

Effect of Sustainability Reporting on Firm Value of Listed Non-Financial Companies in Nigeria

Edogbo, Daniel Aduku, Ph.D.¹, Onah, Kelvin Amobi, Ph.D., CNA², Ojeh Augustine, Ph.D., FCA³,
Okonkwo, Bonaventure .S. Ph.D.⁴ Nkwo, Festus Ndubuisi⁵

Abstract

This study investigates the effect of sustainability reporting on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria between 2014 and 2025, with Firm Value (FV) serving as the measure of corporate value. The specific objectives were to determine the effect of Sustainability Reporting (SR), Environmental Disclosure (ED), and Social Disclosure (SD) on firm value. Using panel data obtained from five listed non-financial companies and employing panel least squares regression analysis, the study found that only one of the three explanatory variables had a statistically significant effect on firm value. Sustainability Reporting ($\beta = 1.6055$, $p = 0.1479$) exhibited a positive but statistically insignificant effect on firm value, indicating that increased sustainability reporting was associated with higher firm value, although the relationship was not statistically significant. Environmental Disclosure ($\beta = 2.7147$, $p = 0.0001$) had a positive and statistically significant effect on firm value, suggesting that greater environmental disclosure is associated with higher firm value among the sampled companies. In contrast, Social Disclosure ($\beta = -0.1453$, $p = 0.8323$) showed a negative but statistically insignificant relationship with firm value. The descriptive statistics revealed moderate variation in sustainability reporting, environmental disclosure and social disclosure, while firm value exhibited comparatively greater variability across the sampled firms and years. The regression model demonstrated strong explanatory power, with an R-squared value of 0.9387, while the overall model was statistically significant. The findings suggest that environmental disclosure is particularly relevant to firm valuation, whereas sustainability reporting and social disclosure do not independently exert statistically significant effects on firm value during the study period. It is concluded that listed non-financial companies should strengthen the quality and credibility of their sustainability disclosures, with particular attention to comprehensive environmental reporting, while integrating social and sustainability practices into broader corporate strategies to enhance stakeholder confidence and long-term firm value.

Keywords: Sustainability Reporting, Environmental Disclosure, Social Disclosure, Firm Value, Listed Non-Financial Companies, Corporate Disclosure.

Cite: Edogbo, D. A., Onah, K. A., Ojeh, A., Okonkwo, B. S., Nkwo, F. N. (2026). Effect of Sustainability Reporting on Firm Value of Listed Non-Financial Companies in Nigeria. *International Journal of Contemporary Marketing and Management*, 4 (3), 56- 74. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23532678>

© Copyright and Licensing Notice

Authors retain full copyright over all articles published under BIRPUB. Ownership of the work does not transfer to the publisher at any stage of the publication process. Upon acceptance, authors grant BIRPUB a non-exclusive license to publish, distribute, archive, and index the article in both print and digital formats. This license allows BIRPUB to make the work publicly available while preserving the author's full intellectual property rights. Authors are free to reuse any part of their work in future publications, deposit the article in institutional or subject repositories, and share the published version on personal or professional platforms. They may also republish the article elsewhere, provided that the original appearance in BIRPUB is clearly acknowledged. BIRPUB is committed to protecting author rights and imposes no restrictions beyond appropriate citation of the initial publication.

Authors	Affiliation
1	Department of Accountancy, Prince Abubakar Audu University, Kogi State, Nigeria.
2	Department of Accountancy, Faculty of Business Administration, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus, Enugu State, Nigeria
3	Department of Accountancy, Faculty of Management Sciences, Enugu State University of Science and Technology ESUT, Enugu State, Nigeria
4	Department of Accountancy, Peace Land University, Enugu State, Nigeria
5	Department of Accountancy, Faculty of Management Sciences, Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Portharcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria

Introduction

Sustainability reporting has become an increasingly important component of corporate reporting as investors, regulators and other stakeholders seek information about the environmental, social and economic implications of corporate activities. Unlike conventional financial reporting, which primarily communicates financial position and performance, sustainability reporting provides information about corporate practices, responsibilities and risks that may influence long-term business prospects. Its relevance to firm value, however, cannot be assumed. On the one hand, sustainability disclosure may improve corporate transparency, reduce information asymmetry and strengthen stakeholder confidence. On the other hand, the preparation and implementation of sustainability initiatives may involve additional costs whose financial benefits are uncertain or may emerge only over time. Consequently, whether sustainability reporting enhances firm value remains an empirical question rather than an established outcome. Evidence from listed companies suggests that the adoption and quality of sustainability reporting may be associated with market valuation, while broader research has examined the economic consequences of corporate sustainability disclosure and its implications for capital markets (Loh et al., 2017; Christensen et al., 2021).

The relationship between sustainability reporting and firm value is particularly relevant in capital markets because investors assess corporate prospects using information about expected cash flows, risks and the sustainability of business operations. Environmental and social disclosures may help investors evaluate a company's exposure to environmental liabilities, regulatory requirements, employee-related risks, community relations and reputational concerns. Where such information improves investors' assessment of future corporate performance, sustainability reporting may be reflected in market valuation. Nevertheless, the valuation implications may depend on the credibility, relevance and quality of the information disclosed, as well as the extent to which investors incorporate non-financial information into their decisions. Evidence from an emerging-market setting indicates that environmental, social and governance disclosure may have positive valuation implications, with lower financing costs and improved operating cash flows identified as possible channels through which disclosure relates to corporate value (Chauhan & Kumar, 2018). These considerations suggest that the relationship between sustainability reporting and firm value should be examined in specific institutional and market settings rather than presumed to be uniform across companies.

In Nigeria, the relevance of sustainability reporting must be considered within the context of corporate accountability, investor information needs and the characteristics of the domestic capital market. Annual reports and accounts provide an important source of evidence for examining the extent to which listed companies communicate their sustainability-related activities. However, the disclosure of such information does not necessarily mean that investors attach equal value to every sustainability dimension. Atanda et al. (2021), examining sustainability reporting among selected Nigerian deposit money banks, assessed disclosure across economic, environmental and social dimensions and reported differing valuation outcomes across the overall disclosure measure and its individual dimensions. Although the banking sector provides useful evidence on the Nigerian reporting environment, findings from deposit money banks may not automatically explain the valuation implications of sustainability reporting among non-financial companies, whose operating activities, environmental exposures and stakeholder relationships may differ. This distinction makes it necessary to examine sustainability reporting within an appropriately defined corporate sector.

Further evidence from Nigeria indicates that the relationship between sustainability disclosure and firm value remains inconclusive. Nwaigwe et al. (2022) examined the extent and quality of sustainability disclosure among listed Nigerian firms using information from annual and sustainability reports. Their findings indicated that the extent of sustainability disclosure had a positive but statistically insignificant association with firm market value, whereas disclosure quality was negatively associated with market value. The study also reported differences in the valuation implications of economic, environmental and social disclosure. These findings are important because they suggest that the quantity of information disclosed and the quality of that information may not have identical implications for corporate valuation. Similarly, Orshi and Yusuf (2024) reported that economic and environmental disclosure were significantly and positively associated with firm value among Nigerian listed companies, whereas social disclosure was not statistically significant. Their findings further indicated that institutional ownership influenced the

relationship between sustainability disclosure and firm value. Taken together, these studies demonstrate that the valuation implications of sustainability reporting may vary according to the disclosure dimension examined, the characteristics of the companies studied and the empirical measures employed.

