

Problems Experienced by Immigrant Spaza Shop Owners in South Africa

Olawale Fatoki

*Department of Business Management, University of Limpopo, Private Bag X1106,
Sovenga, 0727, South Africa
E-mail: olawale.fatoki@ul.ac.za*

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ABSTRACT Immigrant-owned spaza shops impact positively on the economic development of South Africa. The study investigated the problems that are perceived by immigrant spaza shop owners as negatively affecting the performance of their businesses. The study followed the qualitative research approach. The semi-structured interview method was used for data collection. The study used the purposive and snowball sampling methods to identify the participants. Thematic analysis was adopted for data analysis. The results showed that the problems experienced by immigrant spaza shop owners include crime, xenophobia, lack of sufficient finance, high competition, inability to speak the language, high cost of operation and poor location.