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### The Influence of Financial Inclusion on MSMEs' Performance Through Financial Intermediation and Access to Capital

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#### Abstract

This study aims to analyze the influence of financial inclusion on micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises' (MSMEs) performance and examine the mediation role of financial intermediation and access to capital. The object of this study is MSMEs in Malang, Indonesia. The sample consists of 100 MSME actors in Malang City, which is determined using Roscoes theory. The data is collected using Simple Random Sampling method, by distributing questionnaire measured with Likert scales. The hypotheses proposed in this study are examined using Partial Least Square (PLS) model. The results of this study show that financial inclusion influences MSMEs' performance both directly and indirectly through mediation from financial intermediation and access to capital. The direct influence means that the efforts to increase access to financial services, especially access to credit financing for MSMEs, will be able to increase market share, number of workers, sales, as well as profit of the MSMEs. Increased financial inclusion has a major impact on improving MSMEs' performance through financial intermediation compared to access to capital. This means that the increase of financial access for MSMEs followed by an increase in financial intermediation in the form of a financial service approach to MSMEs will improve MSMEs' performance.

Keywords: Financial Inclusion, MSMEs' Performance, Financial Intermediation, Access to Capital

JEL Classification Code: G21, G2, M0

#### 1. Introduction

The concept of financial inclusion has become a major issue on the development agenda in a number of developing countries, including Indonesia. According to the United Nations, financial inclusion refers to easy access to financial services for low-income people and micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). The Word Bank (2014), shows that more than 3 billion people in the world still lack access to and use of basic financial services, with the majority of this number residing in developing countries, such as Indonesia.

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The government of Indonesia implements the National Strategy for Financial Inclusion to increase access, use, and availability of the formal financial system for all levels of society, especially MSMEs. This is because MSMEs are a vital sector for the Indonesian economy (Zain, 2010), as the number of MSMEs in Indonesia reaches 99.99% of the total business actors (Ministry of Cooperatives and MSMEs of Indonesia, 2017). According to Irawati (2016), MSMEs contribute greatly to the nations economic growth through employment, foreign exchange savings, and poverty alleviation. OJK (2016) reported that statistically, MSMEs contribute 57.9% of Indonesia's GDP and absorb 97% of national workers. A survey conducted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (2018) stated that 70.3% of Indonesian people work in MSMEs.

Financial inclusion is urgently needed for the MSME sector, because it provides the widest possible access and eliminates barriers to financial services (Herispon, 2017). According to Krishna (2016), financial inclusion enhances the role of existing financial institution and increases the reach of larger and faster financial services. Fahmy et al. (2016) stated that financial inclusion is very influential

on MSMEs because it is able to help overcome financial problems faced by MSMEs.

Previous studies by Abdmoulah and Jelili (2013), Chauvet and Jacolin (2017), Lee et al. (2019), Khan (2011), and Morgan and Pontines (2014) have examined the impact of financial inclusion on growth. The results from Abdmoulah and Jelili (2013), Chauvet and Jacolin (2017) and Lee et al. (2019) showed that financial inclusion significantly and positively influences company growth and performance. According to Khan (2011) and Morgan and Pontines (2014), financial inclusion reduces liquidity barriers and encourages investment, thereby increasing output and employment opportunities. Proper implementation financial inclusion can increase the economic activities of MSMEs (Egbetunde, 2012; Martinez, 2011; Mbotor & Uba, 2013; Okafor, 2012; Onaolapo, 2015; Yaron et al., 2013).

However, recent studies conducted by Ejiofor et al., (2020) as well as Awoyemi et al. (2015) explicitly concluded that financial inclusion has no influence on MSMEs' growth. This shows the inconsistency of findings related to the influence of financial inclusion on MSMEs' performance. On the other hand, some researchers concluded that financial inclusion influences financial intermediation, and several studies prove that financial intermediation influences MSMEs' performance. Prasad (2010) stated that financial inclusion can increase efficiency in financial intermediation by increasing domestic saving and investment. Mishkin (2007) concluded that financial intermediation through the opening of many bank branches and the entry of new financial service providers on financial market can pave the way for the provision of a variety of financial products and services in accordance with the needs of MSMEs. Fafchamps and Schündeln (2013) found that there is a significant relationship between financial intermediation and MSMEs' growth. Therefore, financial inclusion can influence MSMEs' performance through increased financial intermediation, but the role of financial intermediation itself has not been studied.

Other researchers also examined the influence of financial inclusion on the increase of access to capital. Okafor (2012) and Nurjannah (2017) proved that financial inclusion can accelerate the credit flow to MSMEs. Meanwhile, Donati (2016) examined the influence of access to capital on MSMEs' performance, and concluded that MSMEs without access to affordable credit would experience difficulties in improving their performance and expanding their business. These findings indicate that financial inclusion can increase MSMEs' access to capital, which will affect MSMEs' performance.