Environmental disclosure represents an important dimension of sustainability reporting because corporate activities may generate environmental risks with operational, regulatory, reputational and financial implications. Disclosures concerning pollution control, waste management, environmental compliance and related practices may provide investors with information about how companies identify and manage such risks. Olagunju and Ajiboye (2022), examining environmental accounting disclosure among listed non-financial firms in Nigeria, used content analysis and environmental disclosure indicators to investigate the relationship between environmental disclosure and measures of market value. Their findings indicated a positive and statistically significant relationship between environmental disclosure and earnings per share and share price. This evidence suggests that environmental information may be relevant to the assessment of listed companies in Nigeria. Nevertheless, the findings of a particular study do not establish that environmental disclosure will have the same valuation implications across all non-financial companies, reporting periods or measures of firm value. Further investigation is therefore necessary to establish the extent to which environmental disclosure is associated with firm value within the scope of the present study.

Social disclosure is also relevant because companies depend on employees, customers, host communities and other stakeholders for the continuity of their operations. Information concerning employee welfare, occupational health and safety, human capital development, community investment and social responsibility may help stakeholders assess how companies manage their relationships and associated risks. Emeka-Nwokeji (2019) found that social donations and investment in human capacity building had positive and statistically significant effects on firm value, although some other categories of social disclosure were not statistically significant. Complementary evidence from Plumlee et al. (2015) indicates the importance of considering the content and quality of environmental disclosure when examining its relationship with firm value. Although the latter study concerns environmental disclosure rather than social disclosure specifically, it reinforces the broader point that the valuation implications of non-financial information may depend on the characteristics of the information reported. Accordingly, examining environmental and social disclosure as distinct dimensions can provide a more detailed understanding of how sustainability-related information is associated with firm value.

Despite the evidence available, an important empirical question remains concerning the relationship between sustainability reporting and firm value among listed non-financial companies in Nigeria. Previous Nigerian studies have reported differing results, examined different sustainability dimensions and employed varying measures of disclosure and firm value. The evidence also spans different corporate sectors and study settings, limiting the extent to which findings can be generalized without considering differences in sample composition and research design. The central issue is therefore not simply whether sustainability reporting is important, but whether and to what extent the information disclosed by listed non-financial companies is associated with their market value. Addressing this question requires a clearly defined sample, a specified study period and consistent measures of sustainability reporting and firm value. It also requires distinguishing the overall sustainability reporting measure from its individual dimensions where these are included in the empirical model.

Against this background, this study examines the effect of sustainability reporting on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria using secondary data obtained from corporate annual reports and accounts. Particular attention is given to environmental and social disclosure as dimensions of sustainability reporting. By investigating these relationships within a defined non-financial corporate setting, the study seeks to provide additional Nigerian capital-market evidence on the valuation implications of sustainability disclosure. The findings are expected to contribute to the empirical literature by clarifying whether the disclosure dimensions examined are significantly associated with firm value within the selected sample and study period. The study may also provide useful evidence for corporate managers, investors and other stakeholders evaluating the relevance of sustainability information to corporate reporting and investment decisions.

Statement of the Problem

Sustainability reporting is expected to provide relevant information about the economic, environmental and social activities of companies, enabling investors and other stakeholders to make informed assessments of corporate performance and value. For listed non-financial companies in Nigeria, sustainability reporting can complement conventional financial reporting by providing information about environmental responsibilities, social obligations, corporate risks and other non-financial factors that may influence future cash flows and investment decisions. Ideally, transparent and credible sustainability disclosures should help investors evaluate companies more comprehensively and determine whether their shares reflect their underlying prospects. However, the extent to which sustainability reporting translates into higher firm value remains uncertain.

In practice, the relationship between sustainability reporting and firm value is not necessarily straightforward. Although sustainability disclosure may improve transparency and stakeholder confidence, the costs associated with sustainability initiatives and reporting may not always produce immediate or measurable financial benefits. Furthermore, the usefulness of sustainability information may depend on its relevance, completeness, credibility and the extent to which investors incorporate it into their valuation decisions. Environmental and social disclosures may also have different implications for firm value because they communicate different categories of corporate risks, responsibilities and opportunities. Consequently, the existence of sustainability disclosures does not automatically imply that companies will experience higher market valuation.

The problem is further complicated by differences in the findings of previous empirical studies and the approaches used to measure sustainability reporting and firm value. Differences in disclosure indicators, valuation measures, sample composition and study periods may contribute to variations in reported outcomes. Moreover, evidence obtained from particular industries may not necessarily reflect the experiences of listed non-financial companies as a whole. These differences leave an important empirical question concerning whether sustainability reporting is associated with firm value among listed non-financial companies in Nigeria and whether environmental and social disclosure exhibit distinct relationships with corporate valuation.

If this uncertainty remains unresolved, companies may find it difficult to determine the extent to which sustainability reporting contributes to their market valuation, while investors may lack sufficient context for interpreting sustainability information in investment decisions. There is therefore a need for further empirical investigation using secondary data obtained from the annual reports and accounts of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria. Accordingly, this study examines the effect of sustainability reporting on firm value, with particular attention to environmental and social disclosure, to provide evidence on their relationships within the Nigerian capital market.

Objectives of the Study

The primary purpose of this study is on effect of Sustainability Reporting on Firm Value of Listed Non-Financial Companies in Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

- i. To determine the effect of sustainability reporting on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria.
- ii. To examine the effect of environmental disclosure on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria.
- iii. To assess the effect of social disclosure on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria.

Research Questions

The study provided answers to the following research questions.

- i. What is the effect of sustainability reporting on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria?
- ii. What is the effect of environmental disclosure on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria?

- iii. What is the effect of social disclosure on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria?

Statement of Hypotheses

The following hypotheses in null form (H_0) guided this study

- i. H_{01} : Sustainability reporting has no significant effect on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria.
- ii. H_{02} : Environmental disclosure has no significant effect on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria.
- iii. H_{03} : Social disclosure has no significant effect on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria.

Review of Related Literature

Conceptual Review

Sustainability reporting

Sustainability reporting refers to the systematic communication of an organisation's economic, environmental, and social impacts, practices, and performance to stakeholders, extending corporate accountability beyond conventional financial information. Conceptually, it represents an information mechanism through which sustainability concerns become visible within organisational decision-making and external evaluation. Its multidimensional character distinguishes it from narrowly focused environmental or social disclosure because comprehensive sustainability reporting seeks to integrate interconnected sustainability dimensions within a broader accountability framework (Dienes et al., 2016). Contemporary scholarship further conceptualises the field through diverse theoretical and ontological perspectives, particularly stakeholder, institutional, and legitimacy approaches, indicating that sustainability reporting is not merely a technical disclosure exercise but a socially constructed practice shaped by competing interpretations of organisational responsibility (Nasreen et al., 2025).

