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Harnessing Growth Opportunities: The Impact of Computerized Accounting Systems on SMEs Development in Ghana

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: The impact of computerized accounting systems (CAS) on small and medium-size enterprises in Ghana.
Methodology: A sample of 759 SMEs was collected, and the relations between CAS usage, SME growth rates, CAS integration, technological infrastructure, internet connectivity, and participation in training and support programs were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical methods, notably Pearson correlation and regression analysis.
Outcome: The findings indicated a significant positive relationship with the use of CAS and growth rates of SMEs and their integration with CAS and financial growth Technological infrastructure and internet connectivity have been established to significantly support the ability of SMEs to use CAS for growth with the participation in the training and support programs also crucial.
Conclusion: It is concluded from the study that improvements in technological infrastructure and internet connectivity and provision of comprehensive training and support are going to be vital for harnessing growth potential to the maximum for SMEs through advanced CAS utilisation.
Originality: It indicates the significant role of technological infrastructure, internet accessibility, and customized training schemes in elevating CAS use. The results above imply the need for strategic policy intervention in order to support technology adoption for SME growth.

Keywords: Computerized accounting systems, small and medium-size enterprises, SME growth rates, Technological infrastructure, Internet connectivity, Training and support programs

1 Introduction

Small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) represent the leading role in the economic development of countries worldwide [1]. SMEs are the mainstay of the economy for Ghana, providing considerable employment, innovation, and GDP. Despite their importance, SMEs in Ghana continue to face a myriad of problems that affect their growth and development [2]. One of the major problems is the traditional accounting practices which are very ineffective and inaccurate [3]. Amidst rapid globalization and technological progress changing the way businesses are conducted, in terms of bridging this gap, an effective and efficient computerized accounting system has great potential [4].
Technology integration into business procedures no longer remains a luxury but, indeed, has become indispensable. Technology in accounting has changed the way financial information is recorded, processed, and analyzed [5]. Traditional methods of accounting, characterized by manual data entry and paper-based records, are really error-prone, time-consuming, and inefficient [6]. These disadvantages can become very significant with regard to SMEs, for which resources are limited and need to be optimized and accurate financial records maintained. Computerized accounting systems are software application tools that manage financial transactions and generate reports with various benefits that can address the above challenges [7]. A major benefit attached to computerized accounting systems is that they increase accuracy and lower chances

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of errors [8]. Second, computerized accounting systems increase efficiency and save a lot of time. Manual accounting processes are usually laborious and sometimes take much time and energy to finish tasks such as maintenance of ledgers, processing invoices, and creation of reports [9]. This might be more challenging and a burden for SMEs with a shortage of employees and other resources. Another essential benefit for a computerized accounting system is its capacity to produce detailed and timely financial reports. For SMEs, it is very important to have real-time financial data that would help in their effective management and decision-making. The computerized systems are capable of generating various financial statements such as balance sheets, income statements, and cash flow statements at the click of a button [10].

Besides accuracy and efficiency, computerized accounting systems are able to increase data security and accessibility. Moreover, computerized systems facilitate the storage and retrieval of financial records, thereby making it easier for businesses to get access to previous data and comply with regulatory requirements [11]. In Ghana, the adoption of computerized accounting systems by SMEs has not been fast, in spite of the glaring advantages. A few causes of slow adoption have been identified: limited awareness, lack of technical skills, and the perception that it is costly to implement [12]. A majority of SME owners and managers are often unaware of the benefits that can be derived from CAS or lack enough technical expertise to put them into implementation and use them effectively. Moreover, the cost of acquiring and maintaining these computerized accounting systems comes with a price often considered expensive for resource-constrained SMEs [13]. There would be a substantial payback from this investment in terms of accuracy, efficiency, and decision-making capability in the long run. Better financial management, therefore, can lead to business growth [14]. In addition, many inexpensive and user-friendly accounting software options are in the market today, tailor-made for SMEs. This is further complemented by ever-increasing training and support services that can help overcome the problem of technical barriers in businesses and maximize benefits out of the adoption of computerized accounting [15]. Several steps can be taken in order to encourage the adoption of CAS among SMEs in Ghana. One can start by creating awareness of the benefits of computerized accounting through workshops, seminars, and information campaigns, thereby sensitizing owners and managers of SMEs. Providing training programs and technical support will help these businesses have the skills to implement and use computerized systems effectively. Offering financial incentives, such as subsidies or low-interest loans, can help alleviate cost concerns related to the initial investment in CAS. The objectives of the study are as follows:

- To investigate the extent to which SMEs in Ghana utilize CAS for growth-oriented financial management.
- To analyze the impact of CAS on the growth potential of SMEs in Ghana.
- To explore the key factors influencing the successful integration of computerized accounting systems in fostering SME growth in Ghana.
- To develop recommendations for maximizing the benefits of CAS in enhancing SME growth in Ghana.

