

The effect of the organizational change on company performance mediated by changes in management accounting practices

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the effect of the organizational change on company performance which is mediated by changes in management accounting practices. High environmental uncertainty requires company management to make organizational changes and changes in management accounting practices to achieve performance. The study uses a survey method with a total of 1945 respondents as managers of middle to upper manufacturing companies in 389 manufacturing companies in Indonesia. Data analysis techniques use partial least square, with more accommodating considerations for analyzing complex models with various indicators that are reflective and formative. The results of the study indicate that organizational change had a positive effect on changes in management accounting practices. Changes in accounting practices have positive effects on corporate performance, and changes in management accounting practices are able to mediate environmental changes in performance. Meanwhile, organizational change does not affect the company's performance.

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1. Introduction

Performance achievement cannot be separated from the role of management accounting. Changes in management accounting practices are related to several factors in the organizations which are contextual variables either within or outside the company (Moore & Yuen, 2001) such as environmental uncertainty, strategy, organizational structure, company size, production technology, organizational capacity and competition intensity (Luther & Longden, 2002). Management accounting is not only a set of techniques, but also a set of values and norms that provide information in the decision-making process, especially for developing manufacturing companies (Tuan Mat et al., 2016). In addition, every part of the company must be consistent and mutually supportive in strengthening management accounting practices, strategies and organizational structures together in order to achieve competitive advantage and the expected performance targets. (Moore & Yuen, 2001). Manufacturing companies are companies that have complex work capacities, from the production process to finished goods that are ready for sale, using constantly updated technology. Manufacturing companies make a large contribution to gross domestic product (GDP). According to the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), there are 4 sectors that contribute greatly (> 10%) to GDP per year, while the manufacturing sector only grows 4.2%. This phenomenon is suspected, among others, by the inability of management in anticipating changes occurring in the internal and external environment of the organization. The inability of the management to

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anticipate changes is caused by the inability of the company to manage the information available for use in making the right decision.

This research uses the Contingency Theory to explain the relationship between changes within the environment (organization) with management accounting practices in improving performance. Contingency Theory approach in management accounting is based on the premise that there is no universally accepted accounting system that applies equally to all companies. Instead, the accounting system will depend on specific conditions according to the conditions under which a company finds its identity (Waweru & Uliana, 2016). Changes in management accounting practices internally and in a firms' operations depend on changes in the external environment. This means that the management accounting practices, design, and corporate strategy are strongly influenced by a competitive environment and technological progress. This study aims to analyze the ability to change management accounting practices in mediating the effect of organizational change on company performance. The relationship between contextual variables in *Contingency Theory* has been carried out by many researchers with a variety of variations and results (Bisbe et al., 2007; Chenhall & Moers, 2017; Innes & Mitchell, 1990; Yazdifar & Tsamenyi, 2005). The variables used in this study are variables of organizational change, changes in management accounting practices and performance. Variable of organizational change with indicators of organizational structure and strategy are considered as contextual factors in companies that have a relationship with changes in management accounting practices (Moore & Yuen, 2001). If changes in management accounting practices are accompanied by accurate accounting information, it will improve performance (Baines & Langfield-Smith, 2003). Therefore, organizational performance is an antecedent or the result of changes in management accounting practices.

