



EFFECT OF FIRM ATTRIBUTES ON SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING OF LISTED MANUFACTURING FIRMS IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study investigates the effect of firm attributes on the sustainability reporting of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria. Reports and accounts of forty-six adjusted populations were used for the extraction of data for a period of ten years (2013-2022). Moreover, multiple regression was used as the technique for data analysis. The results reveal that firm profitability was negatively significant on sustainability reporting. However, firm size, firm age have a significant positive impact on the sustainability reporting of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria. The study concludes that firm profitability is a strong determinant of sustainability reporting of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria. Indeed, it was concluded that bigger firms are more inclined to sustainability reporting than their smaller counterparts because older firms have more incentives to embrace sustainability reporting than the younger firms. Therefore, the study recommends that management of the listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria should make proper utilization of their firm profitability since it was found to be instrumental in promoting their sustainability reporting. Specifically, greater emphasis should be given to the profit before interest and tax relative to their total assets.

Keywords: firm attributes, sustainability reporting, Nigerian manufacturing firms

1. Introduction

A fair, objective, and reasonable portrayal of a reporting company's sustainability performance, both positive and negative, is provided by corporate sustainability reporting (KPMG, 2020). In this study, "sustainability reporting" refers to a report that goes beyond the company's pertinent risks and opportunities to include its ability to interact with the external environment. For manufacturing companies, sustainability reporting is essential because it allows the disclosure of the company's environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance and advancements made toward sustainability objectives (GRI, 2020).

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (2015), manufacturing companies have a major impact on the environment due to their greenhouse gas emissions and resource depletion from sustainable practices. Sustainability reporting improves stakeholder participation, makes it easier to identify risks and opportunities, and boosts brand value and reputation (IIRC, 2013). Improving sustainability reporting procedures among Nigerian manufacturing companies improves investor appeal, competitive advantages, and business legitimacy in addition to ensuring compliance with international standards.

There are several factors that can influence the quality of sustainability reporting. One among these factors is corporate governance mechanism which can lead to increase in the quality of sustainability reporting (Wang, 2018). Therefore, corporate governance attributes influence sustainability reporting. Corporate governance ensures that corporate managers act in stakeholders' best interests and enhance firm transparency (Alm El-Din, et al. 2022; Benameur, et al. 2023). These



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attributes include firm attributes (profitability, size, and age).

Higher profitability may indicate a stronger financial position and potentially more resources available for sustainability reporting activities. Sustainability reporting leads to enhancement in firm performance and enhancement in financial performance is observable in firms with a proactive communication strategy (Herbohn, et al. 2014). The effect on firm performance is higher for developed than developing economies and sustainability reporting positively affects firm profitability (Nguyen & Nguyen, 2020). Firm profitability also enhances the firm capability to bear the disclosure costs. Subsequently, empirical research finds that profit-making firms report substantial sustainability information (Orazalin & Mahmood 2020; Kouloukoui, et al. 2019).

Moreover, firm size is often associated with greater resources, dedicated staff, and established reporting frameworks, which can contribute to higher Sustainability disclosure. There are studies that show a relationship between sustainability reporting and firm size, and suggested that larger firms disclose more sustainability information. This is because large firms are more visible and face pressure from stakeholders (Orazalin & Mahmood, 2020; Bhatia & Tuli 2017; Kouloukoui et al., 2019). Larger companies may have the capacity to collect, measure, and report on a wider range of sustainability indicators. More capital investment, larger asset sales, and higher money turnover all increase the company's credibility (Sudarmo & Sularto, 2007). Firms that are larger in size are presumed to disclose more information to the public and are likely battling legitimacy issues compared to firms that are smaller in size (Onyinye & Amakor, 2019). Likewise, larger firms are affordable on the costs of disclosure (Hassanein & Hussainey 2015).

