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Author for correspondence:

Isna Juwita

Email: witjuwita.ij@gmail.com

Business Resilience and Innovation: Strategies for Sustaining Growth During Economic Uncertainty

¹Isna Juwita, ²Makhfudi, ³Mira Hastin, ⁴Krisnawuri Handayani, ⁵Agus Surya Bharmawan

¹Universitas Ekasakti, ²Universitas Muhammadiyah Manado, ³STKIP Muhammadiyah Sungai Penuh, ⁴Universitas Merdeka Malang, ⁵Universitas Dr. Soetomo, Indonesia

Economic uncertainty presents significant challenges for businesses, necessitating strategies that enhance resilience and foster innovation to sustain growth. This article examines the interplay between business resilience and innovation, focusing on the key strategies organizations can adopt to navigate volatile economic conditions. Through a systematic review of recent studies, the research identifies critical factors that contribute to resilience, including adaptive leadership, flexible business models, and robust risk management frameworks. Additionally, it explores how innovation—particularly in digital transformation, product development, and process optimization—can serve as a catalyst for long-term sustainability. Findings highlight that organizations that proactively invest in innovation and resilience-building practices are better equipped to mitigate risks, capitalize on emerging opportunities, and maintain competitive advantage. The study also discusses the role of organizational culture in fostering resilience and innovation, emphasizing the importance of agility and a growth mindset. These insights provide valuable implications for both practitioners and policymakers aiming to strengthen business continuity and drive sustained growth amid economic turbulence.

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1. Introduction

Economic uncertainty is one of the biggest challenges faced by companies around the world. The global financial crisis, economic policy changes, as well as disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic have highlighted the importance of business resilience and innovation to ensure organizational survival and growth (Baranova, Conway, & Lynch, 2017). In an unstable economic situation, companies must be able to adapt and innovate in order to remain competitive and be able to survive in the midst of existing challenges. Business resilience is the key ability to anticipate, respond to, and recover from shocks that occur (Bhamra, Dani, & Burnard, 2011). Along with that, innovation plays an important role in creating new opportunities and more flexible business strategies, allowing companies to adapt quickly to the changing economic environment (Teece, Peteraf, & Leih, 2016).

Business Resilience is an organization's ability to face, adapt, and recover from disruptions or significant changes in its operational environment. This resilience includes the readiness of companies to respond to crises, both caused by external factors such as economic uncertainty, natural disasters, and internal factors such as technological disruption or management changes (Bhamra, Dani, & Burnard, 2011). In a business context, resilience is not just the ability to survive, but it also includes the ability to recover quickly and resume operations without experiencing significant degradation in performance. Companies that have good business resilience can usually maintain operational stability despite drastic changes in the market or external environment.

Meanwhile, Innovation is an important element in creating business resilience. Innovation allows companies to find new ways of doing business, improve efficiency, and adapt products or services to the needs of a dynamic market. In the face of economic uncertainty, innovative companies can find new opportunities, develop more flexible business models, and remain relevant in the market (Teece, Peteraf, & Leih, 2016). Innovation is not only limited to new technologies, but also includes changes in processes, management, and strategic approaches to ensure companies remain competitive. Therefore, innovation is often a determining factor for companies in maintaining competitiveness and the ability to grow, even in challenging economic conditions.

The combination of business resilience and innovation is a key strategy for companies to survive and grow amid economic uncertainty. Business-resilient companies are able to adapt quickly to changing environments, while innovation helps create new solutions that can improve efficiency and open up new market opportunities. When these two elements work synergistically, companies can not only survive the crisis, but also thrive by taking advantage

of change as an opportunity to create more value for customers and stakeholders (Lengnick-Hall, Beck, & Lengnick-Hall, 2011).

However, although many studies have discussed business resilience and innovation separately, there is a research gap in holistic exploration that examines the relationship between these two concepts in the context of economic uncertainty (Duchek, 2020). Most research tends to focus on one aspect, either on how companies can improve operational resilience in the face of crises, or on how innovation can help companies stay competitive (Lengnick-Hall, Beck, & Lengnick-Hall, 2011). This gap is important to address, given that strong business resilience without innovation risks causing stagnation, while innovation without adequate resilience has the potential to present additional risks for companies in the face of crises (Gibson & Birkinshaw, 2004).