The organizational framework of the study is broken down into six separate sections. The second section's primary focus is the literature review. The suggested approach, including the study design and tools used, is then described in the third part. The results are shown in Section Four. A thorough explanation is covered in depth in the fifth part. The sixth and last part contains concluding remarks, a summary, and an outline of the research.

2 Literature review

Itang 2020 [16] studied the effect of organizational design in relation to quality of CAS used by SMEs in Nigeria. The finance and accounting staff members of a sample of 370 Nigerian enterprises filled out self-completed questionnaires as part of the study's survey research procedure. The results of the study demonstrate a favorable correlation between the organizational structure of SMEs and the quality of their CAS.

Mohamed and Ramli 2022 [17] examined or understood the factors influencing the adoption of CAS by Somali SMEs. 110 respondents who worked in the general business, accounting, and finance departments of small and medium-sized businesses (SMB) in Mogadishu provided the information. Techniques for stratified sampling were applied throughout the data gathering phase. The study found that key variables impacting SMEs in the Bakara Market's adoption of CAS include human capital efficiency, cost capabilities, business user knowledge, and management commitment.

Otchere et al., 2022 [18] investigated the variables affecting SMEs in Ghana's rural north who want to use computerized accounting information systems (CAIS). Data from 800 SME owners in Ghana's Savanah region was gathered using this method. Partial least squares structural equation modeling (PLSSEM) was used to evaluate the data, and the results indicate that SME owner creative thinking has a significant direct and indirect influence on CAIS adoption.

Gaglio et al., 2022 [19] intends to investigate the relationship between a sample of SMB in South Africa, a middle-income nation, and their productivity, innovative performance, and use of digital communication tools.

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Our findings demonstrate that Innovation is positively impacted by some computer technology, such as utilization of social media and mobile internet surfing for business. Furthermore, innovation that depends on utilizing these technologies raises worker productivity.

Frimpong et al., 2022 [20] outlined in further detail the availability of digital finance (DF), financial literacy (FL), and the performance of SMEs in Ghana's Central Region. The study initially looked at how SMEs used and comprehended digital platforms. It examined the relationship among FL, DF accessibility, and SME success. The study discussed how SMEs' access to digital funding mediates their financial literacy and success. It was shown that FL has a beneficial effect on access to DF. Having access to digital funding also improved performance.

Gyamera et al., 2023 [21] examined how management accounting services affected the SMEs' financial results in Ghana's manufacturing, service, and commerce sectors. To get at 365 SMfomular, a population of 4,000 small and medium-sized businesses that were registered was used to calculate the sample size. Using a methodical sampling procedure, managers of SMEs were selected, contacted, and sent questionnaires to fill up. The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and agency theory were employed in this investigation. The information gathered from the respondents was examined using the PLSSEM software. The study discovered a connection between management accounting techniques and the success of SMEs.

Ahinful et al., 2023 [22] investigated the elements influencing the financial performance, or FP, of SMEs in Ghana. Multiple regression analysis was utilized to ascertain the effect of each industry and business-specific characteristic on financial performance (FP). The results indicate a strong correlation between FP and the organization's ownership structure. Furthermore, there is a strong relationship between company age, business size, and FP. The service industry is greatly impacted by the industry.

Kusumawardhani et al., 2024 [23] investigated whether accounting data quality and management effectiveness in decision-making were affected by the digitization of accounting systems in SMEs of a developing country, Indonesia. The research findings indicated that the two benefits of digitalizing accounting processes were cost savings and improved accuracy and timeliness of accounting information. Additionally, there was a positive correlation between the two factors and efficiency of SME management decision-making.