MSMEs still face access to capital problems (Beck et al., 2004). Banerjee & Duflo (2014) and Muhajir (2015) proved that MSMEs have difficulty in obtaining loans from formal financial institutions. The problems start from

distance (Shankar, 2013), social, and personal problems that have the potential to become the main barrier to financial access for the community (Cnaan et al., 2012). According to Rifai (2017), it is difficult for MSMEs to access capital from formal financial institution because their business backgrounds can be categorized as unbankable. The strength of capital will increase MSMEs' growth and the output produced, thus MSMEs can expand their business and encourage job creation (Sohilauw, 2018; Haltiwanger, 2013; Yudaruddin, 2020).

Access to financing sources is very important for company survival and performance through adequate funds for working capital, fixed asset investment, placement of skilled workers, and market development (GPFI, 2013). Primus (2015) emphasized that MSMEs have big potential, so that there is a need for capital support and guidance to pursue opportunities for MSMEs' growth performance (Ahmad & Arif, 2015). In order to increase access to capital for MSMEs, Bank Indonesia has issued Bank Indonesia Regulation (PBI) Number 14/22/PBI/2012 dated December 21, 2012, regarding Lending by Commercial Banks and Technical Assistance for MSMEs Development. Even in 2018, the ratio of credit to MSMEs was set at the lowest (20%) of total loans disbursed. This is aimed to improve the MSME sector. MSME in Malang City is a big potential sector that shows a rapid development in the last three years. In 2016, there were only 1,970 MSMEs in Malang City. It increases to 3,292 in 2017 and 3,711 MSMEs in 2018. Therefore, the author uses MSMEs in Malang as the research object in this study.

This study aims to examine the influence of financial inclusion on MSMEs' performance and examine the mediation role of financial intermediation and access to capital. This study is different from the previous studies, as the researcher uses variables to fill the research gap. This study also uses more complex indicators to measure MSMEs' performance than the previous studies. Abdmoulah and Jelili (2013), Chauvet and Jacolin (2017), and Lee et al. (2019) only uses sales growth indicator, while this study uses four indicators, namely, sales growth, profit growth, workforce growth, and market share growth.

#### 2. Literature Review

#### 2.1. MSMEs' Performance

According to King and Zeithaml (2001), firm performance is a function of how well managers build their organizations around the limitations of existing resources, or a function of corporate governance mechanisms (Calantone et al., 2002). Performance is the result of individual and group work functions in an organization affected by various factors to achieve a common goal within a specified time

period (Tika, 2012). Sidharta et al. (2014) proved that factors that influence MSMEs' performance are internal and external factors. Wilkinson (2002) stated that MSMEs will grow and develop if there are supports from the environment and regulations. The measurement of firm performance can be seen from the achievement of goal and objective settings, the profitability and market share of the business operations, the stakeholder acceptance from organizational activities, and the executive satisfaction of the business outcomes (Joni, et al., 2019; Phornlaphatrachakorn & Na-Kalasindhu, 2020). In addition, Rokhayati (2015) stated that MSMEs' performance can be measured through sales, capital, labor, and market share of profit growths.

#### 2.2. Financial Inclusion

Financial inclusion is an economic condition in which individuals and companies access to financial services are not denied (Amidžić et al., 2014), and that the majority of individual can take advantage of the available financial services (Global Financial Development Report, 2014), and they seek to include poor households in the formal financial system (Hannig & Jansen, 2010). This shows that financial inclusion is a process that ensures ease of access, availability, and benefits of the formal financial system for all economic actors (Sarma, 2012) and ensures that the public can access financial services as a whole (Agrawal, 2008), as well as the existence of efforts aimed at removing all forms of barriers to public access in utilizing financial services (Bank Indonesia, 2014).

In addition, financial inclusion is also an intervention strategy that seeks to overcome market friction that hinders financial markets from operating to the poor or underprivileged (Julie, 2016). This intervention aims to attract the unbanked population into the formal financial system, so that they have the opportunity to access formal financial services, promote a culture of saving, increase access to credit, and introduce efficient payment mechanisms (Chakravarty & Pal, 2013). Policymakers are required to create effective opportunities for financial inclusion, capable of accelerating the introduction of innovative technologies, regulatory reforms, and infrastructure acquisitions that reduce transaction costs and enable faster, more efficient, and convenient delivery of financial services (Neaime & Gaysset, 2018). However, it does not necessarily have a positive influence in all cases (Mehrotra et al., (2015).

Research regarding the influence of financial inclusion on MSMEs' growth has been done by numbers of researchers, namely, Abdmoulah and Jelili (2013), Banarjee (2014), Chauvet and Jacolin (2017), Lee et al. (2019), Khan (2011) as well as Morgan and Pontines (2018). Several studies concluded that proper implementation of financial inclusion can increase economic activity, including improving

MSMEs' performance (Egbetunde, 2012; Goodland et al., 2012; Khan, 2011; Martinez, 2011; Mbotor & Uba, 2013; Okafor, 2012; Onaolapo, 2015; Yaron et al., 2013).

Based on these findings, the researcher assumes that financial inclusion will allow MSMEs to access more financial services at affordable costs, so it can improve MSMEs' performance. Thus, the first hypothesis that is proposed is:

*H1:* Financial inclusion positively and significantly influences MSMEs' performance.