2. Literature Review & Hypothesis

2.1. Management Accounting Change (MAC)

Changes in management accounting practices is a new phenomenon that shows the inequality in the application of management accounting practices in every organization/company. This difference is caused by the factors in the organization that must adjust to the change factors that exist in the company's organizational environment both internally and externally (Quinn, 2011; Tuan Mat et al., 2016; Waweru & Uliana, 2016). The change process reflects the question of how management accounting practices emerge, develop and change to match new demands on the changing environment in which the company is located. Various types of changes from the perspective of management accounting, among others, are changes in the integration of Activity Based Costing into strategies to manage the organization's operational activities. The results of this study indicate that Activity Based Costing may contribute to improving organizational performance if implemented as a part of an overall organizational change strategy. Some researchers have conducted research related to the changes in management accounting (Baines & Langfield-Smith, 2003; Bisbe et al., 2007; Robert H. Chenhall & Euske, 2007; John Innes, Mitchell, & Sinclair, 2000). Research on the benefits of management accounting changes has been done, but little has been found about the driving forces of these changes (Chenhall & Euske, 2007; Laitinen, 2014). The results of other studies indicate that one of the drivers of change in management accounting is motivational factors (Baines & Langfield-Smith, 2003; Bisbe et al., 2007; Laitinen, 2008). The interaction between variables in change is not only in management accounting but also in other related disciplines (Innes & Mitchell, 1990; Laitinen, 2008). The results of other studies classify the factors that cause changes in management accounting practices in six groups: information needs; technological and environmental changes; the will to change; change resources; purpose of change; and external requirements (Laitinen, 2014). Other researchers also use four categories of factors to explain changes in accounting management, namely: organizational factors; financial factors; motivational factor; and management factor (Laitinen, 2014). Various variables have been associated with changes in management accounting, the variables used in this study are variables of environmental change, organizational change, variable changes in management accounting practices, and organizational performance. Organizational structure and strategy (organizational factors) are considered as contextual factors in a company that may have a relationship with management accounting changes (Moore & Yuen, 2001). Organizational performance factors are the result of changes in management accounting and changes in organizational structure & strategy. If there is a change in management accounting supported by accurate accounting information, it will improve performance (Baines & Langfield-Smith, 2003). In this case, organizational performance is the antecedent or factor resulting from changes in management accounting.

2.2. Organizational Performance

Organizational performance is intended as the level of achievement of the organization in carrying out activities in a certain period, usually in one year (van der Steen, 2011). Performance is a reflection of whether an organization or a company has succeeded or not in running a business (Triatmanto et al., 2019). Performance is a factor of management accounting and organizational change. Previous research suggested that there might be a relationship between performance and change (Polnaya et al., 2018). Performance can be seen from two aspects, namely: qualitative and quantitative. Quantitatively, organizational performance

ce can be seen from the achievements of the organization compared to what has been done in the past or compared with competitors in a number of factors, such as net income, stock prices, dividend rates, earnings per share, return on investment, return on equity, market share, sales growth, number of workdays lost due to labor strikes, production costs, employee turnover, and employee satisfaction index. Qualitative measures, in the form of questions raised to determine the goals, strategies and integrated and comprehensive plans of the company are consistent, appropriate and can work or not. Measuring financial performance alone will not always be able to improve performance, because financial measures only show the results of past activities, and there are no guidelines to improve performance in the future, so that we need the support and evaluation of strategic planning (Joiner, Sarah Yang Spencer, & Salmon, 2009). The use of non-financial information in business units with strategies focusing on customers or models *prospector* has a positive influence on the performance (Gunasekaran, 2002). The relationship between strategy with a focus on customers and non-financial performance has no effect on organizational performance (Guerreiro et al., 2006). Therefore, the strategy, action and measurement must be carried out consistently. The use of financial and non-financial performance measures is important. If the quality and time are important criteria in strategy measurement, financial performance measures alone are still less effective for the long-term management of the company.

2.3. Organizational Change

Change is an important part of management, every organization is always required to adapt to the current conditions in order to be able to survive the change (Laitinen, 2011). Many efforts of change have been made by various organizations and according to the results of the research show that by making changes, organizational performance can progress rapidly (Smith & Djajadikerta, 2010). But even though it is well planned, organizational change often creates unexpected problems, (Stewart et al., 2007). The organizational structure is one of the main factors in building an overall control system in carrying out all organizational activities. Management accounting systems are important parts of information and control systems that strengthen and support the basic objectives of the organizational structure (Moores & Yuen, 2001). The results of the previous studies indicate that large companies with sophisticated technology are associated with a decentralized control strategy, whereas small companies use a centralized control strategy. This shows that when companies are faced with high uncertainty, a decentralized structure is needed so that it impacts on the adoption of a better management accounting system. In addition to the organizational structure, organizational change can be made through changes in organizational strategy. A strategy is a basis for organizations to interact with the environment. Strategy for the organization is a choice of ways or techniques that depend on environmental factors (Sisaye, 2015). The correct relationship between strategy and manufacturing operations is the key to developing a sustainable competitive advantage. A clear business strategy can create value for customers and be different from the competing companies. However, to achieve a competitive advantage, business strategy alone is not enough, but must be supported by appropriate organizational factors including the effectiveness of manufacturing technology, organizational design and accounting information systems (Jermias & Gani, 2005). Organizations must change the strategies to accommodate the changing environments. Some researchers have determined that organizational strategies are used to anticipate competitive environments. Appropriate adjustments to the strategy and environment will improve performance (Baines & Langfield-smith, 2003; Chenhall & Euske, 2007).