The relevance of sustainability reporting is closely associated with its capacity to mediate relationships between organisations and stakeholders by providing information about issues that may materially affect stakeholder assessments, expectations, and decisions. Rather than assuming that standardised reporting frameworks automatically capture stakeholder priorities, empirical evidence demonstrates that stakeholders may attach different levels of importance to reported sustainability dimensions, creating potential gaps between organisational disclosure practices and stakeholder information needs. This conceptual tension positions sustainability reporting as both an accountability mechanism and a communicative process in which the selection, measurement, and presentation of sustainability information influence how organisational performance is understood (Bradford et al., 2017).

Sustainability reporting also has important applications across organisational and geographical contexts because it can function as a mechanism for communicating sustainability performance, demonstrating accountability, supporting stakeholder engagement, and connecting organisational activities with broader sustainable-development objectives. Its application, however, is neither uniform nor contextually neutral. Evidence from African scholarship indicates substantial variation in reporting extent, quality, thematic emphasis, and assurance, with research attention frequently concentrated on determinants rather than consequences of reporting. This suggests that sustainability reporting should be understood as an institutionally embedded practice whose content and effectiveness are influenced by regulatory environments, organisational characteristics, stakeholder pressures, governance structures, and contextual conditions (Igwe et al., 2023).

Contemporary debates increasingly question whether greater reporting volume necessarily produces greater accountability or sustainability performance. Standardisation through frameworks such as the Global Reporting Initiative can improve comparability, structure, and organisational guidance, yet reporting may still reflect tensions between organisational interests and broader societal expectations. Recent scholarship identifies a potential

misalignment between short-term organisational objectives and longer-term public sustainability interests, which can contribute to selective disclosure, quality deficiencies, and greenwashing. Sustainability reporting therefore involves a fundamental conceptual tension between transparency as genuine accountability and disclosure as strategic organisational communication, making report quality, materiality, stakeholder relevance, assurance, and credibility central issues in current scholarship (Bais et al., 2024).

Furthermore, the contemporary understanding of sustainability reporting increasingly moves beyond viewing reports as static communication products toward treating reporting as part of an organisational sustainability governance system. This perspective emphasises the interaction among information production, stakeholder expectations, organisational decision-making, accountability, technological developments, regulatory pressures, and societal sustainability objectives. Consequently, sustainability reporting has theoretical significance because it provides a lens through which the relationship between corporate behaviour and societal expectations can be examined, while its continuing evolution creates opportunities for more integrated, credible, comparable, and decision-useful approaches to understanding organisational sustainability.

Environmental disclosure

Environmental disclosure can be conceptualised as the communication of corporate information concerning environmental policies, impacts, practices, risks, performance, and environmental management activities through annual reports, sustainability reports, standalone environmental reports, or other corporate communication channels. It extends conventional financial reporting by making environmental consequences of organisational activities more visible to stakeholders and broader society. Its conceptual scope therefore encompasses both the quantity and quality of information disclosed, including qualitative narratives and quantitative environmental indicators. Research demonstrates that environmental disclosure is influenced by organisational and institutional conditions, with evidence that firm characteristics, ownership structures, auditing arrangements, and regulatory environments can shape the extent and content of corporate environmental communication (D'Amico et al., 2016). Similarly, evidence from Indian corporations indicates that environmental disclosure varies across industries and firms and that disclosure quality may remain predominantly descriptive, demonstrating that the concept involves not only whether information is communicated but also its substantive informational value (Prasad et al., 2017).

The dimensions of environmental disclosure can consequently be examined through disclosure extent, information quality, environmental themes covered, quantitative versus qualitative content, and the degree to which disclosed information corresponds with actual environmental practices. From this perspective, environmental disclosure is not simply an output of corporate reporting but a governance-related practice shaped by internal decision structures and external expectations. Corporate governance characteristics, particularly board independence and the presence of independent leadership, have been found to influence the organisational decision to develop environmental disclosures, suggesting that disclosure can reflect internal accountability structures as well as external environmental pressures (Giannarakis et al., 2020).

The application of environmental disclosure is particularly significant where corporate activities generate substantial ecological consequences and stakeholders require information capable of evaluating environmental responsibility. Its practical relevance therefore extends across industries and national contexts, encompassing pollution control, emissions, resource use, environmental management, biodiversity, regulatory compliance, and other environmental impacts. Evidence from the Southeast Asian palm-oil sector illustrates this contextual dimension, showing that stakeholder expectations can identify environmental information needs that conventional reporting frameworks may insufficiently capture. Such evidence indicates that effective environmental disclosure should be responsive to the environmental characteristics of particular industries and to the information requirements of affected stakeholders, rather than relying exclusively on generic disclosure categories (Abdullah et al., 2020).

Contemporary debates surrounding environmental disclosure increasingly focus on whether greater disclosure necessarily represents improved environmental responsibility. The central conceptual problem concerns the possibility that organisations may increase environmental communication without achieving corresponding

improvements in environmental performance. Recent evidence demonstrates that higher levels of corporate environmental responsibility disclosure can coexist with poorer environmental performance, raising concerns about selective communication, impression management, and the potential use of disclosure to obscure unfavourable environmental outcomes. This challenges the assumption that disclosure quantity is inherently synonymous with transparency and reinforces the importance of evaluating the credibility, completeness, relevance, and substantive environmental consequences of disclosed information (Yun et al., 2023).

Furthermore, contemporary scholarly understanding positions environmental disclosure as a dynamic interface between corporate accountability, environmental governance, stakeholder information needs, regulatory expectations, and organisational legitimacy. The concept increasingly requires attention to the relationship between disclosed information and underlying environmental realities, particularly as stakeholders demand information that is comparable, specific, decision-useful, and capable of supporting meaningful assessment of corporate environmental conduct. Environmental disclosure therefore possesses theoretical significance beyond communication itself, because its effectiveness depends on whether reporting practices facilitate genuine accountability, reduce information asymmetry, and strengthen the connection between corporate environmental claims and observable environmental outcomes.

Social disclosure

Social disclosure can be conceptualised as the systematic communication of information concerning an organisation's social policies, practices, impacts, and performance, particularly regarding employees, human rights, labour practices, community relations, and other stakeholder-related issues. It extends corporate reporting beyond financial outcomes by making socially relevant organisational activities visible to stakeholders. Conceptually, social disclosure therefore encompasses both the scope of information communicated and the institutional context in which such communication occurs. Research indicates that the relationship between reporting requirements and social disclosure is conditioned by the institutional environment, suggesting that disclosure cannot be understood independently of the regulatory and stakeholder structures within which organisations operate (van der Laan Smith et al., 2014). The quality of disclosure is equally important because the existence of a report does not necessarily establish substantive transparency, particularly where reporting practices may become symbolic rather than reflective of underlying organisational performance (Michelon et al., 2015).

The dimensions of social disclosure can be examined through the breadth, specificity, completeness, credibility, and informational quality of reported social matters. These dimensions determine whether disclosure provides stakeholders with meaningful information or merely communicates favourable organisational narratives. Consequently, social disclosure represents more than the numerical volume of social information contained in corporate reports. Its conceptual significance lies in the extent to which reported information possesses sufficient relevance and substance to support stakeholder evaluation of organisational social performance, accountability, and responsibility.

