

RESEARCH ARTICLE

# BUSINESS MODEL, INNOVATION, AND ENTREPRENEURIAL ORIENTATION ON DIGITAL START-UP SUSTAINABILITY IN INDONESIA

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**Abstract:** **Purpose**–Digital-based start-up industry has mushroomed in Indonesia, even though its failure rate is relatively high. Business model is one of the determinant factors for the success and failure of a start-up. The aim of this research is to provide an understanding on the relationships of business model, entrepreneurial orientation, innovation, and sustainable performance at digital start-up companies in Indonesia. **Design/methodology/approach** – a total of 206 respondents from all over Indonesia had participated in an online survey. The data were analyzed using structural equation model. **Findings** – the results of the study identified that business model has an important role in achieving sustainable performance. Entrepreneurial orientation and innovation are required to support business model. Entrepreneurial orientation is reflected from the attitude of the leadership, and it has more influence than innovation in achieving a company's sustainable performance. **Original/value** – Novelty is achieved from testing and analyzing the relationships amongst entrepreneurial orientation, innovation, business model, and sustainable performance in one model. The current study discusses the factors that influence the formation of business model at digital start-up companies in Indonesia.

**Keywords :** Entrepreneurial orientation, innovation, business model, digital start-up, sustainable performance.

**JEL Classifications:** M2, M4, O3

## Introduction

There has been a rapid development in the information technology in Indonesia. This can be seen from the total number of Internet users in Indonesia which reaches up to 143.26 million people or 54.68% from the total population of Indonesia. The development of Internet is also parallel with the development of other digital-related activities, one of them is digital business, or commonly known as digital start-up. According to Ries (2011), a start-up is

either a profit or non-profit based organization developing new products or services and making effort to grow in an unstable situation. Start-up can also be defined as an organization that is still looking for its form of appropriate business model to earn a measured and repeatable business model (Blank, 2013).

The high growth of digital start-up companies is accompanied by their high rate of failure. A research found that the failure rate of start-up companies is as high as 90% (Almand Law, 2013). The phenomenon is

supported by the data from one of the start-up incubators in Indonesia, Bandung Techno Park (2017), reporting that the failure rate of start-up companies is as high as 80%. Start-up companies have made numerous efforts to survive, one of them is through designing an appropriate business model. According to Boons and Lüdeke-Freund (2013), selecting the appropriate business model is one of the contributing factors for a company's sustainability. Based on the report data from CB Insight (2018), the errors in selecting for the business model is one of the primary causes of start-up companies' failures.

A number of factors influence the decision on an appropriate business model, one of them is entrepreneurial orientation (Rauch, Wiklund, and Lumpkin, 2009). According to Autere et al. (2010), entrepreneurial orientation has a positive influence on the selection for a business model. One of the factors that commonly occur in start-up companies is that the leaders in the digital start-up companies in Indonesia are more concerned on oriented on the future value of the company, but they ignore their companies' present needs, which resulted in the companies are running out of money to run the companies' operations. This phenomenon is supported by the data from CB Insight (2018), which shows that the failures of start-up are mostly due to running out of money.

The main reason for running out of money is caused by innovation or the lack thereof, either on the business model innovation or the product innovation of the start-up companies that is not considered as a niche service or product. Based on BTP's (2017) data, as many as 70% of the start-up companies listed in BTP have not yielded enough revenue to survive since they strived for innovations that did not meet the customers' expectations and needs, so no one consumed their product. However, if an innovation is appropriately made, it can have good effect on the sustainability of the company (Schaltegger and Wagner, 2011).

Based on the above phenomenon, this current study evaluates and provides better understanding on the relationships of business model, entrepreneurial orientation, innovation, and sustainable performance at digital start-up companies in Indonesia. Novelty is gained through testing and analyzing those four variables in one model, since to best of our knowledge the previous studies were only done partially. To achieve the purpose, this study performs a survey on more than 200 digital based start-up companies leaders in Indonesia.

This study is organized as the following. First, reviewing relevant literature and developing the theoretical framework and hypothesis. Second, explaining the research and data collection methods. Third, performing data analysis and discussion. Fourth, the study ends with explaining the conclusions, limitations, suggestions, and implications of this current study.