Chuwa 2024 [24] assessed the impact of the CAS on the financial results of SMB. This study used a descriptive research design with eighty SMB. The study found that the use of technology and accounting procedures was positively related and that the performance of SMB was highly related to computerized accounting systems. According to the results, CAS increased the level of productivity of SMB.

Anitha and GR 2023 [25] determined the impact of tally accounting systems (AS) on MSMEs, evaluated the impact of software AS on financial reporting, and evaluated the implications of software AS on decision making. In this research, a descriptive survey research method was utilized to help collect, summarize, present, and analyze information for clarity purposes. The study population was the 1000 MSMEs in the Ettapalam municipality. For the purpose of the research, the stratified random sampling method was used to establish the needed strata in the areas.

3 Methodology

This study was conducted in a comprehensive manner to investigate the relationship between the use of CAS and the growth of SMEs in Ghana. This was to ensure the sample size selected is representative enough to yield generalizable and reliable results, and it consisted of 759 SMEs. In this paper, the descriptive and inferential statistical analysis is used. Data were summarized using descriptive statistics for means and standard deviations and tested for hypotheses on Pearson correlation and regression analysis for testing the strength and significance of the relationship between variables. For example, structured questionnaires with a 5-point Likert scale on relevant questions were used to collect primary data from the identified SMEs regarding the use of CAS, growth rates, integration levels, technological infrastructure, internet connectivity, and training and support programs participation.

The stratified random sampling technique was used to ensure that the sample was representative of the heterogeneous nature of the various sectors and sizes of SMEs in Ghana. This type of sampling made it possible to include SMEs from various industries and locations, leading to the inclusion of a wide array of experiences and practices with regard to CAS use. The study minimized selection bias and increased the reliability of its findings through stratified random sampling. The statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) was used to analyze the data to carry out the above analyses and thereby learn about the extent to which CAS use influences SME growth and the factors which will enhance the same.

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3.1 Hypotheses used in this study

Null hypothesis: SMEs in Ghana not utilize computerized accounting systems experience higher growth rates compared to those that do.
Alternative hypothesis (H1): SMEs in Ghana that effectively utilize computerized accounting systems experience higher growth rates compared to those that do not.
Null hypothesis: There is a negative correlation between the level of integration of CAS and the financial growth of SMEs in Ghana.
Alternative hypothesis (H2): There is a positive correlation between the level of integration of CAS and the financial growth of SMEs in Ghana.
Null hypothesis: Technological infrastructure and internet connectivity not significantly influence the ability of SMEs in Ghana
Alternative hypothesis (H3): Technological infrastructure and internet connectivity significantly influence the ability of SMEs in Ghana to leverage computerized accounting systems for growth.
Null hypothesis: Training and support programs tailored to SMEs not enhance the utilization of computerized accounting systems
Alternative hypothesis (H4): Training and support programs tailored to SMEs enhance the utilization of computerized accounting systems, thereby facilitating growth.

4 Result

4.1 Responder's profile

The table 1 provides an overview of the demographic information of survey respondents. Most of the respondents fall in age brackets of 25-34 (41.4%) and 35-44 (34.4%). Smaller proportions are under 25 (6.5%), 45-54 (6.2%), 55-64 (6.1%), and 65+ (5.5%). Males make 71.1%, while females make 28.9% of the respondents. Very highly educated respondents: 42.6% have a Bachelor's, 38.5% have a secondary education, 3.2% have a Master's, 5.4% have a Doctorate, 3.7% have no formal education, 2.8% have a primary education, and 4.0% have other qualifications.
The distribution of the sample is: managers 39.1%, accountants 38.6%, owners 5.3%, administrative staff 5.5%, and others 11.5%. The experience is heterogeneous, with 40.4% between 1 and 3 years, 43.7% between 4 and 6 years, 5.7% less than 1 year, 5.4% between 7 and 10 years, and 4.7% more than 10 years. Respondents are from services, which make up 28.5%, retail with 27.5%, manufacturing at 25.3%, agriculture at 4.1%, construction with 4.6%, technology with 5.4%, and other sectors making up 4.6%. With regard to scale, enterprises range from 1-5 employees at 6.3% to more than 100 employees at 7.6%, though the largest group has 6-10 employees at 41.0% and 11-20 employees at 31.8%. Income levels are varied, though the most common were earning 100,001 - 500,000 at 40.3% and 50,000 - 100,000 at 20.3%. Finally, for the lower-income earners, less than 50,000 was found in 11.9%. Larger numbers of higher incomes of 500,001 - 1,000,000 and more than 1,000,000 were 14.4% and 13.2%, respectively.