The relevance of social disclosure is further demonstrated by its relationship with organisational value and stakeholder assessment. Social information can communicate aspects of corporate conduct that are not adequately represented by conventional financial indicators, thereby contributing to broader assessments of organisational legitimacy and performance. Evidence from European firms indicates that the information content of corporate social responsibility disclosure is shaped by institutional changes and that the market interpretation of such information can change when reporting moves from voluntary toward mandatory arrangements (Mittelbach-Hörmanseder et al., 2020). This suggests that social disclosure operates within a broader institutional framework in which regulatory requirements, stakeholder expectations, and information asymmetry jointly influence the meaning and consequences of disclosed social information.

Social disclosure also has important applications in communicating organisational conduct concerning socially sensitive matters such as anti-corruption practices, labour conditions, human rights, community engagement, and responsible business behaviour. Its effectiveness, however, depends partly upon whether stakeholders perceive

disclosed information as credible and relevant. Empirical evidence concerning European corporations demonstrates that disclosure relating to anti-corruption practices can positively influence perceptions of corporate social reputation, illustrating how social disclosure can function as a communication mechanism through which organisations shape stakeholder evaluations of socially responsible conduct (Álvarez Etxeberria, 2018). This application reinforces the distinction between disclosure as information provision and disclosure as a mechanism capable of influencing organisational reputation and stakeholder perceptions.

Furthermore, contemporary scholarship increasingly views social disclosure as a potentially consequential organisational practice rather than merely a reporting requirement. Its theoretical significance lies in the possibility that disclosure can influence the internal development of social policies and practices while simultaneously responding to external stakeholder demands. The emerging perspective therefore recognises a reciprocal relationship between what organisations disclose and how they manage social responsibilities, making social disclosure relevant to questions of accountability, organisational change, stakeholder engagement, and substantive corporate social performance. This evolving understanding also places greater emphasis on the quality, specificity, credibility, and practical consequences of disclosed social information rather than disclosure volume alone.

Firm value

Firm value refers to the economic worth attributed to an organisation by capital markets and other valuation perspectives, reflecting expectations concerning its future cash flows, growth opportunities, risk, profitability, and capacity to generate sustainable returns. Conceptually, it represents a forward-looking assessment rather than merely the accounting value of assets or historical financial performance. Contemporary corporate finance literature commonly operationalises firm value through market-based indicators such as Tobin's Q, market-to-book ratios, and related valuation measures because these indicators incorporate investors' expectations about future organisational performance. The conceptual distinction between current operating outcomes and anticipated future opportunities is particularly important because firm valuation incorporates the value of growth options that may not yet be fully represented in reported accounting numbers (Liu et al., 2018). Furthermore, corporate finance scholarship identifies firm value as a central outcome through which financial, strategic, governance, and responsibility-related decisions can be assessed, although the determinants and consequences of value creation remain theoretically contested (Gillan et al., 2021).

The dimensions of firm value can therefore be understood through market valuation, expected future profitability, growth opportunities, risk, and the efficient allocation of organisational resources. These dimensions interact rather than operate independently, because investors evaluate firms according to their capacity to transform resources and strategic opportunities into future economic benefits. Firm value consequently provides a broader analytical perspective than isolated accounting indicators such as earnings or return on assets, since market-based valuation incorporates expectations about future performance and uncertainty. Its measurement is therefore inherently prospective, with changes in investor expectations capable of increasing or reducing market valuation even when contemporaneous accounting performance remains relatively stable.

The relevance of firm value extends across strategic management, corporate finance, accounting, investment analysis, and corporate governance because it provides an important benchmark for assessing whether organisational decisions create or destroy shareholder wealth. Empirical evidence demonstrates that firm value can respond to the interaction between corporate characteristics and external economic conditions rather than following a uniform trajectory. For example, international evidence shows that sustainability performance can moderate the extent to which severe economic disruptions affect firm value, indicating that organisational attributes associated with stakeholder orientation and sustainability may influence the resilience of market valuation during periods of systemic uncertainty (Bose, 2022). Thus, firm value can be viewed as an outcome reflecting both internal organisational capabilities and investors' assessments of how those capabilities affect future economic prospects.

Firm value is also applied in empirical research as a dependent variable for examining the consequences of corporate policies, governance structures, financing decisions, strategic choices, and organisational capabilities. Its use in this

manner reflects the proposition that managerial decisions ultimately influence investors' expectations concerning future cash flows, risk, and competitive advantage. Recent evidence concerning organisational cost structures illustrates this analytical application, showing that cost behaviour can have implications for market valuation and thereby connecting internal managerial decisions with external assessments of organisational worth (Costa & Habib, 2023). Nevertheless, the interpretation of firm value remains subject to debate because observed market valuations may reflect multiple simultaneous influences, making it necessary to distinguish genuine value creation from temporary market reactions, valuation distortions, or changes in investor sentiment.

Moreover, contemporary scholarly understanding increasingly treats firm value as a multidimensional and dynamic construct shaped by the interaction of financial fundamentals, corporate strategy, governance, intangible resources, stakeholder relationships, and changing market expectations. This perspective moves beyond a narrow shareholder-wealth interpretation by recognising that organisational decisions can influence value through several interconnected mechanisms, including competitive positioning, information quality, risk management, innovation, reputation, and resource efficiency. Firm value therefore remains theoretically significant as an integrating construct for examining how corporate decisions translate into economic consequences, while its measurement continues to require careful consideration of the valuation model, institutional setting, time horizon, and specific mechanisms through which organisational actions are expected to influence market perceptions.

Theoretical Review

This study is underpinned by Stakeholder Theory.

Stakeholder Theory

Stakeholder Theory, developed by Freeman (1984), posits that firms should create value not only for shareholders but also for other stakeholders, including employees, customers, suppliers, regulators, investors and host communities. The theory emphasises that effective management of stakeholder relationships is essential for organisational survival, corporate reputation and long-term success. It recognises that companies depend on various stakeholder groups whose interests and expectations can influence corporate decisions, operational activities and overall performance.

In the context of sustainability reporting, Stakeholder Theory explains why firms disclose information about their economic, environmental and social activities to demonstrate accountability and respond to stakeholder expectations. Such disclosure can improve transparency, provide stakeholders with information about corporate responsibilities and risks, and strengthen confidence in the organisation. By communicating their sustainability practices, companies may enhance stakeholder trust, improve corporate reputation and strengthen relationships with investors, employees, customers, regulators, suppliers and host communities. These outcomes may, in turn, influence investors' perceptions of the company and its future prospects, with possible implications for firm value (Freeman, 1984).

The theory is relevant to this study because listed non-financial companies in Nigeria operate within an environment in which their activities may have significant economic, environmental and social implications for different stakeholder groups. Sustainability reporting provides a means through which these companies communicate their responses to stakeholder expectations and demonstrate their commitment to responsible corporate practices. When sustainability disclosures are relevant, credible and consistent, they may reduce information gaps between corporate management and external stakeholders, support informed investment decisions and strengthen confidence in the company. These benefits may contribute to improved corporate reputation and market valuation. However, the extent to which sustainability reporting translates into higher firm value remains an empirical question, as stakeholders may differ in their expectations and in the importance they attach to particular sustainability disclosures. Stakeholder Theory therefore provides an appropriate framework for examining the relationship between sustainability reporting and firm value, particularly the environmental and social disclosure dimensions, among listed non-financial companies in Nigeria.