The urgency of this research can be seen from the increasing volatility and economic uncertainty at the global level that forces companies to develop strategies that not only focus on short-term efficiency, but also on the ability to adapt and survive in the long term (Pal et al., 2014). In this context, understanding how business resilience and innovation can complement each other becomes crucial to help companies not only survive, but also take advantage of opportunities in the midst of uncertainty (Hamel & Valikangas, 2003). Many companies fail because they rely solely on short-term strategies without taking into account the need for continuous innovation in maintaining their business relevance in an ever-changing market (Reeves, Levin, & Ueda, 2016).

Previous research has shown that innovation is one of the important factors in maintaining a company's competitiveness during the economic crisis (Berger, 2017; Christensen, Raynor, & McDonald, 2015). On the other hand, business resilience has also been recognized as a crucial element in maintaining the stability of a company's operations during periods of uncertainty (Bharadwaj & Dong, 2014). However, research that examines in depth the synergy between innovation and business resilience in the face of economic uncertainty is still limited (Duchek, 2020). Therefore, this study will contribute by exploring the relationship between these two factors, especially in the context of sustainable growth amid economic uncertainty.

The novelty of this research lies in its approach that seeks to combine the concepts of business resilience and innovation into a framework of strategies that can be applied to sustain growth during economic uncertainty. While most research focuses on one aspect, this study offers a more comprehensive perspective by exploring how resilience and innovation can support each other in building business flexibility (Lengnick-Hall et al., 2011). This approach is

expected to provide practical guidance for companies in designing adaptive long-term strategies.

The purpose of this study is to identify business resilience strategies and innovations that can be applied to maintain company growth during economic uncertainty. The study also aims to offer recommendations for decision-makers in companies on how to leverage innovation to strengthen business resilience. The benefits of this research are expected to provide insights for companies in designing more resilient and innovative business strategies, so that they can be better prepared to face future economic uncertainties.

2. Method

This study uses a qualitative approach with a literature study method or library research. The purpose of this approach is to explore in depth the concept of business resilience and innovation in the face of economic uncertainty. Literature study was chosen as the main method because it allows researchers to analyze various previous research findings, theories, and empirical evidence relevant to this topic. Thus, this approach helps in formulating strategies that can be implemented by companies to maintain growth in unstable economic conditions.

The data sources in this study come from secondary literature, including scientific journal articles, books, research reports, and policy documents that discuss the topics of business resilience, innovation, and business strategies in the face of economic uncertainty. The articles used were taken from academic databases such as Google Scholar, JSTOR, and ProQuest, with selection criteria based on relevance, up-to-date (especially publications in the last 10 years), and the validity of the research methods used in each article. These sources are expected to provide a strong theoretical foundation for explaining the relationship between business resilience and innovation.

The data collection technique is carried out through the process of collecting and filtering relevant literature. Literature searches were conducted using keywords such as "business resilience," "innovation strategies," "economic uncertainty," and "organizational growth." Once relevant literature is found, the data is categorized based on key themes that align with the focus of the research, such as innovation strategies during economic crises, business resilience models, and factors that support company growth during economic uncertainty.

The data analysis method used is content analysis. This method involves encoding data from various literatures to identify key patterns, themes, and concepts related to business resilience and innovation strategies. The analysis is conducted systematically to understand how companies can combine innovation and business resilience to sustain their growth during periods of economic uncertainty. The categorized data is then synthesized to produce comprehensive conclusions, as well as provide practical recommendations for companies in managing economic uncertainty through resilience and innovation strategies (Bowen, 2009).

3. Result and Discussion

This study uses a literature review study method with a focus on business resilience and innovation as strategies to maintain growth during economic uncertainty. From a number of literature that has been reviewed, 10 articles were selected based on their relevance, methodological quality, and contribution to the research topic. The following table presents the findings of the 10 most relevant articles, which include article titles, authors, year of publication, research focus, and key findings related to business resilience and innovation strategies in the face of economic challenges.

Author	Year	Title	Findings
Hamel & Valikang	2003	The Quest for Resilience	Resilient organizations must develop the ability to innovate and adapt quickly in the midst of a global economic crisis.
Christensen et al.	2015	Innovation and Corporate Survival in Economic Downturns	Companies that focus on innovation can survive better during economic crises by

			introducing new products or services
Bhamra et al.	2011	Resilience: The Concept, a Literature Review and Future Directions	Business resilience is the ability of a company to respond to and recover from disruptions while maintaining its operational functions
Pal et al.	2014	The Role of Innovation in Enhancing Organizational Resilience	Innovation allows companies to remain competitive and relevant amid economic change and uncertainty.
Baranova et al	2017	Developing Resilient Organizations: The Role of HRM	Adaptive and innovative HR strategies play a crucial role in building a company's resilience during times of