Table 1: Demographic information of responders

Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
Under 25	49	6.5
25-34	314	41.4
35-44	261	34.4
45-54	47	6.2
55-64	46	6.1
65 and above	42	5.5
Gender		
Male	540	71.1
Female	219	28.9
Education qualification		
No formal education	28	3.7

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Primary education	21	2.8
Secondary education	292	38.5
Bachelor's degree	323	42.6
Master's degree	24	3.2
Doctorate (Ph.D.)	41	5.4
Other	30	4.0
Position of responders		
Owner	40	5.3
Manager	297	39.1
Accountant	293	38.6
Administrative Staff	42	5.5
Other	87	11.5
Experience		
Less than 1 year	43	5.7
1-3 years	307	40.4
4-6 years	332	43.7
7-10 years	41	5.4
More than 10 years	36	4.7
Sector		
Manufacturing	192	25.3
Retail	209	27.5
Services	216	28.5
Agriculture	31	4.1
Construction	35	4.6
Technology	41	5.4
Other	35	4.6
Size of enterprise		
1-5 employees	48	6.3
6-10 employees	311	41.0
11-20 employees	241	31.8
21-50 employees	52	6.9
51-100 employees	49	6.5
More than 100 employees	58	7.6
Income level		
Less than 50,000	90	11.9
50,000 - 100,000	154	20.3
100,001 - 500,000	306	40.3
500,001 - 1,000,000	109	14.4
More than 1,000,000	100	13.2

4.2 Reliability and Validity of the study

The Cronbach's Alpha value is .952, hence very high internal reliability. When standardized items are considered, the value is increased to .953, which further confirms the high reliability of the measurement. The

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KMO value is .908, demonstrating the sample's suitability for factor analysis since the adequacy of the sampling is highUsing 28 degrees of freedom, the approximate Chi-Square value obtained from Bartlett's Test of Sphericity was 4205.114 and 0.000 levels of significance. Hence, this result confirmed that the items are correlated in a way that is large enough for factor analysis since the null hypothesis of the test is rejected.

Table 2: KMO and Barlett's test

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.908
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	**Approx. Chi-Square**	4205.114
	df	28
	Sig.	0.000

4.3 Descriptive statistics

Key variables measured in the study regarding the utilization and impact of CAS toward the growth of SMEs in Ghana have different values for the mean and standard deviation. The mean scores recorded across UCAS, ICAS, and ALCASG are fairly high at about 4.06. This would imply that, on average, the SMEs in Ghana are making effective use and integration of CAS within their operations, depicting a positive trend towards the adoption of technological solutions in the practice of accounting. As regards the growth-related variables, the GRSEM and FGSEM have slightly lower mean scores of about 3.99 each. The mean score for Technological Infrastructure and Internet Connectivity is relatively high, and it is evident from the ranking that all these indicate that enough technological resources and internet connectivity are given to SMEs in Ghana to enable effective leverage of CAS. In the final analysis, the mean score for TSP is also high, which indicates the existence of tailor-made programs for SMEs to increase their utilization of the CAS.

Table 3: Descriptive statistics

	Mean	**Std. Deviation**
UCAS	4.0635	.65799
ICAS	4.0651	.64749
ALCASG	4.0701	.65913
GRSEM	3.9860	.67026
FGSEM	3.9953	.67216
TI	4.1059	.60058
IC	4.0653	.67080
TSP	4.0719	.62931

4.4 Relationship between Utilization of CAS and the Growth Rates of SMEs

The Pearson correlation analysis carried out between the Utilization of UCAS and the Growth Rates of SMEs (GRSEM) in Ghana presents a strong positive correlation coefficient of 0.690, statistically significant at the 0.000 level. This shows a strong relationship between how much SMEs are using the computerized accounting system and their growth rates. In other simpler words, the growth rates of SMEs in Ghana tend to rise in line with the level of adoption and effective utilization of computerized accounting systems.