## Literature review

### *Innovation*

Innovation has long been introduced and it is closely tight to a change. A change is done to produce varieties of products and services (Schumpeter, 1939; Drucker, 1985). In its development, innovation has also often been used to explain about the change of technology. According to Stata (1989), the change of technology can promote and broaden companies' horizons in producing novel products or services. Technological innovation will support the companies to make changes in their business models or market adjustments (Chesbrough & Rosenbloom, 2002). Apart from its relationship with technology, the innovation made by companies can also take the form of product innovation, service innovation, process innovation, marketing innovation, supply chain innovation, business model innovation, and the innovation process (Greenberg and Baron, 2008).

Innovation has an important role to support companies' performance. Companies have to create innovation to reach a competitive advancement, so they can survive and develop (Gronhaug and Kaufmann, 1988). Companies also have to create innovation to keep on competing and surviving in the highly competitive environment (Chermin & Nijhof, 2005). Within a company, innovation is influenced by the internal or external factors. One of the external factors that can create innovation is the customer (Blazevic, 2008). Meanwhile, the internal factor that influences innovation is the companies' leaders (Bouckne, 2016).

Based on previous studies, the definition of innovation on research is change (Drucker, 1985; Zott & Amit, 2001; Du Plessis, 2007) in the form of the implementation of new ideas (Schumpeter, 1939; Zott & Amit, 2001; Du Plessis, 2007; Frankelius, 2009) which aims to renew the business model components (Zott & Amit, 2001) and has an influence on the companies' environment and also has an impact on the business outcome (Du Plessis, 2009) and it has a relationship with the achievement of competitive strength (Rauch et al., 2009). This current study is also supported by the use of several dimensions that refer to Gunday et al.'s (2011) proposal of organizational innovation, marketing innovation, process innovation, and product innovation.

### *Entrepreneurial Orientation*

At the early development of entrepreneurial orientation, research was done to study decision-making. The research done by Mintzberg (1973) creates three patterns of decision making, entrepreneurial mode, aggressive proactive behavior, and adaptive or repetitive mode. Studies on entrepreneurial orientation then develops into studies on managerial style. Khadwalla's (1977) study discussed on the entrepreneur's management style that reflects on a more daring, risky, and aggressive lifestyle in making decision and tend to be hasty in making actions. In the following studies, a

number of researchers made some modifications on the dimensions, such as adding a proactive dimension (Miller, 1983), adding futurity dimension (1989), and also adding autonomy and competitive aggressiveness dimension (1996).

Studies on entrepreneurial orientation have continued to develop and it is often related to business competition. Companies need to have an entrepreneurial orientation since there are some positive influences on the companies' development and innovation (Harms, Reschke, Kraus, and Fink, 2010). Entrepreneurial orientation also has a role in the creation of business model, which also has an influence on companies' performance (Shahwan, 2015).

Based on previous studies, the definition of entrepreneurial orientation in this research is the behavior (Avlonitis & Salavou, 2007) in decision making (Covin & Slevin, 1989; Lumpkin & Dess, 1996) that are supported by the entrepreneurs' attitude in achieving competitive strength (Rauch, 2009). Also based on previous studies, risk-taking, proactiveness, and innovation are some of the dimensions often used in many studies. There were also a number of studies that separate the innovation dimension entrepreneurial orientation, such as the studies of Tan and Litsschert (1994), Salavou and Lioukas (2003), Gürbüz and Aykol (2009), and Thourmrungraje and Racela (2013).

In this current study, the innovation dimension becomes a dependent variable, since according to Miller (1983), Lumpkin (1996), and Rauch et al. (2009), innovation on entrepreneurial orientation is more about product or service innovation. Meanwhile, on this current research, the examined innovation is the innovation in a broader meaning, such as product innovation, organizational innovation, marketing innovation, and process innovation. Therefore, innovation is again segregated into a separate variable that has a broader meaning.

### **Business Model**

Business model has been known since 1970, but the term business model has only been widely known since the era of digital economy. At the beginning of the digital era, business model was introduced by Timmers (1998) who explained that business model is the architecture that explains a product, service, information, business persons, revenue, and capital source. In its development, there have been many studies that relate business model with the way a company yields money or income. One of the studies is Teece's (2010), mentioning that a good business model is not only used as a company's guidelines in doing business but also can be used to satisfy the customer's needs. Rappa's (2001) study explains business model as a method to run business to yield revenue to survive. The suggestion was supported by Afuah and Tucci (2001) who consider that a

business model explains the way a company yields their cash by offering their added-value.