Furthermore, firm age refers to the number of years a company has been in operation. Firm age is linked to competitiveness and performance (Indriyani & Yuliandhari, 2020). As companies mature, they tend to establish a stronger presence in their environment, gaining public legitimacy (Rusila & Mukhzarudfa, 2019). Sustainable businesses are particularly aware of the importance of annual report that is why they prioritize upgrading their sustainability disclosure to attract attention and engage with stakeholders (Bhatia & Tuli, 2017). Empirical research finds that older firms disseminate sustainability information more than new firms, suggesting that sustainability reporting is driven by firm age (Bhatia & Tuli 2017). De Villiers and Marques (2016) depicts that sustainability reporting is positively associated with firm age.

The main objective of this study is to investigate the effect of firm attributes (firm profitability, firm size and firm age) on sustainability reporting of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria whereby research questions were raised. This study is categorized into the foregoing introduction, literature review, research methodology, result and discussion, and finally the conclusion and recommendations.

2. Literature Review

Several studies were empirically reviewed under this section of the study;

Firm Profitability and Sustainability Reporting

Despite the fact that there are few studies on firm profitability and sustainability reporting, there is still a lag. Studies reviewed show that there is a strong connection between the profitability and the quality of sustainability practices

Olusola, et al. (2021) looked into how firm profitability among others affect environmental reporting. The study uses an Ex-post Facto covering the whole 67 manufacturing companies in 2018 and the study uses the Proportional Sampling Technique in chosen the 23 sample manufacturing companies. The extracted data were analysed using a regression model. Moreover, Alotaibi (2020),



examines the determinants of sustainability disclosure of Saudi listed companies. Two main dimensions of the factors influencing sustainability disclosure were investigated: company characteristics (size, age, profitability, type of industry, and leverage) and board of directors' characteristics (size, independence, and annual number of meetings)

Furthermore, Karaman et al. (2018) investigate empirically what affects Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)-based sustainability reporting and its relationship with firm performance in the aviation industry between 2006 and 2015. The study derived data from the GRI Sustainability Disclosure Database and Thomson Reuters EIKON; from the former, they downloaded GRI-based reports, and from the latter, they obtained financial data. Additionally, the impact of board features on the sustainability reporting of listed companies in Malaysia is examined by Ghuslan and Saleh (2017). Through the use of a systematic random sampling technique, a sample size of 70 companies was determined. The study's data came from accounts and annual reports for the years 2012 and 2013. With the use of multiple regression analysis, the study's findings revealed firm profitability affects the degree of sustainability reporting. Likewise, Ben-Amar et al. (2017) deposits a study with a strong association between them.

Also, Arthur (2016) examines the determinants of the level of sustainability report of mining companies in Ghana in the absence of regulatory and statutory requirements. Fifty sustainability reports of 10 large scale mining companies in Ghana were used from the period of 2008 to 2012. With the use of content analysis, the study finds that there are significant effects of profitability (positive), among others on the level of Sustainability Report. Besides, Vural-Yavas (2016) examined profitability as determinants of the capital structure of the firms that provide high-quality corporate sustainability reporting. First, all the non-financial companies quoted in Borsa Istanbul (BIST) were studied and all the firms that are included in the computation of the BIST Sustainability Index (XUSRD) were also analyzed as the firms that provide high-quality corporate sustainability reporting. Moreover, long-term and short-term debt ratios were selected as proxies. More so, Giannarakis, (2014) reported a strong relation.

Furthermore, Li et al. (2011) examined the present trends and factors influencing sustainability disclosure in the international forest business. In order to assess the economic, environmental, and social performance of the 66 largest forest companies globally, a content analysis of their voluntary disclosure is carried out in accordance with the extensive quantifiable measures and occurrences of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) framework. In addition, Dilling (2010) investigates significant variations pertaining to size, financial performance, capital structure, and corporate governance amongst firms that issue a G3 SR and those that do not. Quantitative and qualitative variables of 124 randomly selected G3 reporting and non-G3 reporting corporations within 25 countries were analyzed. In the results it is discovered that firms with a higher profit margin tend to produce high quality sustainability reports.