Empirical Review

Emeka-Nwokeji & Osisioma (2019) examined the effect of sustainability disclosure on the market value of non-financial firms in Nigeria. The study selected 93 of 120 non-financial companies listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange and analyzed annual-report data covering 2006–2015. Sustainability disclosures were measured through content analysis, while Tobin's Q represented firm value. The researchers applied principal component analysis and pooled ordinary least squares regression. The findings showed that aggregate sustainability disclosure significantly increased firm value, while environmental and corporate-governance disclosures had significant positive effects. Social disclosure, however, had a negative and insignificant effect.

Nwaigwe et al. (2022) investigated whether the extent and quality of sustainability disclosure affected the market value of listed Nigerian firms. The researchers examined 39 companies from nine sectors over 2010–2019, generating 390 firm-year observations. Sustainability disclosure was assessed using 31 performance-indicator aspects, while regression analysis was employed to examine its relationship with firm value. The study found that the extent of sustainability disclosure had a positive but statistically insignificant relationship with firm value. However, disclosure quality showed a significant negative relationship with firm value, indicating that the amount and quality of sustainability information could have different valuation implications in Nigeria.

Taiwo et al. (2022) examined the effect of sustainability reporting on market-value growth among quoted companies in Nigeria. From a population of 167 listed firms, 28 companies were purposively selected, with secondary data covering 2009–2018. The researchers used content analysis to assess sustainability reporting and pooled ordinary least squares multivariate regression to estimate the relationship, controlling for company age and financial leverage. The results indicated that compliance with sustainability-reporting requirements was below average and that sustainability reporting did not have a statistically significant effect on market-value growth. The study therefore emphasized greater compliance with Global Reporting Initiative reporting guidelines.

Saleh et al. (2022) investigated the effect of environmental sustainability disclosure on the market value of listed oil and gas firms in Nigeria. The study covered ten listed oil and gas companies and used annual-report data for 2016–2020. Sustainability activities were examined through disclosures relating to economic, legal/ethical, and philanthropic activities, while Tobin's Q was used as the measure of market value. The researchers employed regression analysis to test the hypotheses. The findings indicated that legal/ethical and economic sustainability disclosures had positive and significant effects on market value, suggesting that certain sustainability disclosures could enhance investors' valuation of Nigerian oil and gas firms.

Akhor & Orobob (2023) examined the effect of economic, environmental, and social sustainability reporting on the firm value of listed consumer-goods companies in Nigeria. The study used secondary data from 16 listed consumer-goods firms covering 2016–2021. Robust regression was employed to test the formulated hypotheses. The findings showed that economic sustainability reporting had a positive and significant effect on firm value, while environmental sustainability reporting also had a positive and significant effect. In contrast, social sustainability reporting exerted a negative and significant effect. The authors therefore recommended greater emphasis on economic and environmental sustainability reporting to improve firm value.

Orshi & Yusuf (2024) examined the relationship between sustainability disclosure and firm value among listed Nigerian companies, with institutional ownership considered as a moderating variable. The study used annual reports and Nigerian Exchange price data covering 2014–2021 and analyzed 43 firms. The researchers employed the Feltham and Ohlson linear information valuation model to estimate the determinants of firm value. The results showed that economic and environmental disclosures significantly and positively affected firm value, while social disclosure was insignificant. Institutional ownership also positively affected firm value and strengthened the positive relationship between economic disclosure and firm value.

Methodology

Research Design

This study adopts an *ex-post-facto* research design, relying on historical financial and sustainability data from selected listed non-financial companies in Nigeria. Since the data already exist in audited annual reports and sustainability disclosures, the design is appropriate for examining the effect of sustainability reporting on firm value. The study period spans twelve years, from 2014 to 2025, to ensure comparability and to capture developments in sustainability reporting practices and their effect on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria.

Area of Study

The research focuses on the Nigerian corporate and capital market environment, particularly listed non-financial companies quoted on the Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX). The study examines the effect of sustainability reporting, environmental disclosure and social disclosure on firm value for five selected listed non-financial companies. By concentrating on Nigeria, the study provides context-specific insights into the relationship between sustainability-related disclosures and the market value of companies operating in an emerging economy.

Sources of Data

Secondary data are sourced from the audited annual reports and accounts and sustainability reports of the sampled companies for the years 2014 to 2025. These documents provide the information necessary to measure sustainability reporting, environmental disclosure, social disclosure and firm value. Sustainability reporting (SR), environmental disclosure (ED) and social disclosure (SD) are derived through content analysis of the sustainability-related information disclosed in the annual reports and sustainability reports of the sampled companies, while firm value (FV) is obtained from relevant financial and market information contained in the annual reports and other relevant capital market sources.

Population of the Study

The population consists of all listed non-financial companies quoted on the Nigerian Exchange Group as of 2025. These companies represent the broader non-financial sector of the Nigerian capital market and operate in different sectors of the economy. The population provides the basis from which the selected companies used for the study are drawn.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique:

Using purposive sampling, five listed non-financial companies with consistent, reliable and accessible financial and sustainability information over the study period were selected. The sample includes: Nestlé Nigeria Plc, Dangote Cement Plc, BUA Cement Plc, Flour Mills of Nigeria Plc, and Nigerian Breweries Plc. These companies were selected based on their listing status, availability of annual reports and sustainability-related information, and their suitability for providing the data required to measure the variables of the study.

The study covers twelve years, from 2014 to 2025. Therefore, the sample comprises five companies observed over twelve years, giving a total of 60 firm-year observations, subject to the availability of the required data for each company and year.

Model Specification

A. General Functional Form:

$$FV_{it} = f(\text{Sustainability reporting}_{it}, \text{Environmental disclosure}_{it}, \text{Social disclosure}_{it})$$

B. Econometric Form:

$$FV_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 SR_{it} + \beta_2 ED_{it} + \beta_3 SD_{it} + c_i + \epsilon_{it}$$

Where:

FV_{it} = Firm value of company i in year t

SR_{it} = Sustainability reporting of company i in year t

ED_{it} = Environmental disclosure of company i in year t

SD_{it} = Social disclosure of company i in year t

β_0 = Intercept term

$\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3$ = Coefficients to be estimated

c_i = Unobserved firm-specific effects

ϵ_{it} = Error term

Method of Data Analysis

Descriptive statistics were employed to summarize and describe the characteristics of the data, including mean values, standard deviations, and minimum and maximum values across the study period. For inferential analysis, panel data regression techniques, specifically Panel Least Squares (PLS), were applied to estimate the effects of sustainability reporting, environmental disclosure, and social disclosure on firm value. Diagnostic tests, such as multicollinearity checks, heteroskedasticity tests, and Hausman specification tests, were conducted to verify the assumptions of the regression model and to select the appropriate panel data estimator (fixed effects or random effects).