Table 4: Correlation analysis on H1

		UCAS	**GRSEM**
Pearson Correlation	**UCAS**	1.000	.690
	GRSEM	.690	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	**UCAS**		.000
	GRSEM	.000	

The regression analysis model employed in testing the relationship between the UCAS and the GRSEM in Ghana shows the following results: R Square value of 0.476, which implies that the degree to which CAS are used by SME explains about 47.6% of the SME growth rates variance. The ARS is 0.475, which means the model considers the complexities of the UCAS–GRSEM relationship by the number of the predictors involved. The value of SEE, 0.47656, gives the average difference between the values observed and those predicted by the model. The major importance the above results give is that utilization of UCAS in Ghana is of great importance in influencing the growth rates of SMEs, since about half of the change in growth rates may be attributed to the effectiveness of CAS among these enterprises.

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Table 5: Model summary on H1

Model	R	R Square	ARS	SEE
1	.690[a]	.476	.475	.47656

It is evidenced from the model output of the regression analysis that there is a general significant relationship between UCAS and GRSEM in Ghana because the f-statistic is highly significant at 688.014 with a p-value of .000. This indicates that a significant proportion of the variance of the growth rates of SMEs is explained by the regression model. The Regression Sum of Squares is 156.256, which represents variation in growth rates because of the predictor variable, and the Residual Sum of Squares (SS) (171.923) represents the unexplained variance. The MS value is 156.256, and this represents the average variation that can be attributed to the UCAS predictor, and given that for regression, there is only one degree of freedom. This result is consistent with the earlier expectation, supporting the contention that the use of CAS plays a critical role in determining the growth rates of SMEs in Ghana, where a significant proportion of the variation can be explained by the regression model.

Table 6: Regression analysis on H1

Model		SS	df	MS	F	Sig.
1	Regression	156.256	1	156.256	688.014	.000[b]
	Residual	171.923	757	.227		
	Total	328.179	758			

The unstandardized coefficients from the model provide the relationship between UCAS and GRSEM in Ghana. The constant coefficient (B = 1.363) represents the predicted growth rate of SMEs when the utilization of computerized accounting systems is zero. Within this context, it shows that even with no utilization of UCAS, there was a baseline growth rate of 1.363. While the coefficient for GRSEM equals 0.677, the change in the growth rate predicted for SMEs is associated with a one-unit increase in UCAS use. Further standardization (Beta = 0.690) of this coefficient is conducted to indicate the standardized effect size for UCAS use on SME growth rates. The significance test (t = 26.230 and p = .000) indicates that the coefficient for UCAS use and SME growth rates are significant.

Table 7: Coefficient analysis on H1

Model		UC		SC	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.363	.104		13.062	.000
	GRSEM	.677	.026	.690	26.230	.000

UC-Unstandardized Coefficients, SC- Standardized Coefficients

4.5 Relationship between level of integration of computerized accounting systems and the financial growth of SMEs.

A significant positive correlation was established between ICAS and FGSEM from Ghana. The correlation coefficient of 0.613 reveals a moderately strong positive relationship between level of integration of CAS and financial growth of SMEs. This reveals that as SMEs in Ghana integrated more fully computerized accounting systems within the business environment, financial growth tended to increase. The low p-value, .000 is significant, leading to the consideration of this relationship being true and fortifying the power of the relationship noted.

Table 8: Correlation analysis on H2

		ICAS	FGSEM
Pearson Correlation	**ICAS**	1.000	.613
	FGSEM	.613	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	**ICAS**		.000

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	FGSEM	.000	

In the model regression analysis of ICAS and FGSEM in Ghana, the coefficient of determination, R Square, is 0.375. This means that about 37.5% of the variation in SME financial growth is associated with the level of integration of computerized accounting systems. The ARS is also 0.375, which means that this model, which has that many predictors, fits the data. Generally, these results would mean that though integration of computerized accounting systems is positively correlated to the financial growth among SMEs in Ghana, there might be other variables not captured in the model which could possibly affect the SME financial performance.

Table 9: Model summary on H2

Model	**R**	**R Square**	**ARS**	**SEE**
1	.613[a]	.375	.375	.51208

In the regression analysis model between the ICAS and FGSEM in Ghana, the derived F-statistic is significant at 454.897 with a significant p-value of .000. This is an indication that the regression model is statistically significant. This may imply that changes in the level of integration of computerized accounting systems explain a sizable proportion of variations in SME financial growth rates. In particular, the Regression SS (119.284) indicates that a part of the variation in financial growth rates is explained by the ICAS predictor, while the Residual SS (198.501) depicts the unexplained variance. The MS value (119.284) denotes that one degree of freedom for the regression has attributed to the ICAS predictor. In sum, these results reflect a strong relationship between the integration of computerized accounting systems and financial growth in Ghana's SMEs, while a significant proportion of variations observed in financial growth rates among these enterprises can be explained by the regression model.