#### 2.3. Financial Intermediation

Financial intermediation theory was first formalized by Goldsmith (1969), Shaw (1973), and McKinnon (1973). Financial intermediation is a process in which financial institutions collect deposits and provide loan information to support investment in the economy (Gorton & Winton, 2002), or a process of purchasing surplus funds from economic units, namely the business sector, government institutions, and individuals (households) for the purpose of providing funds for deficit economic units (Rivai, 2007; Mathews & Thompson, 2008).

According to Mishkin, (2007), Kendall et al., (2010), and Demirguc-kunt and Klapper (2012), financial intermediation through the opening of many bank branches and the entry of new financial service providers on the financial market can pave the way for the provision of variety of financial products and services that are in line with the economic status of the lower classes, thereby increasing access to financial services (Chandan & Mishra, 2010). Gurley and Shaw (1960), and Diamond and Dybvig (1983) stated that intermediaries such as banks can improve economic efficiency through facilitating transactions and portfolio creation, alleviating household liquidity constraints, minimizing risk spread over time, and reducing asymmetric information problems in financial markets.

Chandan and Mishra (2010); Ergungor (2006); Kempson et al., (2004); DeGennaro (2005); Mathew and Thompson (2008); Rau (2004); Nissanke and Stein, (2003); Stiglitz and Greenwald (2003); Menkhoff (2000); Mishkin (1998) have examined the relationship of financial inclusion and financial intermediation in developing countries. Based on these findings, it can be assumed that financial inclusion can enhance financial intermediation.

**H2:** Financial inclusion positively and significantly influences financial intermediation.

In addition, Ongore and Kusa (2013) and Chibba (2009) argued that through their intermediary function, banks play an important role in the efficient allocation of resources

that are mobilized for productive activities. Merton and Bodie (2004) also showed that financial intermediaries are able to allocate scarce resources in uncertain environment. Banks rely on the information obtained to screen and define new clients including the poor (Rau, 2004; Nissanke & Stein, 2003; Mishkin & Eakins, 2009). However, due to information asymmetry and high transactional costs, financial intermediaries do not provide loans to those without collateral (Rosengard & Prasetyantoko, 2011).

Fafchamps and Schündeln (2013) examined the influence of local financial development on company performance. They found that there is a significant relationship between local banks availability and faster growth for SMEs. Nurjannah (2017) also found that accessibility to financial institution affects MSMEs' development. Okello (2017) examined the relationship between access to finance and MSMEs' growth, and found that access to finance significantly and positively influences MSMEs' growth. Thus, it can be concluded that financial intermediation can increase MSMEs' performance, and the third hypothesis can be formulated as follows:

*H3:* Financial intermediation positively and significantly influences MSMEs' performance.

#### 2.4. Access to Capital

Capital is one of the main factors for carrying out business activities. Sufficient capital will increase MSMEs' growth and increase the output produced, so that MSMEs can expand their business and encourage job creation (Sohilauw, 2018; Haltiwanger, 2013; Yudaruddin, 2020). According to Xuan (2020), investment capital is a condition for business to invest and develop, improve competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency. Access to capital is identified as the most important factors in determining MSMEs' growth and survival (IFC, 2010; OECD, 2006). Access to finance enables MSMEs to make productive investments to expand their businesses and to acquire the latest technologies to ensure their competitiveness, and drive innovation, macroeconomic resilience, and GDP growth (Beck & Demirgue-Kunt, 2006). Access to capital and finance are important tools used to pursue growth opportunities for MSMEs' performance (Ahmad & Arif, 2015).

Fahmy, et al. (2016) stated that financial inclusion can help to overcome financial problems. Banking access positively and significantly influences credit extended to the MSME sector. The more bank office networks are, the more credit will be absorbed in this sector. Based on the previous studies, it can be assumed that financial inclusion and financial intermediation can increase access to capital for MSMEs. Thus, the researcher formulated the following hypothesis:

**H4:** Financial inclusion positively and significantly influences access to capital.

**H5:** Financial intermediation positively and significantly influences access to capital.

Kevane and Wydick (2001) also stated that providing credit to MSMEs encourages economic growth through increasing business capitalization, creating job opportunities, and long-term income growth. More credit means more company formation and economic growth (Aghion & Bolton, 1997). On the other hand, Brown et al. (2005) and Chauvet and Ehrhart (2018) found that access to external credit will substantially increase sales growth and company growth (Banarjee, 2014). Dimitrov and Tice (2006) revealed that credit constraints, either due to bad credit or a recession, can encourage companies to experience lower sales growth rates.

A study conducted by the World Bank (2013) shows that access to finance improves company performance and growth by facilitating market entry, risk reduction, promoting innovation, and entrepreneurial activity in developing countries. Based on these findings, the sixth hypothesis is formulated as follows:

**H6:** Access to capital positively and significantly influences MSMEs' performance.

The implementation of good financial inclusion, apart from reducing liquidity barriers and increasing financial intermediation, can improve access to credit for MSMEs, which in turn can improve MSMEs' performance. According to Okafor (2012) and Nurjannah (2017), financial inclusion can accelerate credit flow to MSMEs and support its growth. Without access to affordable credit, MSMEs will experience difficulties in expanding their business (Donati, 2016). Calcagnini et al. (2014) showed that collateral easily allows companies to access credit, especially to reduce payment costs. Lack of collateral appears to be an unfavorable characteristic for companies in developing countries.