Data Presentation and Analysis

Data Presentation

Descriptive Statistics

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of the variables

	SR	ED	SD	FV
Mean	0.715183	0.635733	0.657350	1.670867
Median	0.713500	0.626000	0.655000	1.619000
Maximum	0.856000	0.801000	0.781000	2.438000
Minimum	0.578000	0.506000	0.547000	1.213000
Std. Dev.	0.066058	0.071197	0.056701	0.295600
Skewness	0.064792	0.283944	0.118417	0.624847
Kurtosis	2.385244	2.364704	2.390084	2.669284
Jarque-Bera	0.986793	1.815241	1.070218	4.177768
Probability	0.610549	0.403483	0.585605	0.123825
Sum	42.91100	38.14400	39.44100	100.2520
Sum Sq.	30.94669	24.54848	26.11622	172.6631
Sum Sq. Dev.	0.257455	0.299070	0.189684	5.155365
Observations	60	60	60	60

Source: E-view 14.0 Statistical Output, 2026

Table 1 shows the descriptive statistics for sustainability reporting (SR), environmental disclosure (ED), social disclosure (SD) and firm value (FV) of the sampled listed non-financial companies in Nigeria from 2014 to 2025.

The mean sustainability reporting (SR) of 0.7152 indicates that, on average, the sampled firms recorded a sustainability reporting level of approximately 71.52% during the study period. Environmental disclosure (ED) has a mean of 0.6357, suggesting that the firms disclosed approximately 63.57% of the environmental disclosure items on average. Social disclosure (SD) records a slightly higher mean of 0.6735, indicating an average social disclosure level of approximately 67.35%. The mean firm value (FV) of 1.6709 suggests that the sampled firms had an average firm value of approximately 1.67 over the period.

The median values of 0.7135 for SR, 0.6260 for ED, 0.6550 for SD and 1.6190 for FV are relatively close to their respective mean values. This suggests that the distributions of the variables do not appear to be heavily influenced by extreme observations. The minimum and maximum values further indicate variation across the sampled firms and years. Sustainability reporting ranges from 0.5780 to 0.8560, environmental disclosure ranges from 0.5060 to 0.8010, and social disclosure ranges from 0.5470 to 0.7810. Firm value records the widest relative variation, ranging from 1.2130 to 2.4380, indicating differences in the market valuation of the sampled companies over the study period.

The standard deviations reveal the extent of variability around the mean values. SR has a standard deviation of 0.0661, indicating relatively moderate variation in sustainability reporting among the observations. ED has a standard deviation of 0.0712, showing slightly greater variability than SR, while SD has a standard deviation of 0.0567, indicating comparatively lower variation in social disclosure. Firm value has a standard deviation of 0.2956, which is considerably higher than those of the disclosure variables, suggesting greater variability in the market valuation of the sampled firms during the period.

The skewness statistics show that all four variables are positively skewed. SR has a skewness value of 0.0648, indicating an almost symmetrical distribution with only a very slight positive skew. ED has a skewness of 0.2839, while SD records 0.1184, both indicating mild positive skewness. FV has a skewness value of 0.6248, indicating a more noticeable positive skewness, suggesting that some relatively high firm-value observations pull the distribution towards the right. Nevertheless, the skewness values are not excessively large, suggesting that the variables do not exhibit severe asymmetry.

The kurtosis values are 2.3852 for SR, 2.3647 for ED, 2.3901 for SD and 2.6693 for FV. Since the values are below 3, the distributions are slightly platykurtic, indicating somewhat lighter tails and flatter distributions compared with a normal distribution. However, the values are reasonably close to 3, suggesting that there is no extreme departure from the normal distribution in the variables.

The Jarque-Bera statistics further provide evidence concerning the normality of the variables. The corresponding probability values are 0.6105 for SR, 0.4035 for ED, 0.5856 for SD and 0.1238 for FV. Since all the probability values are greater than the 5% significance level, the null hypothesis of normality cannot be rejected for any of the variables. This indicates that the distributions of SR, ED, SD and FV do not significantly depart from normality, thereby supporting the suitability of the data for subsequent panel regression analysis.

Table 2: Panel Regression Analysis Result of the Time Series Data

Dependent Variable: FV					
Method: Panel Least Squares					
Date: 09/03/26 Time: 18:41					
Sample: 2014 2025					
Periods included: 12					
Cross-sections included: 5					
Total panel (balanced) observations: 60					
Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.	
SR	1.605537	1.094328	1.467144	0.1479	
ED	2.714706	0.651336	4.167906	0.0001	
SD	-0.145334	0.683187	-0.212729	0.8323	
C	-1.107680	0.127585	-8.681892	0.0000	
R-squared	0.938660	Mean dependent var		1.670867	
Adjusted R-squared	0.935374	S.D. dependent var		0.295600	
S.E. of regression	0.075146	Akaike info criterion		-2.274415	
Sum squared resid	0.316231	Schwarz criterion		-2.134792	
Log likelihood	72.23245	Hannan-Quinn criter.		-2.219801	
F-statistic	285.6467	Durbin-Watson stat		0.607344	
Prob(F-statistic)	0.000000				

Source: E-view 14.0 Statistical Output, 2026

Table 2 presents the results of the Panel Least Squares regression analyzing the effect of sustainability reporting (SR), environmental disclosure (ED), and social disclosure (SD) on firm value (FV) of five listed non-financial companies in Nigeria over the period 2014 to 2025.

The results reveal that SR has a positive and statistically significant effect on firm value, with a coefficient of 1.6055 and a probability value of 0.1479. Although the coefficient is positive, the p-value is greater than the 5% significance level. Therefore, sustainability reporting has a positive but statistically insignificant effect on firm value. This indicates that an increase in sustainability reporting is associated with an increase in firm value, but the relationship is not sufficiently strong to establish a statistically significant effect within the sampled firms.

Similarly, ED has a positive coefficient of 2.7147 with a probability value of 0.0001. This indicates that environmental disclosure has a positive and statistically significant effect on firm value at the 1% level. Specifically, a unit increase in environmental disclosure is associated with an estimated 2.7147-unit increase in firm value, holding the other variables constant. This suggests that greater disclosure of environmental activities and responsibilities may enhance how investors assess the value of the sampled companies.

In contrast, SD has a negative coefficient of -0.1453 with a probability value of 0.8323. This indicates that social disclosure has a negative but statistically insignificant effect on firm value. Although the coefficient suggests an inverse relationship, the very high p-value indicates that the observed negative relationship is not statistically significant. Thus, there is insufficient evidence to conclude that social disclosure has a significant effect on firm value among the sampled companies.

The constant term (C) is negative and statistically significant at the 1% level, with a coefficient of -1.1077 and a probability value of 0.0000. This indicates that, when SR, ED and SD are held at zero, the estimated baseline firm value is approximately -1.108. However, as the likelihood of all the disclosure indices being zero is unrealistic within the context of the sampled firms, the intercept has limited practical interpretation.

The R-squared value of 0.9387 indicates that approximately 93.87% of the variation in firm value is explained by sustainability reporting, environmental disclosure and social disclosure included in the model. The adjusted R-squared of 0.9357 indicates that the model retains a very high explanatory power after accounting for the number of explanatory variables. This suggests that the model provides a strong explanation of variations in firm value across the sampled companies and years.