Tong (2017) investigated the effects of company-specific variables on the amount of corporate social responsibility (CSR) information disclosed in publicly traded companies in the United Kingdom (UK) and Malaysia. Content analysis was applied to sampled reports from the FTSE 100 Index and FTSE Bursa KLCI against inferred meanings from the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)-derived coding base to identify similarities and/or differences in CSR disclosure practices. Moreover, Reiner (2008) evaluated the quality of German sustainability reports using GRI guidelines as a benchmark for constructing and applying a scoring model. Analysis was done Twenty-six reports from companies listed on the DAX30 and the MDAX. The result stated a weak positive correlation between the financial performance of a company and the quality of sustainability reporting.



H₀₁: Firm profitability has no significant impact on sustainability reporting of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria

Firm Size and Sustainability Reporting

Fadillah et al. (2022) examined the impact of company attributes on the sustainability reporting of mining companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange in 2015 – 2019. Based on the purposive sampling method, the sample chosen is 14 companies with a total sample size of 70 data points. The study used multiple linear regression analysis using SPSS version 25. The result showed that firm size has a positive impact on sustainability reporting. Moreover, Onyinye and Amakor (2019), examines the impact of firm attributes on sustainability reporting of thirty-five listed companies in Nigeria covering the period of 2011 to 2017. The study adopted an ex-post causal research design and data were gathered using secondary sources. The study uses general least square to analyze the data which show that firm size among other variables depict that there is a positive and significant on the sustainability reporting.

Additionally, Alotaibi (2020), examines the determinants of environmental sustainability disclosure of Saudi listed companies. Two main dimensions of the factors influencing sustainability disclosure were investigated: company characteristics (size, age, profitability, type of industry, and leverage) and board of directors' characteristics (size, independence, and annual number of meetings). Also, Muhammad (2020) examined the impact of firm-specific attributes on the sustainability reporting practices of industrial goods firms listed on the floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) Market. A correlational study design was used in a sample of 11 companies over 9 years (2010– 2018). More so, Karaman et al. (2018) investigate empirically what affects Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)-based sustainability reporting and its relationship with firm performance in the aviation industry between 2006 and 2015.

Furthermore, Tong (2017) investigated the effects of company-specific variables on the amount of corporate social responsibility (CSR) information disclosed in publicly traded companies in the United Kingdom (UK) and Malaysia. Content analysis was applied to sampled reports from the FTSE 100 Index and FTSE Bursa KLCI against inferred meanings from the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)-derived coding base to identify similarities and/or differences in CSR disclosure practices. Additionally, Obeitoh et al. (2017) examine the determining factors and level of corporate sustainability disclosure among employees in Malaysia. The study covers a six-year period from 2010 to 2015 for 253 companies in Malaysia. The study employed a two-step system called the generalized method of moments (GMM) for analysis.

Similarly, Ong et al. (2016) carry out a study in Malaysia on the connection between environmental disclosures and financial performance of publicly listed companies. The result showed that large companies provided more environmental information and better-quality disclosures. Moreover, Kuzey and Uyar (2016) carried out a study geared towards investigating the factors responsible for the practice of sustainability reporting by listed Turkish firms. The results reveal that firm size is identified as a major sustainability reporting determinant.

Oyewo and Badejo (2014) carried out a study on sustainable development reporting practice by banks in Nigeria. A 30-item checklist was constructed to use for content analysis of the 2012 published annual reports of 12 publicly quoted banks selected for sustainability practice disclosures. The items were grouped into four main classes of sustainability as follows; social, economic, environmental and then general. It employed correlation analysis to analyze the association among variables. Moreover, Li et al. (2011) examines current models and determining factors of sustainability disclosure in the forest industry globally. The results of the regression analysis show firm size to be significantly associated with disclosure when developing sustainability reporting strategies in the forest industry.



H₀₂: Firm size has no significant impact on sustainability reporting of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria

Firm Age and Sustainability Reporting

Fadillah et al. (2022) analyse the effect of firm attributes on sustainability reporting of mining companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange in 2015–2019. Using the purposive sampling technique, a sample of fourteen businesses with a total of seventy data points was selected. Multiple linear regression analysis was utilized in the study using SPSS version 25.