Mishkin (2007) argued that financial intermediation through the opening of many bank branches and the entry of financial service providers in the financial market can pave the way for the provision of varieties of financial products and services that are in accordance with MSMEs' needs. It is strengthened by Chandan and Mishra (2010) that the presence of a structure financial institution such as offices, branches, and personnel resulted in increased access to financial services by MSMEs. Fafchamps and Schündeln (2013) found a significant relationship between local banks availability and faster growth for MSMEs. Therefore, financial inclusion can affect MSMEs' performance by increasing financial intermediation. Thus, the hypothesis proposed in this study is:

**H7:** Financial inclusion positively and significantly influences MSMEs' performance mediated by financial intermediation.

**H8:** Financial intermediation positively and significantly influences MSMEs' performance mediated by access to capital.

**H9:** Financial inclusion positively and significantly influences MSMEs' performance mediated by financial intermediation and access to capital.

#### 3. Research Method

This study is conducted in Malang City with the MSMEs located there as the research object. The population of

this study is MSME actors in Malang City. The sample is determined using Roscoes theory (Saidani et al., 2013), with the results of 100 MSMEs actors from all MSMEs in Malang City. The data is collected with Simple Random Sampling method by distributing questionnaire measured using Likert scales. The data analysis technique in this study is using Multivariate analysis with Partial Least Square (PLS) model. The data is analyzed using inner model and outer model test – inner model test includes variable significance test, while outer model test is used to examine if the variable is valid and reliable.

The operational definitions of the variable and measurement dimensions for each of the variables are described in Table 1 as follows:

Table 1: Operational Definitions of Variable

Variable	Definition	Indicator	Item		
	All efforts to increase access, availability, and	Benefits for well-being	X.1.1	The financial services offered by banks/cooperatives increase the need for financing	
			X.1.2	The financial services offered by banks/cooperatives increase access to financial services	
	benefits of the formal financial system for		X.1.3	The financial services offered by banks/cooperatives add to the financing of employee capacity building	
	all economic actors.	Use of storage	X.1.4	Savings products provided by banks/cooperatives are appropriate	
Financial Inclusion (X)	(Claessan, 2016; Beck	service finance	X.1.5	Savings products provided by banks/cooperatives are secure	
	et al., 2008; Ardic et al.,	Access to	X.1.6	Loan products provided by banks/cooperatives are needed	
	2011; Okello et al., 2017; Bongomin et al., 2018; Lee et al. 2019; Klassen, 2010)	financial financing	X.1.7	The terms and conditions regarding the use of loans provided by banks/cooperatives are profitable	
		Quality of financial services	X.1.8	Financial services provided by banks/cooperatives are secure	
			X.1.9	The initial account opening fee charged by the banks/ cooperatives is affordable	
			X.1.10	The cost of traveling to the banks/cooperatives is affordable	
	A process that		Z.1.1	Banks/cooperatives have the idea of increasing customer satisfaction	
	provides a link between lenders	Market - penetration	Z.1.2	Banks/cooperatives have a clear market segment for each consumer	
Financial	and borrowers		Z.1.3	Banks/cooperatives strive to increase customer loyalty	
Intermediation (Z <sub>1</sub> )	(Bongomin et al., 2018; Dutta & Dutta, 2011; Allen et al. 2011 & Yaron et al., 1997).		Z.1.4	Banks/cooperatives are trying to increase the frequency and volume of services	
			Z.1.5	Banks/cooperatives try to have product and price advantages over competitors	
			Z.1.6	Banks/cooperatives collaborate with communities and MSMEs organizations	

			Z.1.7	Banks/cooperatives have a clean and comfortable lounge area
		Service	Z.1.8	Banks/cooperatives have good physical buildings
			Z.1.9	The location of the banks/cooperatives is easy to reach
			Z.1.10	The appearance of banks/cooperatives employee is good and neat
			Z.1.11	Banks/cooperatives provide services appropriately and accurately
		quality	Z.1.12	Call Center can be reached easily
			Z.1.13	Banks/cooperatives employees are happy to help customers
			Z.1.14	Banks/cooperatives employees have good knowledge to answer customer questions
			Z.1.15	Banks/cooperatives ensure the security of customer deposits
			Z.1.16	Banks/cooperatives employees always listen to customer complaints and convey them to management
			Z.2.1	The company has received a loan from banks/cooperatives
	There are no obstacles related to administrative costs or procedures in capital provider institutions felt by MSMEs (Ramadhan, 2018; Lusimbo & Muturi, 2016)	Formal	Z.2.2	The company receives the full amount of the loan facility proposed
		credit	Z.2.3	The loan amount received meets the companys credit needs
Access to		procedures	Z.2.4	The company find it easy to access credit from banks/ cooperatives
Capital (Z <sub>2</sub> )			Z.2.5	The company often gets loans from banks/cooperatives
		MSMEs costs in accessing capital	Z.2.6	The interest rates charged by banks/cooperatives are usually lower than those of other financial institutions
			Z.2.7	The company believes that the interest rates charged by banks/cooperatives are reasonable
		Jap. 13.	Z.2.8	Banks/cooperatives loan interest rates are very attractive
	The results of		Y.1.1	The number of employees is small for todays business needs
	work functions or individual or	Workforce	Y.1.2	There is a goal of increasing the number of employees
	group activities in and MSME	growth	Y.1.3	The increase in the number of employees has facilitated business growth
	to achieve a common goal within a certain		Y.1.4	There has been a double increase in business sales growth this year
MSME	period	Profit growth	Y.1.5	The company has created more goods and services
Performance (Y)	(Davidsson et al., 2006; Delmar et al., 2003; Chauvet & Jacolin, 2014;	giowai	Y.1.6	The companys assets have increased this year compared to last year
		Market share	Y.1.7	The long-term assets of the company have facilitated business growth
	& Rokhayati,	growth	Y.1.8	The company aims to acquire more assets
	2015)	Sales	Y.1.9	The company anticipates an increase in business sales growth
		growth	Y.1.10	The companys annual sales increase every year

