounting and accounting systems. As a result, a comprehensive study of ME perspectives of accounting information system adoption is necessary.

Accounting might be the deciding factor in ME success. Accounting difficulties are classified into four types: record keeping, accountinginformation utilisation, cash management, & cost management. Wichmann presented the findings of a Small Business Institute case study (SBI). [10] Accounting was shown to be the most prevalent worry, with record keeping ranking first (60 percent). In other words, many of the obstacles faced by MEs are accounting-related or accounting-related, and accounting information systems are contemporary emerging strategies that aid in addressing accounting challenges. As a result, the current study used primary data to assess, identify, and analyse the extent of accounting information system adoption in MEs.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To investigate and evaluate businessmen's attitudes on the pattern of preserving and maintaining accounting systems in medium commercial firms.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Kharuddin et al. (2010), in the finance and accounting professions, the use of hands in financial statements is being supplanted by the use of software to allow for faster reporting as well as simple retrieval and analysis of the financial information of the business. This accounting software makes it easier to create and view financial statements, as well as use financial reporting. [11]

Akande (2011) investigated the importance of entrepreneur accounting skills in the success of Nigerian small businesses. To choose 140 small company owners from Ogun State, a simple random sampling method was used. They discovered that in order to get better outcomes, owner entrepreneurs should concentrate on improving their accounting abilities in financial management and record keeping. They also suggested that the Nigerian government require small businesses to produce financial accounts in order to analyze their performance. [12]

Wen et al. (2012) discuss in theirstudy variables impacting accounting software adoption & among management and accountant characteristics. They discovered that variables such as managers' age are inversely linked with accounting software adoption. The amount of adoption was favourably impacted by accountant education and the number of accountants employed by



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businesses. Adoption was affected positively by software qualities such as software adequacy. Whereas software security has a detrimental impact on uptake. [13]

Mahmoud and Dalia (2013) investigated the influence of IT sophistication the perceived utility of accountinginformation in Jordan. The impact on accounting information is investigated in this study by concentrating on four areas of IT sophistication: technological, informational, functional, and managerial. To achieve this purpose, they researched 174 Jordan Stock Exchange companies. As a consequence of their analysis, they observed a significant and favorable relationship between four categories of IT sophistication and accounting information aspects. According to their findings, managerial, informational, and functional IT expertise have a greater influence on the perceived usability of accounting information elements than technological prowess. [14]

Nofan et al. (2014) evaluated the influence of CAS on increasing the efficiency of human capital in financial departments based on knowledge, creativity, and talents, and they concluded that CAS had a positive impact on human capital. [15]

Prajapati and Bhatt (2015) probed the accounting practices of wholesale and retail businesses in Gujarat with five goals in mind: understanding I the business structure, (ii) accounting understanding, (iii) adopted accounting system, (iv) budget, and (v) audit and accts of wholesale and retail businesses. More than half of the respondents have accounting skills, and the majority keep their accounts on a computer and rely on professionals to account for their company operations. Wholesalers areahead of retailers in this scenario. More than half do not set a budget or examine their accounting. [16]

Dulange Madiwal and (2016)present a review of the literature entrepreneurialdecision-making process. The assessment of the literature provides as background data for a qualitative study that investigates the decision-making process of small business owners through review. The survey of literature serves as the starting point for a discussion of the decision-making literature and the empirical outcomes of the latter terms. It emphasizes the significance of trust in the lives of small business owners/managers. After that, the New R&D Project Selection Model in SMEs, Decision-Making Characteristics in SMEs, and Strategic Decision-Making in Small Companies are investigated. This assessment will result in rationalized decision making in industry or SME, enabling for effective decision making. [17]

Vokshi Nexhmie et al. (2017) may provide overall view of accounting information advancements and understanding and the impact that it has on decision-making, data needs that leadership has and how they are currently realized, in order to see accounting data as one of the important directions of increasing efficiency on decision making of economic units (entities) and those who use accounting data. We conclude that information is a critical resource for the development of a successful and efficient business. Accounting information is extremely important to its users since it influences their economic decisions. This information must meet qualitative standards, which means it must be accurate, real, and useful enough for customers to believe in its value and validity. [18]

Ergys Memaj and Besfort Memaj (2018) evaluated the significance of accounting information in business decision making and the effective development of their activities. Accounting data is crucial in the management and decision-making of company activities. Managers are continually confronted with the issue of correct information due to restricted