In addition, Alotaibi (2020), examines the determinants of environmental sustainability disclosure of Saudi listed companies. Two main dimensions of the factors influencing sustainability disclosure were investigated: company characteristics (size, age, profitability, type of industry, and leverage) and board of directors' characteristics (size, independence, and annual number of meetings). This research study utilized the content analysis approach in order to collect data from annual reports of non-financial companies listed in the Saudi stock market between 2015 and 2017. The total number of annual reports that were covered in this research is 357, which pertains to 119 non-financial companies that were listed during the study period. The study focused on the disclosure of environmental sustainability, which is one of the three branches of sustainability (social, economic, and environmental). The Global Initiative Reports (GRI - G4) issued by the United Nations in 2013 were used to examine these annual reports with respect to the disclosure of environmental sustainability. The findings revealed that firm age is among the important determinants when it comes to the disclosure of environmental sustainability.

H₀₃: Firm age has no significant impact on sustainability reporting of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria

3. Research Methodology

This study adopts a correlational research design in order to determine the extent to which the values of board attributes and Sustainability reporting are related or change in an identifiable pattern. The population of the study covers all the seventy-six (76) manufacturing firms listed on the Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX), formerly known as Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) as at December 31st, 2023. To determine the sample size, the study adopts census filtering criteria. Therefore, the study used adjusted population in arriving at the sample size, as used by the study in establishing some certain criteria to filter the population. Thus, a company must meet up with the requirements for it to be part of the sample of the study. Therefore, the criteria are as follows:

- A. Company must be listed on the NGX on or before 2013 to 2022 as the period of the study covers from 2013 to 2022.
- B. Company must have been consistently listed in the NGX throughout the period of the study.
- C. Company must have its full annual report published and accessible throughout the period of the study.



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Table 1

Adjusted Population of the Study

S/N	List of Companies	List of Population	List of Sampled
1.	Consumer Goods Firms	26	18
2.	Industrials Goods Firms	22	10
3.	Healthcare Firms	6	5
4.	Natural Resources	9	3
5.	Oil and Gas Firms	12	10
1.	Utility	1	-
Total		76	46

Source: Generated from table 1 population of the study

Based on the objective of this study, the study used secondary sources for gathering data. The data collection process involves extracting data from published annual reports and accounts of the forty-six (46) sampled manufacturing firms, which are listed on the NGX.

Table 2

Variables Definition and Measurement

Variables	Operational Definition	Measurement	Sources
Dependent			
Sustainability Reporting (SR)	Environmental, Social and Economic indices	GRI Standards Indices	Permatasari et al. (2020);
Independent			
Firm Profitability (FP)	This is the annual profit yield from the company's business operations.	The measurement is return on assets (net income divided by total assets).	Nguyen (2020)
Firm Size (FS)	This is the complete financial worthiness of an organization in terms of its assets.	Firm size is measured as total assets.	Bhatia and Tuli (2017)
Firm Age (FA)	Firm age, existence of firm in the business and reporting.	Age of the firm since incorporation	Wang (2020)
Control			
Financial Leverage (FL)	The financial leverage ratio is an indicator of how much debt a company is using to finance its assets.	Is measured as total liabilities divided by total asset	Bhatia and Tuli (2017)

Source: Compiled by the Researcher, 2024

Analysing the data was done using STATA software that includes descriptive statistics, correlation matrix, post estimation tests and multiple regression. This is in consistence with the several previous studies such as the work of Haladu, 2017; Yunusa, 2017; etc.



This study used the model below to estimate the relationship between the variables of the study, that is, firm attributes and sustainability reporting. $SR_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 FP_{it} + \beta_2 FS_{it} + \beta_3 FA_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$

By introducing the control variables: $SR_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 FP_{it} + \beta_2 FS_{it} + \beta_3 FA_{it} + \beta_4 FL_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$

Where: β_0 = Intercept; $\beta_1 - \beta_3$ = Coefficient of the independent variables; β_4 = Coefficient of the control variable; i, t = Panel data attribute combination of cross sectional and time series data; ϵ = Error term.