The research model of this study is presented in Figure 1:

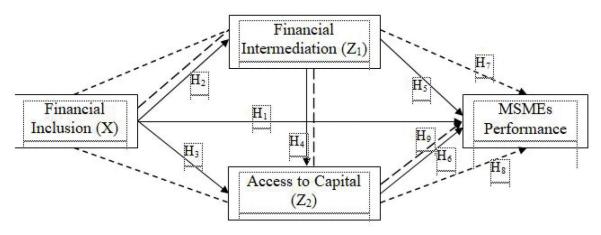


Figure 1: Research Model

#### 4. Research Results

#### 4.1. Outer Model Test

#### 4.1.1. Convergent Validity and Discriminant Validity

Convergent validity of the measurement model with reflexive indicators can be assessed based on the correlation between the item score and the variable score. Individual indicators are considered valid if they have a correlation value above 0.70. Based on the measurement model, it can be known the correlation value between indicator and its variables. The loading factor value of each variable can be seen in Table 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Financial inclusion (X) variable consists of 10 questionnaire items. Based on Table 2, it can be seen that the loading factor of items X.1.9 and X.1.10 is less than 0.7, so it can be said to be invalid and must be removed from the model.

MSMEs' performance (Y) variable also consists of 10 questionnaire items. Based on Table 3, it is known that there are five items with values below 0.7, namely, Y1.1, Y1.5, Y1.6, Y1.8, and Y1.10, thus these five items must be eliminated from the model.

Financial intermediation (Z1) variable consists of 16 questionnaire items. Based on Table 4, it is known that there are five items with values below 0.7, namely, Z.1.5, Z.1.7, Z.1.8, Z.1.9, and Z.1.12 thus these five items must be removed from the model. Access to capital variable consists of eight questionnaire items that are all valid (see Table 5).

Table 2: Loading Factor Value of Financial Inclusion (X)

Indicator	Item	Loading Factor	Results
5 6 6 11	X.1.1	0.829	Valid
Benefits for well- being	X.1.2	0.856	Valid
Donig	X.1.3	0.862	Valid
Use of storage	X.1.4	0.830	Valid
service finance	X.1.5	0.754	Valid
Access to financial financing	X.1.6	0.875	Valid
	X.1.7	0.911	Valid
	X.1.8	0.748	Valid
Quality of financial services	X.1.9	0.699	Invalid
001 11000	X.1.10	0.659	Invalid

Table 3: Loading Factor Value of MSMEs' Performance (Y)

Indicator	Item	Loading Factor	Results
	Y.1.1	0.359	Invalid
Workforce growth	Y.1.2	0.773	Valid
growan	Y.1.3	0.748	Valid
	Y.1.4	0.803	Valid
Profit growth	Y.1.5	0.640	Invalid
	Y.1.6	0.588	Invalid
Market share	Y.1.7	0.805	Valid
growth	Y.1.8	0.513	Invalid
Salaa grayyth	Y.1.9	0.816	Valid
Sales growth	Y.1.10	0.677	Invalid

**Table 4:** Loading Factor Value of Financial Intermediation (Z1)

Indicator	Item	Loading Factor	Results
	Z.1.1	0.749	Valid
	Z.1.2	0.733	Valid
Market	Z.1.3	0.840	Valid
penetration	Z.1.4	0.844	Valid
	Z.1.5	0.600	Invalid
	Z.1.6	0.776	Valid
	Z.1.7	0.513	Invalid
	Z.1.8	0.492	Invalid
	Z.1.9	0.566	Invalid
	Z.1.10	0.815	Valid
Service	Z.1.11	0.804	Valid
quality	Z.1.12	0.638	Invalid
	Z.1.13	0.843	Valid
	Z.1.14	0.813	Valid
	Z.1.15	0.810	Valid
	Z.1.16	0.734	Valid

Table 5: Loading Factor Value of Access to Capital (Z2)

Indicator	Item	Loading Factor	Results
	Z.2.1	0.827	Valid
	Z.2.2	0.866	Valid
Formal credit information	Z.2.3	0.867	Valid
Information	Z.2.4	0.880	Valid
	Z.2.5	0.841	Valid
MSMEs	Z.2.6	0.898	Valid
procedures for accessing	Z.2.7	0.828	Valid
capital	Z.2.8	0.846	Valid

#### 4.1.2. Variable Reliability

The reliability of a variable can be assessed from the composite reliability and Cronbach's Alpha from the indicator block that measures the variable. The variable is said to be reliable if the composite reliability and Cronbach's Alpha value is above 0.70. In addition, the variable can be said to be reliable if the AVE value is above 0.5 (see Table 6).