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resources, which has a direct influence on decision making. Accounting information systems are concerned with gathering, processing, analyzing, and communicating financial information to external users such as investors, creditors, banks, and governmental agencies, as well as internal users including such shareholders and entity management. Accounting information performance and quality, which affects economic and financial stability, decrease of tax evasion as well as informality in the economy, inspiration of foreign and domestic investment, creation of a business-friendly surroundings, and efficient resource managerial staff in the public and private sectors. [19]

Tunji et al. (2019) look into how accounting systems affect the performance of Nigerian SMEs. Accounting information systems are critical in every organization, but especially in small and medium-sized organizations. Accounting information systems are crucial to the functioning of SMEs. Small and medium-sized enterprises, on the other hand, make bad decisions owing to a lack of accounting understanding. Accounting information systems, according to the report, have a significant positive impact on the performance of SMEs. Eventually, accounting information systems utilized by SMEs' managers/owners were shown to have affected their choices and performance positively. As a result, we advised that consumers of accounting information consider the quality of accountinginformation systems offered in order to improve their performance. [20]

Fahmi Ibrahim et al. (2020) evaluate current accounting practices employed by Brunei SMEs using MMA Cube Shops as a case study. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have long been recognized as the economic backbone of Brunei. SMEs account for 98% of all active commercial firms, 92% of private sector employment, and at least 66% of GDP in the non-oil part of the economy, according to the OECD. Because SMEs are critical to the economy, they are encouraged to improve their company performance in order to maintain business growth by enhancing their accounting information system. Because cube shop companies have been spreading around the country, it is critical to do this research as it could apply to other such firms in Brunei. This article contains reasonable proposals for improving the accounting system in Brunei SMEs. [21]

Catarina Cepêda and Albertina Monteiro's (2021) goal is to present a cutting-edge overview of Accounting Information Systems study by assessing scientific production features & identifying topic researchtrends. Despite the fact that the bulk of publications were published in the preceding 10 years, the majority of academics' interest in Accounting Information Systems study is centered on the short term, around 2020. Three research trends are identified: (1) the Accounting Information System impact in the organization (e.g., performance, innovation, activity reorganization, information reporting); (2) the Accounting Information System Building; (3) the importance of accounting system's implementation in small and medium-sized businesses and the public sector; and (4) the variables that contribute to accounting system's efficacy. These themes are compatible with a theoretical framework that emphasizes agency and contingency theory. Additionally, we chose authors, journals, organizations, and countries/regions that made the largest contribution to the improvement of the study in this research field by supporting the use of demanding bibliometric approaches. The findings of this study contribute to the present literature, serve as a guide for future research in the context of Accounting Information Systems,



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and aid public, commercial, and government organizations in formulating their strategy in this sector. [22]

Jingjing Deng et al. (2022) propose a cloud computing SOA architecture to build a cloud software accounting system, then combine the wireless sensor network routing and the method of determining the distance of the sensor monitoring node in the wireless sensor network system, and apply the wireless sensor network's to the cloud computing-based accounting system. Ultimately, the data from the corporate cloud service weight analysis is used to develop the new accounting system, and its performance is compared to that of the previous system. Studies showed that when compared to conventional accounting systems, the accuracy of capturing data by an accounting system based on sensor tracking and cloud computing has increased by 13.84%; the data processing efficiency of the accounting information system that uses sensor monitoring and cloud services has increased by 14.63%. [23]

#### RESEARCHMETHODOLOGY

The study is descriptive in sense that it explains the owners' perception towards pattern of keeping and maintaining accounting system in medium enterprises. Population of this study is Medium Enterprises (MEs) operating in the Dharwad district. In other words, the universe of the study includes all MEs registered in the Dharwad district up to March 2022. 72 MEs from Dharwad district are picked as a sample, 101 medium registered units/enterprises. In this study, both primary & secondary sources of data are used. Secondary data are collected from Books, Magazines, Newspapers & periodicals, International and National Trade and Research Journals, Reports and Publications, Website and Internet. The Primary Data are collected through interview, observation, discussion, pilot survey & questionnaire. Following the end of data collection, questionnaires were appropriately revised and coded to prepare them for data entry. To create master tables and graphs, Excel is utilised. As statistical tools and procedures, the frequency, frequency translated into percentage (i.e. ratio), average, and chi-square are utilized.

#### DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Perception of businessmen i.e. sample respondents towards pattern of keeping & maintaining accounting system in medium business enterprises studied and assessed in terms of method of accounting system adopted by the enterprises, frequency of writing of accounting system, owners knowledge of accounting system, timing of checking of accounting operations as per accounting norms, method of holding control on keeping and maintaining accounting system, use of double entry system.

#### METHOD OF WRITING ACCOUNTING SYSTEM IN MEDIUM ENTERPRISE

Every accounting system writing approach has advantages and limitations. Manual accounting can be performed using paper diary & ledger sheets or by producing similar sheets in an excel spreadsheet tool. It is deemed manual since each transaction is manually input into the system. It is simpler to administer and set up. It is more adaptable than an information accounting system and does not require a battery or energy. Its primary advantages are that it requires a low-cost labor, resources, dependability, independence from the machine, and does not



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require expert employees. However, it is time intensive, unable of handling massive amounts of data, insecure, and inaccurate.

Data processing is the same in an information accounting system as it is in a manual accounting system. Transactions are manually documented or recorded on source papers. The data key is then punched onto punched cards that can be readily read by a computer. Following that, the computer analyses the information and does all other normal tasks such as printing journals and ledgers, calculating accounting balances, and creating financial reports and all other necessary reports. As a result, it is a system that can handle massive amounts of data withspeed, efficiency, and precision. But, at the same time, this method has some drawbacks. Machines, software, and other setup are required for an information accounting system. Depending on complexity and scale of firm, a decent information accounting system might cost thousands or even millions of dollars. It also needs competent employees who can manage it appropriately, as well as regular software maintenance. Even after all of this, there is still the possibility of data hacking and difficulties in detecting fraud. It is impossible to tell which solution is the most cost-effective and error-free.

Accounting system writing is being outsourced by certain businesses. They believe that rather than investing in a costly information accounting system, it is better to hire a third party to handle all accounting tasks for them in exchange for a fee.

To comprehend the pattern of preserving & maintaining accounting systems in Dharwad district medium business firms, it is necessary to understand how they write accounting systems for their businesses. Whether they write their books of accounts manually, outsource this task to a third party on a contract basis, or have an information accounting system at their offices with which they write their accounts. The owners of the businesses were asked how they write their accounting system. Their replies are shown in Table 1 as below.

TABLE 1 METHOD OF WRITING ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

METHODS	No.	%
1. Manual	7	9.72
2. Outsource	28	38.89
3. Information accounting system	37	51.39
Total	72	100.0

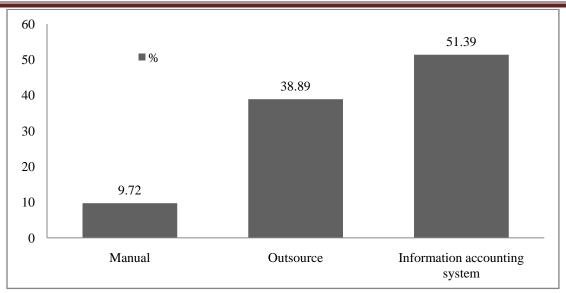


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GRAPH 1 METHOD OF WRITING ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

Table 1 shows that Only 7 (9.72 percent) of 72 medium-sized firm respondents wrote accounting systems manually, 28 (38.89 percent) outsourced this work, and 37 (51.39 percent) used computerized accounting systems. It indicates that the majority (51.39 percent) of medium-sized businesses are using information accounting systems to write accounting systems.

#### FREQUENCY OF WRITING ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

Accountants were practically drafting their firm accounts on a daily, weekly, quarterly, six-monthly, and yearly basis. The daily and weekly systems are the most effective. However, given the type and schedule of MEs operation, accounting can be written quarterly, six months, and annually. As a result, respondents were asked to define the time period in which they write their stories, and their replies are shown below.

TABLE 2 FREQUENCY OF WRITING ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

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ACCOUNTINGWRITING PRACTICE	N	%
Quarterly	3	4.17
Six monthly	18	25.00
Annually	51	70.83
Total	72	100.0

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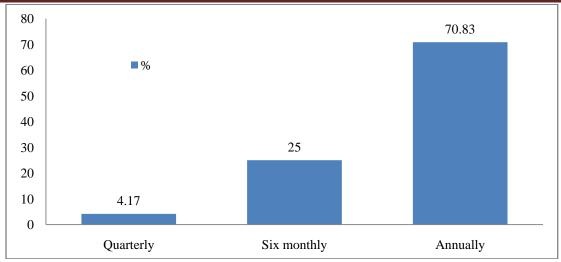
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### **GRAPH 2 FREQUENCY OF WRITING ACCOUNTING SYSTEM**

From table 2 it reveals that Only 3 (4.17%) of the 72 medium-sized businesses write accounts quarterly, 18 (25%) half-yearly, and 51 (70.83%) annually. It indicates that 70.83 percent of medium-sized businesses keep annual financial records.