Table 10: Regression analysis on H2

Model		**SS**	**df**	**MS**	**F**	**Sig.**
1	**Regression**	119.284	1	119.284	454.897	.000[b]
	Residual	198.501	757	.262		
	Total	317.785	758			

For the model that determines the relationship between ICAS and FGSEM in Ghana, the unstandardized coefficient for the FGSEM is 0.590, and the standard error is 0.028. For every one-unit of the integration of computerized accounting systems, this coefficient expresses the difference in the predicted financial growth rate of SMEs. The standardized coefficient, Beta (0.613), shows the effect size of ICAS integration on FGSEM, where a higher integration has a bigger increase in the financial growth rates. The t-value of 21.328 and associated p-value of .000 indicate that the coefficient is significant, therefore demonstrating a strong relationship between ICAS integration and the financial growth of the SME. A constant coefficient of 1.707, on the other hand, represents the predicted financial growth rate of SMEs at zero integration of computerized accounting systems. It is an indication of the baseline level of financial growth. In general, these findings point out the need to properly integrate computerized accounting systems within the operations of SMEs to enhance their financial growth and performance.

Table 11: Coefficient analysis on H2

Model		**UC**		**SC**	**t**	**Sig.**
		B	**Std. Error**	**Beta**		
1	(Constant)	1.707	.112		15.228	.000
	FGSEM	.590	.028	.613	21.328	.000

4.6 Relationship between technological infrastructure and internet connectivity

Result of Pearson correlation ALCASG, TI, and IC within SMEs in Ghana are indicative of positively correlated among all variables. The correlation between ALCASG and TI is 0.523, showing a moderate positive relationship, while between ALCASG and IC, 0.411 represents a slightly weaker positive relationship. In

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addition, the correlation coefficient between TI and IC stands at 0.677. All correlations are found to be statistically significant at a p-value of .000. These findings indicate that SMEs in Ghana with better technological infrastructure and internet connectivity can exploit computerized accounting systems for growth, which underscores the importance of both technological resources and internet access in facilitating the use of computerized accounting systems for growth and development.

Table 12: Correlation analysis on H1

		ALCASG	TI	IC
Pearson Correlation	**ALCASG**	1.000	.523	.411
	TI	.523	1.000	.677
	IC	.411	.677	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	**ALCASG**		.000	.000
	TI	.000		.000
	IC	.000	.000	

The R Square, which represents the coefficient of determination, is 0.280 in the model for assessing the relationship between ALCASG, TI, and IC in SMEs in Ghana. From this, it would then seem that 28.0% of the dependent variable, the ability to leverage computerized accounting systems for growth, is explained by the variance in the independent variables, technological infrastructure and internet connectivity. ARS is slightly lower, 0.278, meaning that the model will still adequately fit the data, given the number of predictors involved. In essence, the findings reflect that although technological infrastructure and internet connectivity are positively related to the ability to leverage computerized accounting systems for growth in SMEs of Ghana, other factors, apart from those included in the model, could also affect ALCASG.

Table 13: Model summary on H3

Model	R	R Square	ARS	SEE
1	.529[a]	.280	.278	.56020

The results in Table 14 show the significance level in the F-test table, with an F-statistic of 146.681 for ALCASG, TI, and IC of SMEs in Ghana. Indeed, the obtained significant F-statistic, with p-value = .000, suggests that the regression model is significantly explaining the variation in ALCASG. That means the variation in ALCASG can be adequately explained by the combined influence of TI and IC. In particular, the Regression Sum of Squares is 92.063 and represents the part of the variation in ALCASG that is explained by the predictors TI and IC, while the Residual SS is 237.248 and shows the unexplained variance. The MS value is 46.031 with two df for the regression. Taken together, these findings present a significant conclusion that there is a strong relationship between technological infrastructure and internet connectivity that enables SME in Ghana to utilize CAS in their effort to grow, and the regression model considerably explains a high proportion of variability in ALCASG among these companies.

