

Performance of family-owned Firms: The impact of gender at management position

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This article analyzes the gender's impact (F/M), at management position, on the family company's performance. Company size, age, region and activity sector were used as control variables in order to confirm the adjustment of our model to the theory. GMM dynamic panel models were used in order to control for: endogeneity; time-invariant characteristics; possible collinearity between independent variables; effects from possible omission of independent variables; elimination of non-observable individual effects; and, the correct estimation of the relationship between the dependent variable in the previous and current periods. To perform the study were used data from 199 Portuguese family companies, from 2006 to 2014. Our results confirm the hypothesis from corporate governance literature which argues that board diversity is potentially positively related to firm performance, showing that family companies that have a female element in their direction have positive impacts on their performance, compared to those that have only male elements. Also, the results show that region and the activity sector are factors which influence family firm performance. Finally, the study confirm that company size and age are variables that help to explain these companies' life-cycle.

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