# BUSINESSMEN'S (CEO'S) KEEPING AND MAINTAINING ACCOUNTING SYSTEM KNOWLEDGE

The accounting system is a critical component of every firm. To manage a successful firm, businessmen/owners/CEOs must be well-versed in accounting systems. Proper understanding of financial management, attention directing, record keeping, and report abilities, which is nothing more than managing and maintaining an accounting system, assist businessmen in making sound company judgments.

According to Oladejo (2008)[24] accounting skills are required for successful entrepreneurial and medium firm development. This is because the failure to build a functional accounting systemwould prevent necessary company monitoring, reporting, & performance assessment. As a result, an attempt is made to determine the extent to which MEs are familiar with the accounting system.

As a result, respondents were questioned about their understanding of maintaining and keeping accounting systems in terms of complete, partial, and none at all.

TABLE 3 BUSINESSMEN'S KNOWLEDGE ON KEEPING AND MAINTAINING ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

ACCOUNTINGSYSTEM KNOWLEDGE RANGE	N	%
Full	20	27.78
Partial	35	48.61
Not at all	17	23.61
Total	72	100.0

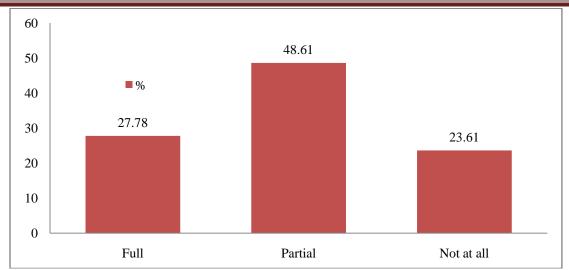


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## GRAPH 3 BUSINESSMEN'S KNOWLEDGE ON KEEPING AND MAINTAINING ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

Table 3 reveals that Out of 72 medium-sized businesses, 20 (27.78%) have complete knowledge, 35 (48.61%) have some knowledge, and 17 (23.61%) have no understanding at all about managing and maintaining an accounting system. This indicates that 48.61 percent of medium-sized businesses have only a basic understanding of accounting systems.

# TIMING OF CHECKING ACCOUNTING OPERATION AS PER ACCOUNTING SYSTEM NORMS

Owner-CEOs should have examined accounting operations according to accounting system rules on a regular basis to avoid major blunders in the future. Accounting processes connected to managing and maintaining an accounting system must be audited at least quarterly, six months, or yearly. Quarterly checking is the finest and most beneficial. However, the checking of operations is dependent on the number of transactions, the size of the firm, and a variety of other criteria. Respondents were asked when they verify accounting system for compliance with accounting standards. Table 4 shows the outcome of experiment.

TABLE 4 TIMING OF CHECKING ACCOUNTING OPERATION AS PER ACCOUNTING SYSTEM NORMS

ACCOUNTING SYSTEM OPERATION CHECKING TIME	N	%
Quarterly	4	5.56
Six monthly	27	37.50
Annually	41	56.94
Total	72	100.0

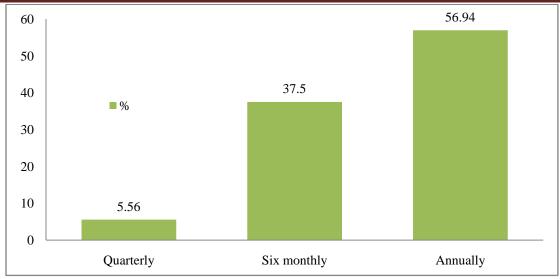


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GRAPH 4 TIMING OF CHECKING ACCOUNTING OPERATION AS PER ACCOUNTING SYSTEM NORMS

Table 4 states that Only 4 (5.56 percent), 27 (37.50 percent), and 56 (56.94 percent) of 72 medium-sized businesses examine accounting processes quarterly, half-yearly, and annually. Thus, 56.94 percent of medium-sized businesses review their accounting system functioning on an annual basis.