The F-statistic of 285.2647 with a probability value of 0.0000 indicates that the overall regression model is statistically significant at the 1% level. This means that, taken jointly, sustainability reporting, environmental disclosure and social disclosure have a statistically significant relationship with firm value. Thus, the model as a whole provides significant explanatory power for firm value.

Finally, the Durbin-Watson statistic of 0.6073 is substantially below the conventional benchmark of approximately 2.0, suggesting the possibility of positive serial correlation in the residuals. This indicates that the regression results should be interpreted with some caution and that additional diagnostic or robust estimation procedures may be appropriate before drawing final econometric conclusions.

Test of Hypotheses

Test of Hypothesis One

Restatement of the Hypothesis in Null and Alternate forms:

H_{01} : Sustainability reporting has no significant effect on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria.

H_{a1} : Sustainability reporting has a significant effect on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria.

Statement of Decision Rule:

Reject the null hypothesis (H_0) if the p-value of the t-statistic is less than 0.05. Otherwise, accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternate hypothesis.

Decision:

From the regression result, the coefficient of SR is 1.6055, with a t-statistic of 1.4671 and a p-value of 0.1479, which is greater than 0.05. Therefore, H_{01} is accepted, and the alternate hypothesis is rejected.

This indicates that sustainability reporting has a positive but statistically insignificant effect on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria during the study period.

Test of Hypothesis Two

Restatement of the Hypothesis in Null and Alternate forms:

H_{02} : Environmental disclosure has no significant effect on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria.

H_{a2} : Environmental disclosure has a significant effect on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria.

Statement of Decision Rule:

Reject the null hypothesis (H_0) if the p-value of the t-statistic is less than 0.05. Otherwise, accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternate hypothesis.

Decision:

The coefficient of ED is 2.7147, with a t-statistic of 4.1671 and a p-value of 0.0001, which is less than 0.05. Therefore, H_{02} is rejected, and the alternate hypothesis is accepted.

This implies that environmental disclosure has a positive and statistically significant effect on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria over the study period.

Test of Hypothesis Three

Restatement of the Hypothesis in Null and Alternate forms:

H_{03} : Social disclosure has no significant effect on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria.

H_{a3} : Social disclosure has a significant effect on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria.

Statement of Decision Rule:

Reject the null hypothesis (H_0) if the p-value of the t-statistic is less than 0.05. Otherwise, accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternate hypothesis.

Decision:

The coefficient of SD is -0.1453, with a t-statistic of -0.2127 and a p-value of 0.8323, which is greater than 0.05. Therefore, H_{03} is accepted, and the alternate hypothesis is rejected.

Summary of Findings, Conclusion and Recommendations

Summary of Findings

The key findings of the study are elucidated below:

- i. Sustainability Reporting was found to have a positive but statistically insignificant effect on firm value, with a coefficient of 1.6055 ($t = 1.4671$, $p = 0.1479$). This finding indicates that an increase in sustainability reporting is associated with an increase in the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria. However, the relationship is not statistically significant, suggesting that the level of sustainability reporting

does not have a sufficiently strong or consistent effect on firm value across the sampled companies during the study period.

- ii. Environmental Disclosure showed a positive and statistically significant effect on firm value, with a coefficient of 2.7147 ($t = 4.1671$, $p = 0.0001$). This result indicates that greater environmental disclosure is associated with higher firm value among the sampled listed non-financial companies. It suggests that information relating to environmental policies, environmental management and corporate environmental activities may be relevant to investors in assessing the value and prospects of companies.
- iii. Social Disclosure had a negative but statistically insignificant effect on firm value, with a coefficient of -0.1453 ($t = -0.2127$, $p = 0.8323$). Although the negative coefficient indicates an inverse relationship between social disclosure and firm value, the high p-value shows that the effect is not statistically significant. This suggests that social disclosure does not have a significant influence on the firm value of the sampled listed non-financial companies during the period under review.

Conclusion

The study conclusively found that among the three sustainability-related variables examined—Sustainability Reporting (SR), Environmental Disclosure (ED), and Social Disclosure (SD)—only environmental disclosure exhibited a statistically significant effect on the firm value of listed non-financial companies in Nigeria. Notably, the significant relationship was positive, suggesting that greater environmental disclosure is associated with higher firm value.

On the other hand, sustainability reporting and social disclosure showed statistically insignificant effects on firm value. Sustainability reporting had a positive but insignificant relationship with firm value, while social disclosure exhibited a negative but insignificant relationship. These findings indicate that, despite the potential relevance of sustainability and social information to investors, their effects were not sufficiently strong or consistent to significantly influence firm value during the study period.

These findings imply that firm value among listed non-financial companies in Nigeria may be influenced by a broader set of factors, including financial performance, macroeconomic conditions, investor perceptions, corporate governance, industry conditions, regulatory requirements, and market dynamics, rather than sustainability-related disclosures alone. The significant positive effect of environmental disclosure, however, suggests that environmental information may be particularly relevant to investors when assessing the long-term prospects and value of Nigerian non-financial companies.

Therefore, while sustainability reporting remains an important component of contemporary corporate reporting, listed non-financial companies may need to place greater emphasis on transparent, credible and comprehensive environmental disclosure, while simultaneously improving the quality and relevance of their overall sustainability and social disclosures. An integrated approach that combines effective sustainability practices with sound financial and strategic management may enhance stakeholder confidence and contribute to the long-term value of firms.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed:

- i. Since sustainability reporting had a positive but statistically insignificant effect on firm value, listed non-financial companies should improve the quality, consistency and credibility of their sustainability reporting. Firms should provide clear and comprehensive information on their sustainability activities and impacts rather than treating sustainability reporting merely as a compliance exercise. This may enhance transparency, stakeholder confidence and the usefulness of non-financial information to investors.
- ii. Given the statistically significant positive effect of environmental disclosure on firm value, listed non-financial companies should place greater emphasis on comprehensive environmental disclosure. Firms should provide detailed information on environmental policies, energy consumption, emissions, waste management, pollution

control, environmental protection initiatives and compliance with environmental requirements. Improved environmental transparency may strengthen investor confidence and enhance the market valuation of firms.

- iii. Since social disclosure had a negative but statistically insignificant effect on firm value, listed non-financial companies should continue to improve the relevance and quality of their social disclosures while ensuring that disclosed social activities are properly integrated into corporate strategy. Firms should provide transparent information on employee welfare, health and safety, training and development, human rights and community development, while demonstrating how such initiatives contribute to sustainable business operations and long-term corporate value.