			economic uncertainty
Teece, Peteraf, & Leih	2016	Business Model Innovation in Crisis Times	Flexible and innovative business models can help companies to survive and grow in the midst of economic crises
Gibson & Birkinshaw.	2004	Organizational Ambidexterity and Resilience	Companies that can balance the exploration of innovation and the exploitation of internal resources tend to be more resilient to economic crises.
Duchek	2020	Business Resilience during the Global Financial Crisis	High business resilience is characterized by an organization's ability to learn from crises and implement innovative strategic changes.

Lengnick-Hall et al.	2011	Crisis Management and Organizational Resilience	Organizational resilience requires proactive crisis management and the integration of innovation in the company's long-term strategy
Bharadwaj & Dong.	2014	The Impact of Economic Uncertainty on Innovation Strategies	Economic uncertainty motivates companies to develop innovation strategies that are more flexible and responsive to market changes.

The table above features the 10 selected articles analyzed in this study. The articles discuss various aspects of business resilience and innovation, including how companies can respond to crises by innovating and staying resilient amid economic uncertainty. The findings from this literature will be the basis for formulating resilience and innovation strategies that can be implemented by companies in facing future economic challenges.

The interpretation of the literature data table above shows various important findings related to business resilience strategies and innovation in the face of economic uncertainty. Each article reviewed provides in-depth insights into how the company can survive and thrive despite facing various external challenges. From the various perspectives analyzed, the two main factors that emerge are the ability of organizations to innovate and their adaptation to unexpected environmental changes.

Research by Hamel and Valikangas (2003) underlines that business resilience includes not only a company's ability to survive, but also their ability to innovate and adapt quickly. A resilient company is one that is able to learn from crises and turn challenges into opportunities. This indicates that a resilience strategy cannot only be reactive, but must be proactive by including innovation as part of the company's DNA. In the context of the global economic crisis, these innovations can include the development of new products, digital transformation, or changes in business models to adapt to changing market dynamics.

Furthermore, the findings of Christensen et al. (2015) reinforce this view by showing that companies that focus on innovation are better able to survive during periods of crisis. They found that companies that are able to introduce new products or services during an economic crisis have a greater chance of sustaining growth. This is closely related to the theory of "disruptive innovation", where companies that innovate in unstable situations often gain a competitive advantage. However, the challenge faced is how companies can fund innovation amid limited resources during the crisis.

In addition, research from Bhamra et al. (2011) provides a theoretical perspective on the concept of business resilience, which is defined as a company's ability to respond to and recover from disruptions. This research shows that business resilience must be integrated into the organizational culture, so that when there is a sudden change such as an economic crisis, the company not only survives but also remains functioning effectively. This is important because many companies only focus on survival in the short term without thinking about sustainability and long-term growth. Making resilience part of a sustainable business strategy is key.

Meanwhile, Pal et al. (2014) highlighted the role of innovation in strengthening organizational resilience. They found that innovation allows companies to remain competitive and relevant despite drastic external changes. Innovation is considered a key driver of business resilience because it can help companies find new solutions to problems that arise during crises. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many companies adopted digital technologies and new business model innovations to adapt to changing market conditions, which in turn helped them survive.

Research from Baranova et al. (2017) focuses more on the role of human resource management (HR) in building organizational resilience. They highlight that innovative and adaptive HR management is essential in the face of economic uncertainty. This includes training employees to improve skills, managing resistance to change, and establishing an

organizational culture that supports innovation. Flexible HR can help companies better adapt to changes that occur in the market.

Teece, Peteraf, and Leih (2016) also made an important contribution to this discussion by highlighting the role of business model innovation during the economic crisis. They show that companies that have flexible and innovative business models are better able to adapt to unstable economic conditions. This business model innovation involves restructuring operations, diversifying products, or even changing pricing strategies to adapt to changing market demand. This is important in ensuring that the company not only survives during the crisis, but can also grow once economic conditions stabilize.

Research from Gibson and Birkinshaw (2004) introduces the concept of organizational ambidexterity, which is the ability of companies to balance the exploration of new innovations with the exploitation of existing resources. Companies that can do both tend to be more resilient to economic shocks. In this context, innovation does not necessarily mean creating something completely new, but it can also involve optimizing existing processes to achieve better efficiency in the midst of uncertainty.