2.4. Research Hypothesis

Changes in management accounting practices are changes that indicate the change within the organization's structure and strategy (Chenhall, 1998). There are various organizational factors describing the factors of contextual variables inside and outside the company and which have an influence with changes in management accounting practices. The design of Management Accounting Systems (MAS) considers strategies and structures to ensure organizational effectiveness in providing information for decision-makers. Several empirical studies have examined the relationship between MAS contingencies, organizational structure and strategy (Baines & Langfield-smith, 2003; Chenhall & Euske, 2007; Moores & Yuen, 2001). The role of management accounting systems is to provide information *up-to-date* for managers in making economic decisions and to motivate and direct organizational changes. Failure to manage appropriate accounting information can result in ineffective resource management and a gradual decline in organizational performance. Changes in the organizational environment cause the need for appropriate changes to maintain effectiveness. Effectiveness of using MAS as *the platform* for change can be explained by considering the extent to which the organization develops the capacity needed to manage the alignment of changes (Chenhall & Euske, 2007). Changes in management accounting practices are not always limited to the introduction of new systems (replacement of existing systems); but can change the way management accounting practices are used (outputs or operational modifications) (Burns & Scapens, 2000). The forms of change in management accounting practices by utilizing the typology of management accounting changes are simple through addition, replacement, modification of output, operational modification and reduction (Sulaiman & Mitchell, 2005).

H₁: Organizational change has a positive effect on changes in management accounting practices.

Companies that have subsidiaries and have their own responsibilities, usually choose one of two decision-making approaches to managing company activities, namely: centralization or decentralization. Centralized decision making that is when decisions are made at the top management level, and managers at the lower levels are responsible for implementing those decisions. Dec

entralized decision making that is, when top managers allow managers at lower levels to make and implement important decisions relating to their area of responsibility. Decentralization is the practice of delegating decision-making authority to a lower level. In today's increasingly competitive competition, decision making carried out must pay attention to factors that provide added value, especially for customers (Bisbe et al., 2007; Guerreiro et al., 2006; Simons, 1987). This focus on customers triggers an organizational structure towards more *flat*, and reduce a more hierarchical organizational structure. The term "*horizontal organization*" is a revolution in the practice adopted in the company by integrating activities throughout the chain to support customer-focused strategies (Chenhall & Moers, 2017). In horizontal organizations, decisions are made by cross-functional management teams, including management accountants. A clear business strategy can create value for customers and be different from the competitors (Simons, 1987). However, to achieve competitive advantage, business strategy alone is not enough, but must be supported by appropriate organizational factors including the effectiveness of manufacturing technology, organizational design and accounting information systems (Jermias & Gani, 2005). Organizations must change strategies to accommodate the changing environments. Some researchers have determined that organizational strategies are used to anticipate competitive environments. Appropriate adjustments to the strategy and environment will improve the performance.

H₂: Organizational change has a positive effect on company performance.

Companies must monitor various factors such as price and market share competition, marketing and product competition, number of competitors, and competitor actions, which can be achieved through the use of accounting information systems that support financial and non-financial performance (Bell & Hoque, 2009). The use of more advanced management accounting techniques can help employees to focus more on achieving *differentiation strategies*, such as quality, delivery, and service to customers, to meet customer satisfaction. For example, *target costing* allows managers to focus on low costs while maintaining customer expectations in the dimensions of quality and functionality. The management accounting system is presented as a differentiation strategy that can be the basis for the success of a competitive strategy (Seal, 2006).