The results of the composite reliability, Cronbach's Alpha and AVE output are presented in Table 6. It can be seen that composite reliability and Cronbachs Alpha value, both for financial inclusion (X), MSMEs' performance (Y), financial intermediation (Z1), and access to capital (Z2) is above 0.7. In addition, the AVE value of all variables is more than 0.5. This shows that the variables studied have good reliability. It can be concluded that the variables used in this study are reliable enough for measurement and can be used as variables for future research.

#### 4.2. Inner Model Test

#### 4.2.1. Total Effect

The total effect is the sum of the direct and indirect effects, while the indirect effect is the multiplication of all direct effects that are passed. The direct and indirect effect is obtained from the Original Sample value or path coefficient value (see Table 7).

#### 4.3. Structural Model Test

#### 4.3.1. Goodness of Fit Model Test

Structural model test is carried out by looking at the R-square value, which is the goodness of fit model test (see Table 8). The validity of financial intermediation variable can be explained by the variability of financial inclusion variable of 49.5%. The variability of access to capital variable can be explained by the variability of financial inclusion variable of 59%. The variability of MSMEs' performance variable can be explained by the variability of financial inclusion variable of 44.7%.

Table 6: Composite Reliability, Cronbachs Alpha, and AVE Value

	Composite Reliability	Cronbachs Alpha	AVE	Results
Financial Inclusion	0.950	0.939	0.707	Reliable
MSMEs Performance	0.913	0.882	0.678	Reliable
Financial Intermediation	0.952	0.945	0.613	Reliable
Access to Capital	0.957	0.949	0.735	Reliable

Table 7: Total Effect

Effect	Path	Total effect
	Financial Inclusion -> Financial Intermediation	0.704
	Financial Inclusion -> Access to Capital	0.767
Dina at affa at	Financial Inclusion -> MSMEs Performance	0.466
Direct effect	Financial Intermediation -> MSMEs Performance	0.668
	Access to Capital -> MSMEs Performance	0.100
	Financial Intermediation -> Access to Capital	0.067

Table 8: R-Square

Variable Relationship	R-Square Value
Financial Inclusion -> Financial Intermediation	0.495
Financial Inclusion -> Access to Capital	0.590
Financial Inclusion -> MSMEs Performance	0.447

Table 9: Test Results of Influence between Variables

Relationship between Variable	Original Sample	t-statistic	P Value
Financial Inclusion -> MSMEs Performance	-0.075	0.864	0.646*
Financial Inclusion -> Financial Intermediation	0.704	12.884	0.000***
Financial Inclusion -> Access to Capital	0.719	8.761	0.000***
Financial Intermediation -> Access to Capital	0.067	0.864	0.405**
Financial Intermediation -> MSMEs Performance	0.661	4.815	0.000***
Access to Capital -> MSMEs Performance	0.100	0.691	0.467**

Note: \*\*\* Significant in 1% significance level

#### 4.3.2. T Test

The structural model test aims to determine whether there is an influence between variables, which is carried out using t test. The variable is said to have an influence if t count is greater than t table (1.96). The value of each relationship between the research variables is shown in Table 9:

Based on Table 9, it can be seen that financial inclusion has a significant influence on MSMEs' performance with 10% significance level, and has a significant influence on financial intermediation with 1% significance level. In addition, financial inclusion also has a significant influence on access to capital with 1% significance level. Financial intermediation has a significant influence on MSMEs performance with 1% significance level. The influence on access to capital on MSMEs' performance is also significant

with 5% significance level. Financial intermediation also has a significant influence on access to capital with 5% significance level.

#### 4.4. Mediation Variable Test

Based on Table 10, it is known that financial inclusion has a significant influence on MSMEs' performance through financial intermediation with 1% significance level. Financial inclusion also has a significant influence on MSMEs' performance through access to capital with 10% significance level. Financial inclusion has a significant influence on access to capital through financial intermediation with 5% significance level. Financial inclusion has a significant influence on MSMEs' performance through financial intermediation and access to capital with 10% significance level.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Significant in 5% significance level

<sup>\*</sup> Significant in 10% significance level

Table 10: Test Results of Mediation Variable

Relationship between Variable	Original Sample	t-statistic	P Value
Financial Inclusion -> Financial Intermediation -> MSMEs Performance	0.440	4.365	0.000***
Financial Inclusion -> Access to Capital -> MSMEs Performance	0.049	0.521	0.603*
Financial Inclusion -> Financial Intermediation -> Access to Capital	0.047	0.817	0.414**
Financial Inclusion -> Financial Intermediation -> Access to Capital -> MSMEs Performance	0.005	0.412	0.680*