# METHOD OF HOLDING CONTROL ON KEEPING AND MAINTAINING ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

The person in charge of managing and maintaining the accounting system is critical for the growth of MEs. If it is administered by a self-employed employee, then more than the true image of accounting emerges. Otherwise, hidden costs, accounting misappropriation, and lack of transparency in business would be higher. In this context, holding control such as self, i.e. owner/CEO/businessman alone, self plus employee, and employee have been noted in ME surveys. The respondents were questioned who managed the keeping and maintaining accounting system in order to learn manner of controlling keeping and maintaining accounting system. Their replies are shown in Table 5 below.

TABLE 5 METHOD OF HOLDING CONTROL ON KEEPING AND MAINTAINING ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

CONTROL ON ACCOUNTING SYSTEM	No.	%
Self	55	76.39
Self plus employee	15	20.83
Employee	2	2.78
Total	72	100.0

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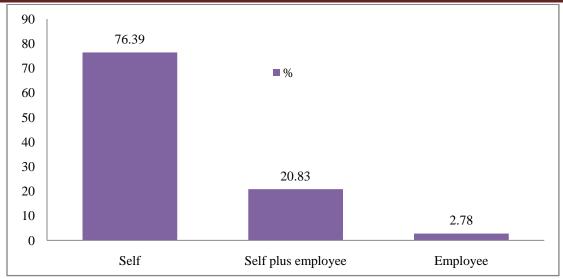
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## GRAPH 5 METHOD OF HOLDING CONTROL ON KEEPING AND MAINTAINING ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

Table 5 reveals that Out of 72 medium business enterprises, 55 (76.39 percent) have control over the keeping and maintaining of accounting systems, 15 (20.83 percent) have control over the keeping and maintaining of accounting systems with the help of their employees, and only 2 (2.78 percent) have control over the keeping and maintaining of accounting systems. It demonstrates that majority of medium-sized business ownersare in charge of managing and maintaining the accounting system.

# USE OF DOUBLE ENTRY ACCOUNTING SYSTEM IN KEEPING AND MAINTAINING ACCOUNTS

Because every input to an account requires a counterpart & opposite entry to a distinct account, every commercial transaction will include two (or more) accounts. It is interesting and beneficial to know whether or not double entry is employed in the analyzed MEs from a commercial standpoint. The more the utilization of a double entry accounting system in preserving and managing accounts, the more accurate, fair, and truthful the financial results. As a result, they were questioned if they kept and maintained accounts using the double entry approach. Their replies are summarized in Table 6.

TABLE 6 USE OF DOUBLE ENTRY SYSTEM IN KEEPING AND MAINTAINING ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNTS AS PER DOUBLE ENTRY SYSTEM	N	%
Yes	7	9.72
To some extent	17	23.61
No	48	66.67
Total	72	100.0

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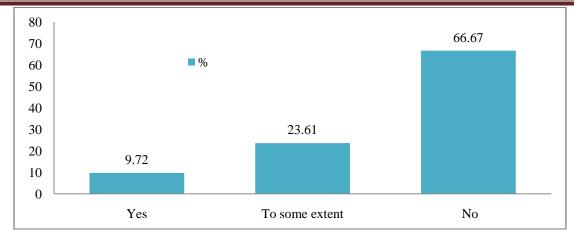
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# GRAPH 6 USE OF DOUBLE ENTRY SYSTEM IN KEEPING AND MAINTAINING ACCOUNTS

Table 6 reveals that Only 7 (9.72 percent) of 72 respondents from medium business enterprises agreed that they use double entry system in keeping and maintaining accounts, 17 (23.61 percent) agreed that they use double entry system to some extent, and 48 (66.67 percent) disagreed that they use double entry system in keeping and maintaining accounts. This demonstrates that the majority of medium-sized businesses (66.67%) do not use a double entry method to store and manage accounts.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

This research are indicates that the majority of medium-sized businesses are using information accounting systems to write accounting systems. It indicates that 70.83 percent of medium-sized businesses keep annual financial records and 48.61 percent of medium-sized businesses have only a basic understanding of accounting systems. Thus, maximum medium-sized businesses review their accounting system functioning on an annual basis. It demonstrates that the majority of medium-sized business owners are in charge of managing and maintaining the accounting system. This demonstrates that the majority of medium-sized businesses does not use a double entry method to store and manage accounts.

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