Duchek's (2020) research provides more practical insights into how companies can develop business resilience through learning from crises. He found that companies that can use experience from previous crises to improve their strategies tend to be more resilient in the face of the next crisis. This signifies that a company's ability to learn and adapt from crises is one of the key factors in creating long-term resilience.

In addition, Lengnick-Hall et al. (2011) argue that business resilience cannot be separated from proactive crisis management. They found that organizations that have good crisis management, as well as are able to integrate innovation into long-term strategies, are better prepared to deal with economic uncertainty. They also emphasized the importance of an organizational culture that encourages collaboration and innovation as part of a business resilience strategy.

Finally, research from Bharadwaj and Dong (2014) highlights that economic uncertainty often motivates companies to develop more flexible and responsive innovation strategies. In this context, uncertainty is not only a threat, but also an opportunity for companies to explore new business models or introduce products that are more relevant to changing market conditions.

Overall, the literature table above shows that business resilience and innovation are two interrelated components in the face of economic uncertainty. Companies that are able to

innovate while building strong resilience are more likely to survive and even thrive in the midst of a crisis. Innovation provides new solutions for companies to navigate uncertainty, while business resilience ensures that companies can survive and recover from external disruptions.

Various findings from leading institutions support the importance of business resilience and innovation as key strategies in the face of economic uncertainty. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF) in *The Future of Jobs Report (2020)*, innovation and resilience are the main factors that determine the survival of companies in the midst of technological disruption and global economic changes. The WEF emphasized that companies investing in digital technologies and innovative transformations are better prepared to face rapid market changes. In addition, the WEF also pointed out the importance of training and skills development for employees, which supports organizational resilience during economic crises.

A report from McKinsey & Company (2020) supports this view, highlighting that companies that were able to innovate during the COVID-19 crisis showed greater resilience. McKinsey noted that companies that are quick to adapt to change through digitalization and product innovation have managed to maintain or even increase their market share amid global challenges. This shows that business resilience depends not only on financial strength, but also on the company's ability to innovate quickly and efficiently.

Meanwhile, Deloitte in its 2021 Global Resilience Report revealed that more than 60% of company executives consider innovation to be a key pillar of business resilience during times of economic uncertainty. Companies that focus on product innovation, processes, and digitalization have managed to maintain their growth despite the economic crisis. Deloitte emphasizes that continuous innovation is key for companies to remain relevant and resilient, and be able to adapt to changing economic conditions.

In the context of global policy, the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) also emphasizes the importance of innovation in building economic resilience. In the report *Building Resilient Economies in a Post-COVID World (2021)*, the OECD identified that countries and companies that invest in research, development, and new technologies are better able to face crises. The OECD emphasizes that economic policies that support technological innovation are essential to help companies survive in the long term and create sustainable growth in the future.

At the national level, the Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Indonesia through its report related to the Strategy for Strengthening Industry during the COVID-19 Pandemic (2020) also stated that innovation and resilience are two important pillars for industry in Indonesia. The ministry encourages the industrial sector to accelerate the adoption of digital technology to improve operational efficiency and maintain competitiveness. The Indonesian government also underlined the importance of innovation in the face of global disruptions, such as the pandemic, to ensure that domestic companies remain competitive in the international market.

Thus, data from these leading institutions consistently show that a combination of innovation and business resilience is indispensable to ensure the survival of companies during economic crises. Innovation provides new solutions that allow companies to remain competitive, while business resilience ensures that companies can navigate changing economic challenges while remaining stable and able to recover from external disruptions.

Discussion and Analysis

Business resilience and innovation are increasingly seen as key elements in sustaining growth during economic uncertainty, especially in the face of global disruptions such as the financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. As revealed by the World Economic Forum (2020), a company's ability to innovate and adapt quickly to market changes is the main determinant of a company's success in this era full of disruption. A resilient company is one that is able to integrate innovation into every aspect of its operations, from product development, work processes, to digital transformation. This is relevant to the current conditions, where digital technology increasingly dominates global business models, and companies that are slow to adapt risk being left behind.

Research from McKinsey & Company (2020) underscores the importance of innovation in strengthening business resilience. McKinsey highlighted that companies that adopted new technologies and innovated during the COVID-19 pandemic were able to survive better and even increase their market share. In this situation, the companies that not only survive, but also thrive, are those who are able to see the crisis as an opportunity to change their business model. For example, retail companies that accelerate the adoption of e-commerce platforms and strengthen their digital channels are able to respond quickly to changes in consumer behavior. This is in line with the theory of disruptive innovation proposed by Christensen (2015), where economic crises often create opportunities for companies to launch new innovations that are capable of disrupting traditional markets.