H₃: Changes in management accounting practices have positive effects on company performance.

Market competition and technological progress are the main drivers of management accounting change (Baines & Langfield-smith, 2003; Bisbe et al., 2007; Waweru & Uliana, 2016). In responding to the changing competitive environment, it is important for companies to focus on improving production quality and customer service (Bell & Hoque, 2009). Previous research states that organizations can change Management Accounting Systems to systems that are more effective and efficient in dealing with high market competition (Baines & Langfield-Smith, 2003; Haldma & Lääts, 2002; Hoque, 2001). The introduction of new technology led to a manufacturing cost structure. Computer technology causes direct labor and inventory to disappear from the factory, so the speed of operation is determined by the type of automation and manufacturing system used, and not by how fast the operator can work. As a result, the traditional cost control system itself cannot help managers to manage resources and identify relevant costs. Several studies have shown that there is a relationship between more advanced management accounting practices, such as quality improvement programs, *benchmarking* and *activity-based management* with non-financial performance. Arguing that there is a positive relationship between management accounting practices in the flexibility of the manufacturing environment with non-financial performance.

H₄: Changes in management accounting practices are able to mediate the effect of organizational change on company performance.

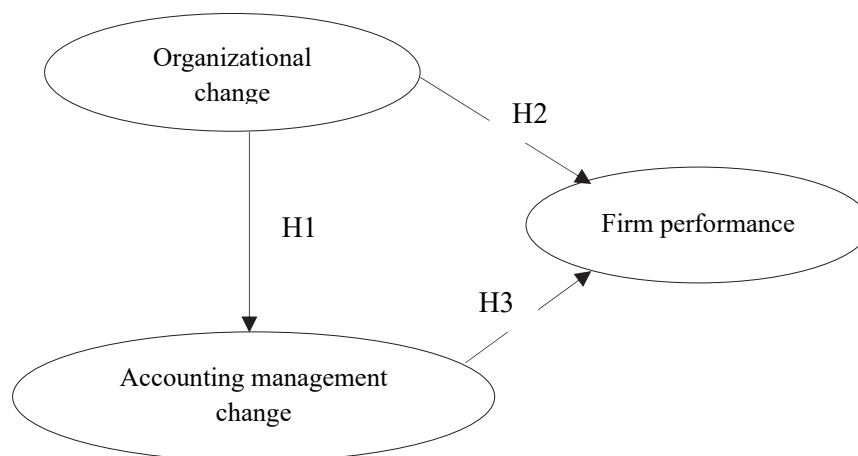


Fig. 1. The proposed study

3. Method

This research is designed to answer the problems that have been formulated. This research is causality based on the problems that arise. This study aims to analyze the direct and indirect effects of organizational change variables on changes in management accounting practices and organizational performance. The information to be obtained is the clarity of the occurrence of variable relationships built on an equation model based on relevant concepts, so that this study can be classified as explanatory research. This study uses a survey method that is gathering information from quite a large population. This research was conducted with a quantitative approach (*positivism*) to prove the research hypothesis, the variables studied are quantitative and the data collection process uses a perceptual approach to facilitate measurement. The population in this study are individuals who work and have mid-level positions and large manufacturing companies in East Java, the managers. The number of manufacturing companies in East Java that carry out production processes and process raw materials into finished goods is 389 companies. The intended unit of analysis is the company, while the observation unit is the individual who works and has an upper middle-level position. Taken five individuals per company so that the total population is 1945 individuals. The analytical tool used to test the hypothesis is *Smart Partial Least Square (SmartPLS) software*.