Not only that business model relates to the architectural and revenue studies, business model research also aims to uncover the model's benefit and role in a company. According to Chesbrough and Rosenbloom (2002), a business model has a role as a mediator for the process of value creation. Meanwhile, according to Teece (2010), a business model has a role to be able to fulfil the needs of the customer. In a business model, the customer is the most important element. According to Chesbrough and Rosenbloom's (2002) study, there is a value proportion element for the customer and it is the customer segment that shows the importance of customer in a company.

In this current study, business model is defined as a business framework (Chesbrough & Rosenbloom, 2002; Magretta, 2002) which explains how a business can run and provide value for the customer (Amit & Zott, 2001; Magretta, 2002; Teece, 2010; Ostewalder, 2005), and it is also able to yield revenue that can be used to provide for the company's existence. This current study is supported by several business model dimension that refers to the recommendation of Amit and Zott (2007), the efficiency-based business model and novelty-based business model. According to Zott and Amit (2007), the efficiency-based business model refers to how a company reaches the MB efficiency, to reduce the transaction cost for all of the participants who have a relationship with the company, novelty-based business model explains a new way in performing economical trade between participants.

### **Sustainable Performance**

The term *sustainability* is related to today's and future's needs fulfilment which is related to the economic, social, and environment factors (Elkington, 1998). A company can achieve short-term sustainability by only paying attention to its economy, while to achieve a long-term sustainability, it can be achieved through paying attention to the economic, social, and environmental factors (Dyllick and Hockerts, 2002). Either large enterprise or small enterprise is now making effort to achieve company's sustainability, which also include start-up companies that are starting to perform based on sustainable principle (Rogers, 2010). According to Darcy et al. (2013), not only large enterprise can achieve sustainability, a small enterprise or small and medium enterprises (SMEs) can also achieve sustainability when they are influenced by human resources management and company's ability to achieve competitive strength.

Start-up companies commonly are small enterprises that are helmed by the actual owner, so they are often associated with the term entrepreneurship and they are often tied to the entrepreneurial activities. Therefore, the sustainability in a start-up is often known as sustainable

entrepreneurship. Sustainable entrepreneurship can also be defined as the effort to maintain the opportunity and to yield future product and service, where their creation and exploitation will be influenced by the economic, psychological, social, and environmental factors (Cohen & Winn, 2007). Sustainable entrepreneurship is said to have a good sustainable performance if it can achieve the economic, social, and environmental goals (Eikelenboom & De Jong, 2017). Another thought came from York and Venkataraman (2010), who state that the sustainable entrepreneurship is considered successful if it can survive financially without ignoring the social goal.

Based on previous studies, it can be concluded that sustainable performance explains sustainability both from the financial or non-financial side (Hall et al., 2010; Cohen & Winn, 2007; Shepherd & Patzelt, 2011) to maintain the future sustainability (Hall et al., 2010). Therefore, the definition of sustainable performance in this current study is to maintain business sustainability in the financial and non-financial aspect, to maintain the company's life and its environment in order to maintain future sustainability. This study is supported by the use of some dimension that refers to the notions of Schaltegger et al. (2012), which are cost and cost reduction, sales and profit margin, risk and risk reduction, and attractiveness as employer. Schaltegger et al. (2012) explains cost and cost reduction as a form of efficiency and as means to save the company's cost; sales and profit margin the sales success to increase profit; risk and risk reduction is related to social risk reduction, finance, and also the company's internal and external risks; attractiveness as employer is related to the company's ability to maintain its relationship with its employee.

### Conceptual framework and hypotheses

#### *Entrepreneurial orientation and business model*

The relationship between entrepreneurial orientation and business model can be seen from value creation and is related to revenue. According to Bouncken et al. (2016), entrepreneurial orientation can support value creation and value proportion, and also to support a company to make offer or new business model. Meanwhile, according to Autere, Peltonen, and Veltakoski (2010), entrepreneurial orientation has a positive influence on business model and business model selection can be said to moderate between entrepreneurial orientation and performance. If it is seen from the perspective of *revenue*, entrepreneurial orientation is related and contributing to business model design that shows how a company yields revenue (Shahwan, 2015; Raunch et al., 2009; Nur et al., 2014). Then, the hypothesis in this current study is as follows:

H1. *Entrepreneurial orientation has a significant influence on business model at digital start-up companies in Indonesia.*

#### *Entrepreneurial orientation and sustainable performance*

A number of studies state that entrepreneurial orientation has a positive relationship with company performance sustainability (Wiklund, 1999; Lumpkin & Dess, 2001). Another view states that an owner of small medium enterprise who has the vision and a good entrepreneurial orientation can perform sustainable development in its business (Spence et al., 2008). The study was supported by Grande, Madse, and Borch (2011), who state that entrepreneurial orientation has a positive relationship on performance sustainability, assisting the company to survive for three years after implementing the notion of entrepreneurial orientation. Then, the hypothesis in this current study is as follows.