Note: \*\*\* Significant in 1% significance level

- \*\* Significant in 5% significance level
- \* Significant in 10% significance level

#### 5. Discussion

### 5.1. The Influence of Financial Inclusion on MSMEs' Performance

The results of H1 hypothesis testing regarding the direct influence of financial inclusion on MSMEs performance are accepted with 10% significance level. These results illustrate that the higher the ability of MSMEs to access financial services, the better MSMEs' performance in Malang City would be. Financial inclusion can directly improve MSMEs' performance in Malang, which means that all efforts to increase access and use of financial services, which increase financial services users welfare, can improve MSMEs' performance. It indicates that financial inclusion will enable MSMEs to access more affordable financial services, so as to improve MSMEs' performance through sufficient funding to finance the company's long-term assets to facilitate business growth. This is reinforced by the results of loading factor, which shows that financial inclusion is reflected in the dimensions of access to financial finance, which include the suitability and benefits of loan products provided by banks. Meanwhile, MSMEs performance is reflected by growth in the main market share, followed by workforce growth, sales growth, and profit growth. The results of this study are in line with several previous studies conducted by Egbetunde (2012); Goodland et al. (2012); Khan (2011); Martinez (2011); Mbotor and Uba (2013); Okafor (2012); Onaolapo (2015); and Yaron et al. (2013). In general, good financial inclusion has high potential to create high financial performance.

### 5.2. The Influence of Financial Inclusion on Financial Intermediation

The results of H2 hypothesis testing regarding the direct influence of financial inclusion on financial intermediation are accepted with 1% significance level. These results illustrate that high financial inclusion will also be followed by

an increase in the financial intermediation of MSME actors in Malang, and vice versa. The results show that financial inclusion can directly increase financial intermediation at MSMEs in Malang. This means that all efforts to increase access, availability, and benefits of the formal financial system for all economic actors are able to increase market penetration and service quality of financial institutions. In other words, efforts to increase access to financial finance through the ease of terms and conditions regarding the use of loans provided by banks/cooperatives are able to improve the relationship between financial institutions and MSMEs by increasing MSMEs' loyalty and satisfaction.

The results of this study are in line with Fahmy et al. (2016), who stated that financial inclusion can help overcome financial problems. The more bank office networks there are, the more credit will be absorbed in this sector. According to Mishkin (2007), financial intermediation through the opening of many bank branches and the entry of new financial service provider in financial market, can pave the way for the provision of varieties of financial products and services in accordance with MSMEs needs, particularly in providing access to capital. Chandan and Mishra (2010) also argued that the presence of financial institution structures such as offices, branches, and personnel results in increased access to financial services by MSMEs. Good financial inclusion has high potential to create high financial intermediation.

### 5.3. The Influence of Financial Intermediation on MSMEs' Performance

The results of H3 hypothesis testing regarding the direct influence of financial intermediation on MSMEs' performance are accepted with 1% significance level. It indicates that financial intermediation can directly influence MSMEs' performance in Malang. Therefore, the banking efforts to increase market penetration and its services to increase MSMEs' satisfaction and loyalty can improve MSMEs' performance through the increase of market share growth, workforce growth, sales growth, and profit growth

of the MSMEs. The results of this study are in line with the study conducted by Mishkin (2007), Primus (2015), Ahmad and Ali (2015). Good financial intermediation has high potential to create high MSMEs performance.

### 5.4. The Influence of Financial Inclusion on Access to Capital

The results of H4 hypothesis testing show that financial inclusion significantly influences access to capital with 1% significance level. Financial inclusion can directly increase access to capital of MSMEs in Malang. In other words, all efforts to increase access, availability, and benefit of formal financial system for all economic actors can increase the ease of formal credit procedure and reduce the cost of loans for capital provider institutions that are felt by MSMEs in Malang city. The results of this study show that financial inclusion positively and significantly influences access to capital. This is in line with the previous studies conducted by Okafor (2012), Nurjanah (2017), and Donati (2016). In general, good financial inclusion has high potential to create high access to capital.

## 5.5. The Influence of Financial Intermediation on Access to Capital

The results of H5 hypothesis testing show that financial intermediation significantly influences access to capital with 5% significance level. It indicates that financial intermediation can increase access to capital. The increase of market penetration and banking services will increase banking efforts to simplify procedures and reduce borrowing costs, so that a good relationship exists between borrowers and those who are given loans. This is because banks have ideas to increase customer satisfaction, have clear market segments, strive to increase customer loyalty, increase the frequency and volume of services, and strive to have product and price advantages over competitors. The results of this study show that financial intermediation positively and significantly influences access to capital in MSME actors in Malang. This is in line with the previous studies carried out by Mishkin (2007), Primus (2015), Ahmad and Ali (2015). In general, good financial intermediation has high potential to create high access to capital.