Table 14: Regression analysis on H3

Model		SS	df	MS	F	Sig.
1	**Regression**	92.063	2	46.031	146.681	.000[b]
	Residual	237.248	756	.314		
	Total	329.311	758			

Table 15 provides the coefficient values from the regression model for H3. The constant coefficient (B = 1.614) can be interpreted as the predicted value of ALCASG under the condition that all independent variables (TI and IC) are equal to zero. The coefficient of TI (B = 0.497) means that when the value of Technological Infrastructure increases by one unit, the predicted value of ALCASG increases by 0.497 units. A Beta of 0.452 in this standardized coefficient indicates that the Technological Infrastructure will have a moderate effect in increasing the variable Ability to Leverage Computerized Accounting Systems for Growth. The coefficient of IC

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(B = 0.103) also shows that if the value of Internet Connectivity increases by one unit, the predicted value of ALCASG increases by 0.103. The Beta for the standardized coefficient is also positive, but smaller at 0.104, which is still significant.
The t-values for both predictors are statistically significant, p-value = .000 for both Technological Infrastructure and Internet Connectivity, indicating that both predictors contribute significantly to the Ability to Leverage Computerized Accounting Systems for Growth in SMEs in Ghana.

Table 15: Coefficients analysis on H3

Model		UC		SC	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	1.614	.146		11.052	.000
	TI	.497	.046	.452	10.787	.000
	IC	.103	.041	.104	2.491	.013

4.7 Relationship between Utilization of Computerized Accounting Systems and Training and Support Programs

A Pearson correlation test was conducted between the Utilization of Computerized Accounting Systems (UCAS) and the Training and Support Programs (TSP) for SMEs in Ghana and indicated a significant positive correlation. The value of 0.642 is enough to conclude that there exists a strong positive correlation between the degree of use of CAS by SMEs and their engagement in training and support programs. The correlation between TSP and UCAS was the same at 0.642, showing that there is mutual influence of UCAS over TSP and vice versa. Both are statistically significant, represented by p-values of .000, which are less than .05; this will mean that none of these relationships happened by chance. Overall, these findings suggest that SMEs in Ghana that use computerized accounting systems effectively are most likely to be involved in training and support programs in order to enhance the usage of such systems thereby bringing into focus the critical role that such programs may play in the adoption and effective usage of the computerized accounting systems among SMEs.

Table 16: Correlation analysis on H4

		UCAS	TSP
Pearson Correlation	UCAS	1.000	.642
	TSP	.642	1.000
Sig. (1-tailed)	UCAS		.000
	TSP	.000	

In this model, R Square is 0.412, which estimates that about 41.2% of the variation in SME participation in training and support programs could be explained by the utilization of computerized accounting systems. ARS, at 0.411, suggests that this model fits the data tolerably well, considering the number of predictors involved. These results mean that there is a significant positive relationship between the use of CAS and SME participation in training and support programs in Ghana, meaning that SMEs that use these systems effectively are most likely to participate in programs specifically designed for increasing their effective utilization of these systems.

Table 17: Model summary on H4

Model	R	R Square	ARS	SEE
1	.642[a]	.412	.411	.50498

In the regression model concerning the relationship between UCAS and TSP for SMEs in Ghana, the F-statistic of 529.929 is significant at .000, which suggests that the regression model is statistically significant. It therefore follows that variation in the SME participation in training and support programs could be significantly explained by the extent of their utilization of computerized accounting systems. In particular, the Regression SS of 135.137 explains the UCAS predictor which is a portion of the variation in TSP, while the Residual SS of 193.042 reflects the unexplained variance. When regression is one degree of freedom, the MS value (135.137) indicates the average variance attributed to the UCAS predictor. These results, therefore, yield a strong

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indication of a relationship between the utilization of computerized accounting systems and SMEs' participation in training and support programs in Ghana, where the regression model explains a significant portion of the variability observed in TSP among these enterprises.