H2. *Entrepreneurial orientation has a significant influence on sustainable performance at digital start-up companies in Indonesia*

#### *Innovation and business model*

Sinfield et al. (2011) state that innovation has an influence on business model and also has an influence on company's profit. According to Lee, Olson, and Trimi (2012), the innovation process will yield value through new product, new supply chain, and new business model. When there is a radical innovation, then a change or business model adjustments is needed to deliver value to the customer (Teece, 2010). Digital-based start-up companies will always perform innovation on technology. According to Chesbrough and Rosenbloom (2002), new innovation technology requires market and business model adjustments. During a market adjustment, defining architecture revenue is needed. This statement is supported by Baden-Fuller and Haefliger (2013), who stated that the development and innovation technology supports a business model change that has an influence on the change on how a company yield cash and gains profit. Then, the hypothesis in this current study is as follows.

H3. *Innovation has a significant influence on business model at digital start-up companies in Indonesia.*

#### *Innovation and sustainable performance*

Innovation in entrepreneurship can assist for solution development to achieve excellence in the competition and achieve sustainable performance (Cohen & Winn, 2007). According to Teece (2007), innovation is needed to face a change, so a company can achieve sustainable performance. There are positive and significant relationships between innovation ability with economic, environmental, and social sustainability (Muhammad et al., 2014). According to Schaltegger & Wagner (2011), innovation has an influence on sustainable performance for social entrepreneur start-up company by paying attention on a change of product innovation and the process from time to time, and a market change. According to Chang and Lee (2008), innovation has to be performed by each unit of a company to maintain the

business growth sustainability and to be able to lead in the market. Then, the hypothesis in this current study is as follows.

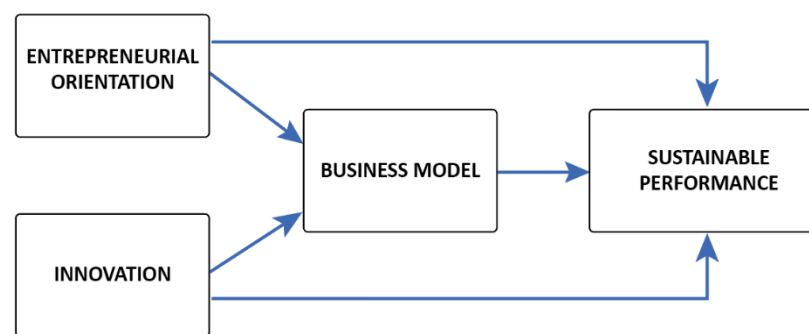
*H4. Innovation has a significant influence on sustainable performance in Indonesia.*

#### *Business model and sustainable performance*

The study performed by Schaltegger, Lüdeke-Freund, and Hansen (2012) explains that a business model has a significant influence on sustainable performance. Another study states that business model also has an important role on sustainability by creating social, ecological, and economic value (Lüdeke-Freund, 2013).

A number of business model components that has an

Based on the discussion above, the conceptual model in this current study is shown as follows.



**Figure 1: Research Paradigm**

#### **Methodology and measurement**

This study used a quantitative approach with *Structural Equation Model* (SEM). The sampling technique used is the stratified random sampling at a number of regions in Indonesia. The number of sample in this current study is 206 leaders or founders of digital start-up companies in Indonesia. According to Shah and Goldstein (2006) the number of samples for SEM

This study began with online data collection, then a statistical testing was performed, the result of the testing was interpreted. Data collection technique was done through online questionnaire. The questions on the questionnaire are the representative indicator used to uncover the dimension variables. The responses were classified into six alternatives (Likert scale) using ordinal scale. The use of six scales is meant to reduce bias level on the questionnaire results (Cummins, & Gullone, 2000), besides the six scales has also had a high level of reliability (Chomeya, 2010). The survey result was analyzed through both validity and reliability testing to make sure the used

influence on sustainability is value proposition, supply chain organization, customer interface organization, and financial model (Boons & Lüdeke-Freund, 2013). According to Reddy (2009), one of the business model components that has the most influence on company performance is the revenue flow, since it can influence profit level and return level on a company. To achieve the business model design sustainability, competitive excellence sustainability and profit sustainability have to be considered (Teece, 2010). Then, the hypothesis in this current study is as follows.