4. Results

Hypothesis testing is carried to describe the effect of each variable tested using software *Smart PLS*. The results of testing the effect of organizational change on changes in management accounting practices show a path coefficient of 0.360 with a positive direction and t-statistics of $3.997 > 1.96$. The positive coefficient has a direct relationship between organizational change and changes in management accounting practices. The results of testing this hypothesis indicate that organizational change has a positive effect on changes in management accounting practices is **accepted**. The results of testing the effect of organizational change on company performance has a coefficient with a positive direction. The calculation results show that the path coefficient of 0.016 with a t-statistic of $0.176 < 1.96$ gives the decision that organizational change has no effect on changes in organizational performance. Organizational change as measured by changes in structure and strategy will not always be followed by the organizational performance in both financial and non-financial performance. Hypothesis 2 test results show that organizational change affects the changes in company performance is **rejected**. The results of testing the effect of changes in management accounting practices on company performance has a coefficient with a positive direction. The calculation results show that the path coefficient of 0.609 with a t-statistic of $8.588 > 1.96$ provides the decision that changes in management accounting practices affect company performance. Measured changes in management accounting practices from planning, controlling, determining costs, evaluating performance and making decisions will be followed by improvements in company performance in both financial and non-financial performance. Hypothesis 3 test results show that changes in management accounting practices have a positive effect on changes in company performance is **accepted**. Based on the results of direct influence testing, it can be stated that changes in management accounting practices are directly affected by organizational changes. Organizational performance is directly affected by management accounting practices, but organizational change does not affect organizational performance.

Table 1
Sobel Test Results on the Hypothesis Model

Variable Relationship	Regression coefficient	Standard Error	T
Direct Influence			
Organization → Performance	0.016	0.092	176
AKM → Performance	0.609	0.071	8,588
Organizations → AKM	0.360	0.089	3,997
Indirect Influence			
Organizations → AKM → Performance	148	0.058	2,540

Note: Indirect effects: $a * b$; Standard error = $\sqrt{(a^2 Sb^2 + b^2 Sa^2)}$

The calculated path coefficients in this model explain the magnitude of the direct influence on endogenous variables, namely organizational change, changes in management accounting practices and organizational performance. The direct and indirect effects on the relationship between the two variables are explained in Table 2.

Table 2
Direct, Indirect and Total Effects

Variable Relationship	Direct Influence	Indirect Influence	Total Influence
Organizations AKM	0.360	-	0.360
Organizations → Performance AKM	0.016	$0.360 \times 0.609 = 0.219$	235
AKM → Performance	0.609	-	0.609

The fourth hypothesis states that changes in management accounting practices are able to mediate the effect of organizational change on organizational performance. Changes in management accounting practices on organizational performance have a coefficient with a positive direction. The calculation results show that the path coefficient of 0.609 with a t-statistic of 8.588 > 1.96 provides the decision that changes in management accounting practices significantly influence organizational performance. Changes in management accounting practices with indicators consisting of planning, controlling, determining costs, reward system and decision making will be followed by improvement in organizational performance in both financial and non-financial components. The path coefficient test results from organizational change to changes in management accounting practices are significant, and the path coefficient from changes in management accounting practices to organizational performance is also significant. Thus, changes in management accounting practices have proven to be able to mediate the effect of organizational change on organizational performance. Because both path coefficients are significant, the results of this test explain that hypothesis 4 is **accepted**.