### 5.6. The Influence of Access to Capital on MSMEs' Performance

The results of H6 hypothesis testing regarding the influence of access to capital on MSMEs' performance are significant with 5% significance level. Access to capital can directly improve MSMEs' performance in Malang City. This means that the ease of loan procedures and low borrowing

costs at capital provider institution can improve MSMEs' performance. MSMEs are satisfied with the process of obtaining loans, the value of loans provided, and the ease of accessing credit from banks, and the interest rates charged by banks that are considered to be lower than other financial institutions.

Access to financing sources is very important for company survival and performance, because finance is the heart of every company. Companies cannot survive without sufficient funds for working capital needs, fixed asset investment, placement of skilled labor, and development of new markets and products (GPFI, 2011). However, in fact, MSMEs' access to capital is still low. The limited public access to financial institutions has an impact on the weak capital of MSMEs, so that MSMEs cannot develop. Primus (2015) emphasized that MSMEs has great potential, thus capital support and guidance are needed to support their business environment. Access to capital and finance are important tools used to pursue growth opportunities for MSMEs' performance (Ahmad & Arif, 2015). The research results show that access to finance positively and significantly influences MSMEs performance in Malang. This is in accordance with Mishkin (2007), Primus (2015), Ahmad and Ali (2015). In general, good access of finance has high potential to create high MSMEs' performance.

#### 5.7. The Mediation Role of Financial Intermediation on the Influence of Financial Inclusion on MSMEs' Performance

The results of H7 hypothesis testing regarding the influence of financial inclusion on MSMEs' performance through financial intermediation are significant with 1% significance level. Financial intermediation is able to mediate the influence of financial inclusion on MSMEs' performance in Malang. This means that all efforts to increase access, availability, and benefit of formal financial system for all economic actors will improve greater MSMEs' performance if it is supported by the increase of financial intermediation. Financial intermediation is realized by expanding banking penetration through opening branches and adding facilities to get closer to customers. Expanding banking market penetration and improving banking services will improve MSMEs' performance in Malang by increasing the capacity of MSMEs' financing from banks. Financial service support that is offered by banks and improved the nutrition of economic actors in Malang city resulting in increased access to finance, increased welfare, and education for MSME actors. In addition, savings products provided by banks are deemed suitable, safe, and in accordance with the MSMEs' needs. The terms and conditions regarding the use of loans provided by banks are profitable and safe for them.

This creates a relationship between lenders and borrowers so that a common goal is achieved within a certain period.

# 5.8. The Mediation Role of Access to Capital on the Influence of Financial Inclusion on MSMEs' Performance

The results of H8 hypothesis testing regarding the mediation role of access to finance on the influence of financial inclusion on MSMEs' performance are accepted with 10% significance level. Access to capital is proved to be able to mediate the influence of financial inclusion on MSMEs' performance in Malang, although it is not as strong as the mediation role of financial intermediation. It implies that all efforts to increase access, availability, and benefit of the formal financial system for MSMEs, which lead to no constraints related to administrative costs or procedures for capital provider institutions that are felt by MSMEs will be able to improve MSMEs' performance. Financial inclusion has provided opportunities for MSMEs in Malang city to obtain funding. Companies find it easy to access credit from banks and more often get loans from banks. MSME actors in Malang felt that interest rates charged by banks are reasonable and very attractive. This has led to an increase in the MSMEs' performance in Malang City.

#### 5.9. The Mediation Role of Financial Intermediation and Access to Capital on the Influence of Financial Inclusion on MSMEs' Performance

Financial inclusion also has a significant influence on MSMEs' performance through financial intermediation and access to capital with 10% significance level. It can be interpreted that all efforts to increase access, availability, and benefits of the formal financial system for MSMEs in Malang have led to a relationship between lenders (banks) and borrowers (MSMEs). Apart from that, low administration costs and easy funding procedures for MSMEs in Malang City will improve MSMEs' performance. Financial inclusion causes banks to have the ideas to increase customer satisfaction through better services, products that meet customer needs, and collaboration with customer community, namely MSMEs in Malang City. This can make MSME players excited to develop businesses to increase business growth.

#### 6. Conclusion

Financial inclusion has a direct influence on MSMEs' performance. This shows that the efforts to increase access to financial services, especially access to credit financing

for MSMEs, will be able to increase market share, number of workers, sales, as well as profit of the MSMEs. These efforts to improve access to financial services will have a higher impact on MSMEs' performance if it is followed by increased financial intermediation and access to capital.

The results of this study show that increased access to financial services, which is reflected by access to credit financing for MSMEs, will increase banking efforts to increase market penetration by providing service improvements to increase MSMEs' satisfaction and loyalty. Increased banking market penetration will increase access to finance in the form of clear and easy credit procedures, followed by low credit costs, which have greatly helped MSMEs in increasing capital financing in order to increase performance through increasing market share, number of employee, sales, and profits.

The effort to improve access to financial services will have a higher impact on improving MSMEs' performance if increased access to financial services is also followed by increased financial intermediation through increasing banking branches in the regions that will bring access to financial services for MSMEs. Meanwhile, access to capital does not really have great influence on the influence of financial inclusion on MSMEs' performance.

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