*H5. Business model has a significant influence on sustainable performance in Indonesia.*

is ranging from 200 samples (Shah & Goldstein, 2006) but not recommended to be below 200 (Barret, 2007). This study involves multiple companies with some limitations, i.e. each of the companies is less than 5 years old, has a revenue of less than 5 billion Rupiah, and has developed or sold a product that is supported by technology (India Gov, 2016).

questionnaire was appropriate. Then, model appropriateness testing and hypothesis testing were performed. Hypothesis testing was performed with AMOS with a significance criterion of 5%.

The majority of the respondents were male (87.38%) and under 30 years old (65.05%). The respondents in this current study were classified as well educated, with a majority of Bachelor's Degree or higher (82.53%). The percentage shows that the founders or leaders of the start-up companies in this current study have well basic education knowledge to run a company. The detail of the respondent profile can be seen on the following table.

**Tabel 1: Profile of The Respondent**

Respondent	Frequency (n)	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	180	87.38
Female	26	12.62

<b>Age</b>		
< 30 years	134	65.05
30 - 45 years	68	33.01
> 45 years	4	1.94
<b>Education</b>		
Doctoral	3	1.46
Postgraduate	41	19.90
Graduate	126	61.17
Diploma	8	3.88
High school	28	13.59

Sumber: The research result, 2018

### Empirical results

This study performed the testing using SEM. The testing began with measurement model testing performed with confirmatory factor analysis to see the appropriateness of endogenic and exogenic

### Validity measurement and reliability

Validity measurement could be performed through looking at the value of construct reliability (CR) and variance extracted (VE). CR and VE were calculated by first calculating the value of standardized regression weight. If the value of standardized loading ( $\lambda$ ) is higher than 0.50 then, it is said to have a relatively strong validity to explain the construct. Meanwhile, construct reliability is the measurement that shows the

constructs in this current study, then the testing appropriateness model was performed. Testing was also performed to calculate the path, in order for the direct and indirect influences on the research model to be identified.

consistency of the indicator that shows the degree in the variable and variance extracted is the measurement of the number of variance indicators extracted by the variable. The CR Value is considered good if the value > 0.70, meanwhile, VE value is considered good if the value > 0.50 (Hair, 2009). The result of the measurement model testing for both exogenic and endogenic constructs can be seen through the loading factor coefficient value on each of the indicators presented on the table below.

**Table 2: The result of Exogenic and Endogenic Constructs Measurement**

Construct	Items	$\lambda$	$\lambda^2$	e	CR	VE
Entrepreneur Orientation	Futurity	0.893	0.797	0.203	0.960	0.802
	Proactiveness	0.896	0.803	0.197		
	Analysis	0.912	0.832	0.168		
	Defensiveness	0.897	0.805	0.195		
	Risk-Taking	0.850	0.723	0.278		
	Flexibility	0.923	0.852	0.148		
Innovation	In.Organization	0.806	0.650	0.350	0.915	0.730
	In.Marketing	0.852	0.726	0.274		
	In.Process	0.932	0.869	0.131		
	In.Product	0.823	0.677	0.323		
Business Model	Efficiency	0.787	0.619	0.381	0.747	0.507
	Novel	0.757	0.573	0.427		
Sustainable Performance	Cost and cost reduction	0.779	0.607	0.393	0.869	0.574
	Sales and Profit margin	0.572	0.327	0.673		
	Risk and risk reduction	0.790	0.624	0.376		
	Reputation and brand value	0.805	0.648	0.352		
	Attractiveness as	0.816	0.666	0.334		

	employer					
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Source: The research result was analyzed with AMOS 23.0 (2018)

The standardized loading value ( $\lambda$ ) on all items in the construct of this study have the value of  $>0.50$  so it can be declared as valid in forming a construct. The VE and CR values for all of the construct were valid, since all CR have the value of  $>0.70$  and VE has the value of  $>0.50$ . Based on the calculation, the conditions for standardized loading, CR, and VE were fulfilled, so it can be said that all of the exogenic and endogenic construct have an acceptable validity and reliability construct (Hair et al., 2010).

