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The Family Business in the Spanish Food and Beverage Industry (I)

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Abstract

In recent years, a lot of research has been carried out with the aim of expanding our knowledge about family businesses (FBs). The research published to date seems to approach the subject from three angles: investigating the role of FBs in the economy, identifying differences between FBs and non-family businesses (NFBs) in the way they behave and the sort of problems they come up against, and proposing ways of solving the problems that are most typical of FBs. Some studies have found significant differences between FBs and NFBs, both in the role they play in the economy and in certain aspects of their behavior; according to other studies, the differences are less clear-cut. This paper continues this research effort, seeking to understand more clearly the role of FBs and the peculiarities of their behavior, in the case of the food and beverage industry in Spain, taking into account such variables as company size, founding year, geographical location and main product. For the purposes of this study, a company has been considered an FB when more than 50% of its capital is owned by a family and some of the family members are actively involved in the company's governing body and management team.

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