4. Result and Discussions

This section covers the analysis and interpretation of the diagnostic test, the summary of the regression results.

Descriptive Statistics

This section covers the analysis of the descriptive information of the variables used in the study.

Table 3

Descriptive Statistics

Variables	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min.	Max.	Obs.
SR	0.46	0.18	0.20	0.90	460
FP	0.08	0.09	-0.19	0.34	460
FS	31.78	24.92	4.054	138.83	460
FA	30.76	14.21	3	66	460
FL	0.34	0.09	0.10	0.71	460

Source: STATA Output Result, (2024).

Based on the descriptive information contained in table 3, it shows the mean and standard deviation results of going concern SR as 0.46 and 0.18 approximately and respectively. The table also shows the minimum and maximum results of SR as 0.20 and 0.90 respectively. The average value of the dependent variable signifies that majority of the listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria falls under the “Average Reporting” category during the period of the study.

Considering the result of FP, the table 3 shows a mean value of 0.08 with a corresponding standard deviation value of 0.09. This is followed with a minimum and maximum values of -0.19 and 0.34 respectively. This signifies that the average firm profitability of the listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria stood at 8% while the average change in firm profitability was 9% approximately. This implies that the firm profitability of the listed manufacturing firms is dynamic as it varies from one firm or sub-sector to another during the period of the study.

The descriptive information for FS in the table 3 shows a mean value of 31.77 with a corresponding standard deviation value of 24.92. This is followed with a lowest and highest values of 4.05 and 138.83 respectively. This signifies that the average firm size of the listed manufacturing firms during the period was N31.77 billion approximately while the average change in firm size was N24.92 billion during the period of the study. Indeed, the lowest and highest firm size during the period were N4.05 billion and N138.83 billion respectively. This implies that the listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria are of different sizes. Indeed, while some listed manufacturing firms are having smaller assets size, others are bigger in terms of their assets size during the study period.

On FA, the table 3 shows a mean value of 30.76 with a corresponding standard deviation value of 14.21. This is followed with a minimum and maximum values of 3 and 66 respectively. This signifies that the average firm age of the listed manufacturing firms 31 years approximately while the changes in



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the firm age during the period was approximately 14 years during the period of the study. This implies that the listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria are of different ages while their age of listing in the floor of the NGX varies evenly and across the different firms and sub-sectors during the period of the study. This is followed by the lowest and highest FA of three (3) years and sixty-six (66) years during the period respectively. This further indicates the presence of younger and older firms in the floor of the Nigerian Exchange Group during the period of the study.

The descriptive information for FL in the table 3 shows a mean value of 0.34 with a corresponding standard deviation value of 0.09. This is followed with a lowest and highest values of 0.10 and 0.71 respectively. This signifies that the average firm leverage of the listed manufacturing firms during the period was 34% approximately while the average change in the proportion of firm leverage was 9% approximately, during the period of the study. Indeed, the lowest and highest firm leverage during the period were 10% and 71% respectively. This implies that some listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria are less-levered while others are highly-levered during the study period.

Correlation Statistics

The correlation matrix is a univariate analysis which is usually employed to examine the level of association between the explanatory variables and the outcome variable as well as the association between the explanatory variables themselves. It is also conducted to ascertain if the variables are properly associated with each other or otherwise.

Table 4

Pairwise Correlation Matrix

Var	SRQ	FP	FS	FA	FL
SR	1				
FP	-0.09 0.05	1			
FS	0.34* 0.00	0.14* 0.00	1		
FA	0.08 0.08	0.01 0.84	-0.06 0.18	1	
FL	0.04 0.44	-0.09 0.05	-0.19* 0.00	-0.05 0.28	0.10* 0.03

Source: STATA Output Result, (2024)

Based on the correlation result in table 4, it shows the association between the explanatory variables and the outcome variable as well as the association among the explanatory variables individually and cumulatively. Based on the results, it shows the beta coefficients values of the variables as -0.09, -0.0841, 0.03, -0.09, 0.34, 0.083, -0.19 and 0.04 representing FP, FS, FA and FL respectively. Accordingly, there are basically three (3) benchmarks that are used in the correlation matrix analysis in order to examine the presence of strong correlation or otherwise. These are the Beneish (1997), Gujarati (2009) and Hair (2014).