#### The structural model

Measurement model was performed to see the appropriateness level on interrelationship amongst the four constructs, which are entrepreneurial orientation, innovation, business model, and sustainable performance. Based on the result of calculation using AMOS 23.0 software, the value of the Goodness of fit criteria from the structural equation model in this study was found. Based on the calculation, the result of chi square = 144.557 with p-value = 0.18 the model was considered fit because the p-value  $>0.05$ , Goodness of Fit Index (GFI) = 0.927 the model was considered fit because the GFI value  $\geq 0.90$ , Adjusted Goodness of Fit (AGFI) = 0.899 the model was considered fit because the GFI value  $\geq 0.80$ , Comparative Fit Index (CFI) = 0.989 the model was considered fit because the CFI value  $\geq 0.90$ , Tucker-Lewis Index (TLI) = 0.987 the model was considered fit because the GFI value  $\geq 0.90$ , and Root Mean Square Error of Approximation (RMSEA) = 0.038 the model was considered fit because the RMSEA value  $\leq 0.08$ . Based on the literature according to Hair et al. (2010) and Ghazali (2006), all of the appropriateness model values were on an acceptable range.

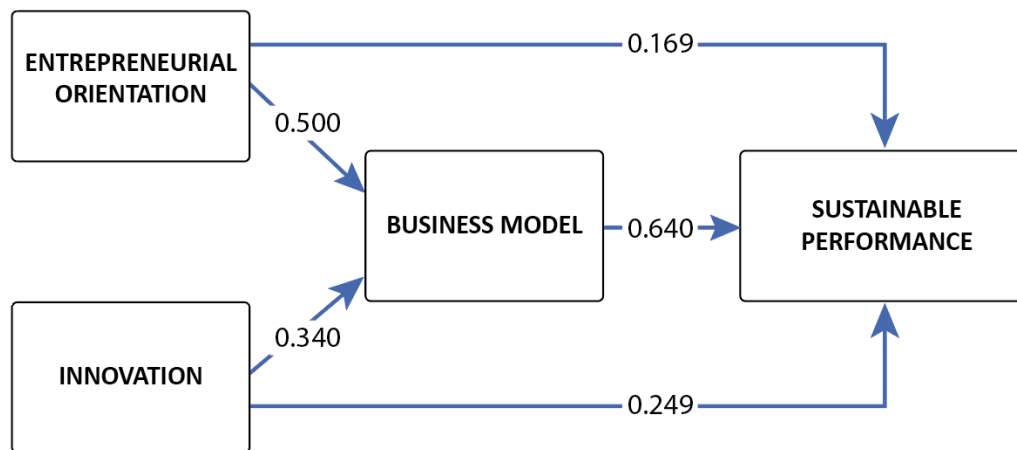
#### Discussion

The result of the inter-construct relationships calculation is shown on table 4 and the path imaging is shown on Figure 1. In H1, H2, and H3 t-value calculation on each path is higher if compared with the t-Table of 1.97. Therefore, it can be concluded that the H1, H2, H3, H4, and H5 are supported, since  $t_{count} > t_{table}$ . All of the construct variable relationships are shown as significant, so it has to be calculated which path is better. Path selection was done by comparing the direct and indirect influences between each construct variable by calculating direct  $R^2$  and indirect  $R^2$  (De Heus, 2012). Based on the calculation, it was found that the direct  $R^2$  value from the entrepreneur orientation to the sustainable performance through business model ( $R^2_{indirect} = 0.608$ ) is higher than the direct  $R^2$  between the entrepreneur orientation to sustainable performance ( $R^2_{direct} = 0.001$ ). It was also the same for the direct  $R^2$  value from innovation to the sustainable performance through the business model ( $R^2_{indirect} = 0.370$ ) is higher than the Direct  $R^2$  between the entrepreneur orientation to sustainable performance ( $R^2_{direct} = 0.201$ ). If it is seen from the  $R^2$  squared value, it can be said that the path through business model has a higher influence compared to the direct path without going through the business model. It shows that the business model functions as an intervening in the influence between entrepreneur orientation on sustainable performance and innovation on sustainable performance.