Table 18: Regression analysis on H4

Model		SS	df	MS	F	Sig.
1	**Regression**	135.137	1	135.137	529.929	.000[b]
	Residual	193.042	757	.255		
	Total	328.179	758			

From the regression model of UCAS and TSP for SMEs in Ghana, the unstandardized coefficients give the magnitude and direction of the relationship of the predictor variable (TSP) with the outcome variable. The constant coefficient (B = 1.331) is the predicted value of UCAS when TSP is zero. The TSP coefficient (B = 0.671) shows that with every one-unit increase in SME participation in training and support programs, the predicted value of UCAS increases by 0.671 units. This standardized coefficient (Beta = 0.642) therefore means that SME participation in training and support programs has a strong positive effect on the Utilization of CAS. In addition, the t-value of the coefficient of 23.020, associated with a p-value of .000, shows that the coefficient of TSP is significant in establishing whether SME participation in training and support programs significantly determines the Utilization of Computerized Accounting Systems.

Table 19: Coefficients analysis on H4

Model		UC		SC	t	Sig.
		B	**Std. Error**	**Beta**		
1	**(Constant)**	1.331	.120		11.087	.000
	TSP	.671	.029	.642	23.020	.000

5 Discussion

5.1Discussion on Utilization of Computerized Accounting Systems (UCAS) and SME Growth:

The interpretation of results is that there is a positive relationship between the utilization of CAS and SME growth in Ghana. The significant value of Pearson correlation coefficient at 0.690 and the regression results have proven that effective adoption and usage of CAS is vital to enhance growth in SME. The outcome is consistent with a previous study, where it was claimed that technology adoption could streamline the business operation and financial management, thus will lead to better business performance. The accurate financial records, improved capabilities of decision making, and enhanced operational efficiency can be achieved by the SMEs that can properly utilize CAS, and in turn will lead to growth.

5.2 Discussion on Integration of Computerized Accounting Systems (ICAS) and Financial Growth

The interpreted result is that the relationship of integrating CAS with financial growth is significant among SMEs. A Pearson correlation coefficient is at 0.613. The regression results further confirmed approximately 37.5% of the variance in financial growth was attributed to the difference of CAS integration level. The results have a significant meaning that being computerized is not enough, however, to be deeply integrated. The integrated systems can produce a bird's eye view for the business to help make better decisions and better facilities of financial planning, control, and reporting. Since the SMEs in Ghana focus on the financial growth, then further focus and investment on deeper CAS integration can provide a huge return.

5.3 Discussion on Technological Infrastructure (TI) and Internet Connectivity (IC)

Technological infrastructure and internet connectivity have been found to play important roles in determining whether SMEs can use computerized accounting systems to grow. The values of the correlation coefficients between these independent variables (TI and IC) and the ability to use CASG (ALCASG), which ranged from moderate to strong, indicate that access to sound technology and good internet is a prerequisite for maximizing the potential benefits of CAS. SMEs with sound technological infrastructure can use and apply CAS more effectively for better financial management and improved business operations. As such, if there is a better

technological infrastructure and internet access, then the ability for SMEs to better use CAS and improve their financial management and business operations is possible. It is, therefore, imperative to enhance technological infrastructure and internet access to ensure the growth potential of SMEs through improved CAS utilization.

5.4 Discussion on Training and Support Programs (TSP)

The study established a strong positive relationship between TSP and CAS utilization. The relationship between TSP and the ability to use UCAS is positive and strong, with a Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.642. According to the regression findings, TSP significantly determines the use of CAS, and thus, specific training and support are prerequisites for proper CAS adoption. Training programs can provide SME owners and employees with relevant skills and knowledge to apply in the use of CAS, enhancing their confidence and competency in the use of these systems. Support programs can continue to support the cause, helping SMEs overcome numerous challenges, thus ensuring that the full potential of CAS is exploited. This points to the need for further investment in training and support to enable the SMEs to grow through the adoption of more sophisticated technology.

6 Conclusion

The study found that the successful application of computerized accounting systems has a strong influence on small business growth in Ghana. The findings showed that where the integration of CAS is higher in an SME, it shows improved financial growth and general performance. Some of the factors that were established to improve the propensity of SMEs to leverage CAS in growing were: technological infrastructure, access to the internet, and partaking in training and support programs. The positive relationship of CAS utilization with SME growth rates identifies and reinforces the centrality of technological adoption to the business expansion process. It therefore places on the policymakers and business support organizations the duty to invest in enhancing technological infrastructure, ensuring functional internet access, and offering comprehensive training programs pertinent to the SMEs. When such areas are focused on, SMEs will be in a better position to realize the potential that computerized accounting systems hold for them in ensuring continuous growth and competitiveness in the market.

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