Reference

- Abdullah, M., Hamzah, N., Ali, M. H., Tseng, M.-L., & Brander, M. (2020). The Southeast Asian haze: The quality of environmental disclosures and firm performance. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 246, 118958. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2019.118958>
- Akhor, S. O., & Orobah, U. J. (2023). The effect of sustainability reporting on firm value in Nigeria: Evidence from listed consumer good firms. *International Journal of Research and Scientific Innovation*, 10(7), 220–231. <https://doi.org/10.51244/IJRSI.2023.10727>
- Atanda, F. A., Osemene, F., & Ogundana, H. F. (2021). Sustainability reporting and firm value: Evidence from selected deposit money banks in Nigeria. *Global Journal of Accounting*, 7(1), 47–68.
- Álvarez Etcheberria, I. (2018). The social reputation of European companies: Does anti-corruption disclosure affect stakeholders' perceptions? *Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management*, 25(5), 713–721. <https://doi.org/10.1002/csr.1488>
- Bais, B., Nassimbeni, G., & Orzes, G. (2024). Global Reporting Initiative: Literature review and research directions. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 471, 143428. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2024.143428>
- Bose, S. (2022). COVID-19 impact, sustainability performance and firm value: International evidence. *Accounting & Finance*, 62(1), 597–643. <https://doi.org/10.1111/acfi.12801>
- Bradford, M., Earp, J. B., Showalter, D. S., & Williams, P. F. (2017). Corporate sustainability reporting and stakeholder concerns: Is there a disconnect? *Accounting Horizons*, 31(1), 83–102. <https://doi.org/10.2308/acch-51639>
- Chauhan, Y., & Kumar, S. B. (2018). Do investors value the nonfinancial disclosure in emerging markets? *Emerging Markets Review*, 37, 32–46. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ememar.2018.05.001>
- Christensen, H. B., Hail, L., & Leuz, C. (2021). Mandatory CSR and sustainability reporting: Economic analysis and literature review. *Review of Accounting Studies*, 26, 1176–1248. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11142-021-09609-5>
- Costa, M. D., & Habib, A. (2023). Cost stickiness and firm value. *Journal of Management Control*, 34, 235–273. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00187-023-00356-z>
- D'Amico, E., Coluccia, D., Fontana, S., & Solimene, S. (2016). Factors influencing corporate environmental disclosure. *Business Strategy and the Environment*, 25(3), 178–192. <https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.1865>
- Dienes, D., Sassen, R., & Fischer, J. (2016). What are the drivers of sustainability reporting? A systematic review. *Sustainability Accounting, Management and Policy Journal*, 7(2), 154–189. <https://doi.org/10.1108/SAMPJ-08-2014-0050>
- Emeka-Nwokeji, N. A. (2019). Nexus between corporate social responsibility disclosures and market value of listed non-financial firms in Nigeria. *International Journal for Innovative Research in Multidisciplinary Field*, 5(3), 247–255.
- Emeka-Nwokeji, N. A., & Osisioma, B. C. (2019). Sustainability disclosures and market value of firms in emerging economy: Evidence from Nigeria. *European Journal of Accounting, Auditing and Finance Research*, 7(3), 1–19.
- Freeman, R. E. (1984). *Strategic management: A stakeholder approach*. Pitman Publishing.
- Giannarakis, G., Andronikidis, A., & Sariannidis, N. (2020). Determinants of environmental disclosure: Investigating new and conventional corporate governance characteristics. *Annals of Operations Research*, 294(1), 87–105. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10479-019-03323-x>
- Gillan, S. L., Koch, A., & Starks, L. T. (2021). Firms and social responsibility: A review of ESG and CSR research in corporate finance. *Journal of Corporate Finance*, 66, 101889. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcorpfin.2021.101889>

- Igwe, M. N., Khatib, S. F. A., & Bazhair, A. H. (2023). Sustainability reporting in Africa: A systematic review and agenda for future research. *Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management*, 30(5), 2081–2100. <https://doi.org/10.1002/csr.2494>
- Liu, H., Li, Q., & Zeng, Y. (2018). Firm valuation over lifecycle: A perspective on growth option. *Asia-Pacific Journal of Financial Studies*, 47(5), 720–743. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajfs.12236>
- Loh, L., Thomas, T., & Wang, Y. (2017). Sustainability reporting and firm value: Evidence from Singapore-listed companies. *Sustainability*, 9(11), 2112. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su9112112>
- Michelon, G., Pilonato, S., & Ricceri, F. (2015). CSR reporting practices and the quality of disclosure: An empirical analysis. *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*, 33, 59–78. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpa.2014.10.003>
- Mittelbach-Hörmanseder, S., Hummel, K., & Rammerstorfer, M. (2020). The information content of corporate social responsibility disclosure in Europe: An institutional perspective. *European Accounting Review*, 29(2), 309–348. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09638180.2020.1763818>
- Monteiro, A. P., García-Sánchez, I.-M., & Aibar-Guzmán, B. (2023). Can social disclosure induce a better corporate social performance? *Economic Research-Ekonomska Istraživanja*, 36(3), 2217885. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1331677X.2023.2217885>
- Nasreen, T., Baker, R., & Rezania, D. (2025). Sustainability reporting: A systematic review of various dimensions, theoretical and methodological underpinnings. *Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting*, 23(3), 1057–1088. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JFRA-01-2022-0029>
- Nwaigwe, N. G., Ofoegbu, G. N., Dibia, N. O., & Nwaogwugwu, C. V. (2022). Sustainability disclosure: Impact of its extent and quality on value of listed firms in Nigeria. *Cogent Business & Management*, 9(1), 2079393. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311975.2022.2079393>
- Olagunju, A., & Ajiboye, O. O. (2022). Environmental accounting disclosure and market value of listed non-financial firms in Nigeria. *International Journal of Management, Accounting and Economics*, 9(7), 413–430.
- Orshi, T. S., & Yusuf, M. A. (2024). Sustainability disclosure, institutional ownership and value of listed companies in Nigeria. *Asian Journal of Accounting Perspectives*, 17(2), 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.22452/AJAP.vol17no2.1>
- Plumlee, M., Brown, D., Hayes, R. M., & Marshall, R. S. (2015). Voluntary environmental disclosure quality and firm value: Further evidence. *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*, 34(4), 336–361. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaccpubpol.2015.04.004>
- Prasad, M., Mishra, T., & Kalro, A. D. (2017). Environmental disclosure by Indian companies: An empirical study. *Environment, Development and Sustainability*, 19(5), 1999–2022. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10668-016-9840-5>
- Pratt, W. R., Barboza, G. A., & Brigida, M. (2023). Leverage and firm value. *Economic Notes*, 52(2), e12218. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecno.12218>
- Saleh, M. A., Bappah, S., Orsaa, G. D., & Saleh, I. A. (2022). Environmental sustainability disclosure and market value of listed oil and gas firms in Nigeria. *Gusau Journal of Accounting and Finance*, 3(1), 22.
- Taiwo, O. J., Owolabi, B. A., Adedokun, Y., & Ogundajo, G. (2022). Sustainability reporting and market value growth of quoted companies in Nigeria. *Journal of Financial Reporting and Accounting*, 20(3/4), 542–557. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JFRA-05-2020-0143>
- van der Laan Smith, J., Gouldman, A. L., & Tondkar, R. H. (2014). Does the adoption of IFRS affect corporate social disclosure in annual reports? *Advances in Accounting*, 30(2), 402–412. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adiac.2014.09.015>
- Yun, F., Lan, T., & Chen, Y. (2023). Cover-up or true? Does CSR disclosure really contribute to corporate environmental performance? *Frontiers in Environmental Science*, 11, 1139088. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fenvs.2023.1139088>