Table 3: Path Coefficients and T-Value for the Models

Impact of	Path coefficients (Direct effect)	t-value
H1: Entrepreneur orientation $\rightarrow$ business model	0.500 **	6.329
H2: Entrepreneur orientation $\rightarrow$ sustainable performance	0.169 **	2.453
H3: Innovation $\rightarrow$ business model	0.340 **	4.223
H4: Innovation $\rightarrow$ sustainable performance	0.249 **	3.992
H5: Business model $\rightarrow$ sustainable performance	0.640 **	6.724

Note: \*\*sig < 0.01, t-table = 1.97



**Figure 2:** Research Finding

### Implication

There are some implications received from the result of this study. First, this study can be made as a reference to measure the influence of entrepreneur orientation, innovation, and business model on the sustainable performance of digital-based start-up companies in Indonesia. Based on the result of this study, it shows that the entrepreneur orientation has a higher influence on the formation and implementation of business model compared to innovation. It occurs because the start-up companies are small enterprises and they usually do not have a good form of organization, so they highly relied on the founder or the leader of the company in making decision, deciding on a business model, and deciding on the course of the company.

Second, the result of testing above shows that innovation, such as product innovation, marketing innovation, organizational innovation, and process innovation, have a more dominant influence on sustainable performance in digital-based start-up companies in Indonesia compared with the entrepreneurial orientation. It occurs because the start-up companies are working on a highly dynamic and ever-changing digital industry, so the ability to adapt is needed through change or innovation to be able to fulfill the customer's needs. According to Chang and Lee (2008), innovation has to be done by every part of the company to maintain the business growth sustainability and to be able to lead in the market. Therefore, innovation is compulsory and paramount for a company to survive and achieve sustainable performance.

Third, the result of this study shows that there is a positive significant relationship between business model and sustainable performance, since business model is a guideline that explains how a company runs, and how to yield revenue, so a business model is paramount in supporting a company's life sustainability. A company has to make a business model offers a novelty and efficiency-based that can be

easily understood by the customer and also to provide financial support to assist start-up companies to survive and develop. The result of this study supports the result of Teece's (2010) study that examines how a company provides value for the customer through business model, and can support the achievement of company sustainability. Another study done by Boons and Lüdeke-Freund (2013), explains that business model has an influence on business sustainability, value proposition, supply chain, customer, and finance, which are the business model components that influence business sustainability.

Fourth, this study yields novelty by locating business model variable to function as an intervening between entrepreneurial orientation and sustainable performance and also between innovation and sustainable performance. The decision and the formation of business model is compulsory for digital-based start-up companies, since business model is important for a new company or a well-established company as a guideline to run a company (Magretta, 2002). The formation of business model is influenced by innovation in a company and the decision-making is reflected in the entrepreneurial orientation. Therefore, digital-based start-up companies are expected to always be able to innovate, either in product innovation, process innovation, marketing innovation, or organizational innovation, and also have an entrepreneurial orientation shown by a proactive behavior in finding solution and opportunity, flexibility, and the ability to take risks, ability to maintain a company, good analysis ability, and the ability to think forward.

This study makes effort to provide a significant contribution on the existing literature, based on the empirical facts related to digital start-up companies in Indonesia. Start-up digital industry is highly dynamic and the developments are different in each country. In Indonesia, there has not been many studies on a start-up business model. Therefore, this



study contributes in providing new insights on entrepreneurial orientation, innovation, business model, and sustainable performance in digital-based start-up companies in Indonesia.

#### Limitation and direction for future research

The findings in this current study can be made as a reference to perform further studies on the knowledge is related to entrepreneurial orientation, innovation, business model, and sustainable performance. This study has several limitations. First, this study examines companies located in Indonesia, so there can be interpretational difference on the research result for company outside of Indonesia. Therefore, this research has to be further reviewed. Second, this study has not elaborated in detail about the interrelationship between indicator and dimension on each variable. Based on the review and the interrelationship construct that refers to a number of previous studies, we believe that the result of this study can be implemented on a country that has at least the same condition with Indonesia.

There are many things that can influence the formation of a business model, one of them is through customer participation. According to Merlo et al. (2014), customer participation can also support a company to make a strategic decision, such as redesigning the business model, and to earn cash from a customer. Besides, the customer also helps to yield sustainable value for a business. Therefore, future studies are expected to be able to study customer participation as a support in forming business model to achieve sustainable performance.

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