# THE IMPACT OF E-COMMERCE ON BUSINESS VALUE FROM SME PERSPECTIVE

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Electronic Commerce (E-Commerce) is a potentially growing business for today's market. It becomes popular medium among companies and individual who operate their business especially among small and medium enterprise (SME). This research study on three dimensions that influence the impact of E-Commerce on business value from SME perspective which are operational efficiency, market efficiency and network efficiency. And the most influence factor is market efficiency. The expatriates of this research is among people who involve with SME and use E-commerce in their business. Data is collect through a questionnaire distributed to 80 expatriates who work for SME companies. Result of the present study showed that the significant correlation relationship between the factors of the impact of E-commerce on business value and the impact of E-commerce on business value. This study also used regression in order to identify which factor is most significant and influence the impact of E-commerce on business value.

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

In developing countries such as Malaysia, a major avoidance to e-commerce involvement is the enterprise attitude (Ng, 2000). Malaysian companies tend to be followers rather than leaders in e-commerce investment. Many fear failure and some dare not to invest in e-commerce because it is an unknown space (Ng, 2000). According to Ainin and Noorismawati (2003); and Norhayati (2000), lack of successful stories by click and mortar companies in Malaysia is the main reason why traditional businesses are reluctant to embark in e-commerce transactions. A study by Ainin and Noorismawati on e-commerce stimuli and practices among Small Medium Enterprises (SME) in Malaysia for example, found that 79% respondents agreed that "not many success stories of e-commerce" was the first barrier to e-commerce adoption. Other barriers include "not having knowledge in e-commerce" (72.6%), "low internet access among buyers" (72.2%) and "lack of knowledge on e-commerce potential" (69.6%).

To be competitive, Malaysian companies should re-act fast to the changing business environment. They should grab the opportunities then take the risk to change the Internet space for business on the Net (Paynter& Lim, 2001). Although many research on e-commerce have been done in leading countries, Austin (1990) argued that theories developed in the context of mature markets would not be suitable in developing markets. Due to the reason, this study aims to identify how e-commerce implementation gives an impact on business performance. Focus is no longer on whether to apply e-commerce but how to apply it profitably with the aim to encourage newcomers in e-commerce, to help click and mortar companies to identify problems in their current e-commerce standing and to provide useful information for related bodies such as associations in the industry and regulatory bodies.