5. Discussion

Organizations in carrying out management accounting practices must design organizational structures that fit the organizational goals. In a good organizational structure, strategies will be developed that are used as a decision-making tool in achieving the goals of the organization. This is very needed in management accounting practices. Companies that make changes in organizational structure and strategy have some impacts on changes in management accounting practices. This shows the harmony between organizational changes and changes in management accounting practices both in the planning, controlling, cost determination, reward system and decision making. This change also impacts the company's performance, both financial and non-financial. The results of this study indicate that organizational structure and strategy (organizational factors) are considered as contextual factors in companies that have a relationship in changing management accounting practices (Moore & Yuen, 2001). The results of this research analysis show empirical evidence that organizational change has no effect on company performance. This means that improving company performance does not always occur due to organizational change. Organizational change can occur at any time when the company needs to change. This means that organizational change in manufacturing companies is a basic demand, and this has an effect on improving company performance. The results of this study provide empirical evidence that changes in management accounting practices will affect company performance. Performance is a result factor of management accounting practices and organizational change. Previous research suggested that there might be a relationship between performance and changes in management accounting practices. Low financial performance is said to be one of the reasons for companies to change management accounting practices and organizational internal factors to improve the performance (Laitinen, 2014; Yazdifar & Tsamenyi, 2005). The role of management accounting systems is to provide updated information to help managers reach informed economic decisions and to motivate users in directing and striving for organizational change (Horngren, 1995). Failure to rely on appropriate accounting information can contribute to effective resource management and a gradual decline in organizational performance. Changes in management accounting practices are a new phenomenon in management accounting that shows the lack of application in each company. This difference is due to the adjustment of changes in the environment. Internal and external organizational change factors have influenced the latest developments in management accounting practices (Burns & Scapens, 2000). Furthermore, changes in management accounting practices can improve organizational performance (Jermias & Gani, 2005; Tuan Mat et al., 2016; Waweru & Uliana, 2016). The test results of this study indicate that changes in management accounting practices by manufacturing companies, affect the company's performance, both financial performance, and non-financial performance. Organizational change influences management accounting practices, so changes in management accounting practices are able to mediate the effect of organizational change on performance. Improved organizational performance through changing management accounting practices with an emphasis on planning. Good planning will produce good management accounting practices and will support improved performance. The positive results of the effect of changes in management accounting practices on improving organizational performance, support the results of research conducted by Baines & Langfield-smith, (2003). The results of this study suggest that if changes in management accounting practices are accompanied by the use of accurate accounting information, it can improve performance. Lee and Yang, (2011), stated that changes in management accounting practices as material for management decision making are able to improve company performance. Other results suggest a direct relationship between organizational change or changes in management accounting practices on performance (Baines & Langfield-smith, 2003; Choe, 2004). Organizational change that is reflected by changes in organizational structure and changes in the strategy implemented, is a change that is influenced by many factors. Changes in organizational structure and changes in strategy can occur when there is a change in company ownership, changes in company goals or occur events outside the control of the company. Management accounting practices that start from planning, controlling and decision making are very instrumental in achieving company goals. Budget planning, profit, production, and strategic planning must be determined at the beginning of the period for future implementation at a certain time period. Good planning will lead the company to the targets set. Likewise, the control system implemented by the company has an impact on improving performance. In the decision-making process, managers in each section need information from various sources that are accurate through an effective and efficient corporate accounting system.

6. Conclusions and Suggestions

6.1. Conclusion

The findings of the study have indicated that organizational change in manufacturing companies in East Java is ongoing and relatively dynamic, whether there is an environmental change or no environmental change. So, the improvement of company/organization performance also does not depend on organizational changes. In addition, organizational change is also able to encourage changes in management accounting practices. The results of the study prove that the success of management accounting practices is caused by the application of appropriate organizational structures and strategies within the company. Existing areas of expertise, commitment, participation, and human resources are well managed in accordance with the company's vision and mission. Organizational change requires companies to be able to change management accounting practices through changes in planning, controlling, determining costs, awarding (evaluating) and decision making processes by adjusting the environmental conditions in which the company is located. Managers must be responsive to competing companies both in terms of products, service to customers, determining costs and selling prices so that the company can still exist. Management accounting practices that can run well will be able to achieve and improve company performance.

6.2. Suggestion

This study has several limitations as follows: first, the research model is relatively new, namely the variable of organizational change and variable changes in accounting practices as a mediating variable between environmental changes as an independent variable with the performance variable as the dependent variable and can be an advantage in this study, however, to test the consistency of the results of the study required re-testing of the model and the relationship between variables. In reflecting the research variables need to be reviewed with different indicators. The second limitation, *response rate* post-survey (*mail survey*) low. Some returned questionnaires were not filled in by the intended respondent even though the cover letter was addressed to employees at the managerial level. It is possible that the questionnaire was sent to another section. Distributing questionnaires was performed by personally delivering (*drop-off delivery*) or via couriers, friends or acquaintances who work for the company and also through company email.

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