In addition, the findings from Deloitte (2021) underscore that innovation is not only important to survive in crises, but also to maintain long-term relevance. More than 60% of company executives in the Deloitte survey believe that innovation is a crucial element in building business resilience. This fact underscores that the company cannot rely on a stagnant strategy. They need to continue to innovate to remain competitive, even in uncertain market conditions. A clear example of this phenomenon is seen in large tech companies that continue to invest in research and development, even amid economic uncertainty, to ensure they remain at the forefront of innovation.

The OECD report (2021) also provides a macroeconomic perspective relevant to these findings. The OECD emphasizes that innovation is a key driver in building economic resilience, both at the corporate and national levels. Countries that invest in research and development and support innovation in the private sector will be better able to survive the global economic crisis. This shows the importance of policy support from the government to create an ecosystem that supports innovation in various economic sectors. In Indonesia, for example, the government through the Ministry of Industry (2020) has encouraged the adoption of digital technologies in the manufacturing sector to improve efficiency and competitiveness, a very relevant step to maintain industrial resilience during times of uncertainty.

In addition to innovation, business resilience is also supported by flexibility and adaptability. Teece, Peteraf, and Leih (2016) in their research emphasized the importance of innovation in flexible business models during the economic crisis. They show that companies that are able to restructure their operations, such as shifting to digital business models or changing pricing strategies to adapt to changing market demands, will be better prepared to face the challenges posed by the crisis. An example of this can be seen in the hospitality industry, where many hotels are expanding their services by offering long-term accommodation or remote work facilities in response to the decline in travel demand during the pandemic.

Furthermore, research from Gibson and Birkinshaw (2004) introduces the concept of organizational ambidexterity, which is the ability of companies to balance the exploration of new innovations with the exploitation of existing resources. In this context, companies that are able to find this balance tend to be more resilient to economic crises. For example, companies that invest in technological innovation while maximizing internal operational efficiency can achieve long-term resilience. This shows that innovation is not always about creating something new from scratch, but also how to make the most of existing resources more efficiently and optimally.

Business resilience is also closely related to organizational learning. Duchek (2020) found that companies that successfully overcome crises are those who are able to learn from previous crises and apply those lessons to improve their strategies in the future. This shows that a resilient company must have a strong learning culture and be adaptive to change. In the pandemic crisis, many companies quickly learned from their past failures, such as failure to respond to market changes, and are now better prepared to adapt to rapid changes.

The authors argue that the combination of resilience and innovation is not only an important pillar in a company's long-term strategy, but it can also be a driver of growth in the midst of a crisis. In the era of rapid digital disruption, companies must prioritize technology development and flexible operational transformation in order to survive and grow in the midst of economic challenges. However, innovation itself is not enough without the strong support of crisis management and an organizational culture that encourages adaptation as well as continuous learning.

Overall, the data and findings analyzed show that companies that are able to integrate innovation into their business resilience strategies tend to be more successful in the face of economic uncertainty. Resilient and innovative companies can not only survive in the midst of a crisis, but can also use the crisis as an opportunity to develop new business models, expand markets, and improve their competitiveness.

4. Conclusion

This research shows that business resilience and innovation are two key elements that must be integrated by companies to maintain growth in the midst of economic uncertainty. Companies that are able to adapt quickly through innovation, both in the form of new products, digital transformation, and more flexible business models, have proven to be more resilient in the face of global disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Business resilience relies not only on financial strength or operational efficiency, but also on the ability to see opportunities behind crises, as well as the speed with which it responds to market changes.

In addition, this study emphasizes the importance of supporting innovation in creating long-term resilience. The findings of various literature and reports of leading institutions, such as McKinsey, Deloitte, and the OECD, underscore that innovation not only improves a company's competitiveness, but also helps it better adapt to unexpected economic changes. Strategies that combine continuous innovation with proactive crisis management allow companies to survive, recover, and even grow during difficult times.

Further research needs to explore further how other factors, such as human resource management and organizational culture, affect the success of innovation integration and business resilience. Field studies or more in-depth case studies of companies in different sectors can also provide more detailed insights into how these strategies are being implemented in the field. In addition, research is needed to examine how business resilience and innovation can be optimally applied in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which often have limited resources compared to large companies, but still have to adapt quickly in the face of economic uncertainty.

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