Consistent with the Beneish criteria, three (3) basic rules were applied. These are the low correlation which ranges between 0.00 to 0.29, the intermediate correlation which ranges between 0.30 to 0.49 and strong correlation which ranges between 0.50 to 0.99. Reference to the information in table 4, the variable with the highest coefficient value was FS having a beta coefficient value of 0.34 and



followed by FA with coefficient value of 0.0828. This simply indicates an intermediate or moderate correlation among the variables of the study. By implication, there is absence of strong correlation among the variables of the study. It further implies the absence of redundancy among the variables of the study.

Based on the result, the VIF values for all the variables are greater than 1 but less than 10. This is validated by the value of the average or mean VIF of 1.20. The tolerance values on the other perspective, showed values that are higher than 0 but less than 1 across all the variables. This signifies the absence of multicollinearity among all the explanatory variables of the study. By implication, multicollinearity may not pose strong threat or problem to the explanatory variables of the study.

Regression Results

The summary of the regression result obtained from the model of the study ($SR_{it} = \alpha_{it} + \beta_1 FP_{it} + \beta_2 FS_{it} + \beta_3 FA_{it} + \beta_4 FL_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$).

Table 5

Panel Corrected Standard Error (PCSE)

Parameters	Coefficients	T-Values	P-Values
Constant	0.4532	11.77	0.000
FP	-0.2019	-2.98	0.003
FS	0.0027	6.82	0.000
FA	0.0013	3.88	0.000
FL	-0.1011	-2.20	0.028
Adjusted R ²			19.77
Wald Chi ² (8)			123.78
Prob>Chi ²			0.000

Source: STATA Output Result, (2024)

Reference to the regression results in table 5, it indicates the adjusted R² value of 0.19.77. This signifies that the coefficient of determination has an explanatory power of 19.77 percent (20%) approximately. By implication, the total changes in the SR of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria is caused by firm profitability, firm size, firm age, and firm leverage during the period of the study. The result also implies that 80 percent (80%) of the total changes in the Sustainability reporting of the listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria is determined by other factors that have not been captured in the model of the study.

The regression results also show a Wald Chi² value of 123.78 signifying that the explanatory variables are properly selected, combined, and used. The result also implies that the model is good, adequate, and well-fitted for the study. This is confirmed by the prob>Chi² value of 0.0000 which signifies that it is statistically significant at 1 percent (1%) significance level.

With reference to the FP, the table 5 shows a beta coefficient result of -0.2019 with a corresponding t and p values of -2.98 and 0.003 respectively. This signifies that firm profitability is negatively but significantly influencing the SR of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria at 1 percent (1%) significance level. The result thus, is in line with the priori expectation in the model of the study. Therefore, H₀₁ is rejected. This implied that listed manufacturing firms that experience a reduction in their profitability during the period are more sensitive to sustainable development policies and thus, more inclined to sustainability reporting.



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The table 5 shows the coefficient result of FS as 0.0027 with a corresponding t and p values of 6.82 and 0.000 respectively. This signifies that firm size is positively and significantly affecting the SR of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria at 1 percent (1%) significance level. Hence, the result is in tandem with the priori expectation in the model of the study. Thus, H_{02} is rejected. The implication of this is that bigger firms are more inclined to sustainability reporting in Nigeria than the smaller firms with little assets base at their disposal. Therefore, the larger the assets size of the listed manufacturing firms, the more they engage on sustainability reporting and vice-versa.

Table 5 also shows the coefficient result of FA as 0.0013 with a corresponding t and p values of 3.88 and 0.000 respectively. This signifies that firm age is positively and significantly affecting the SR of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria at 1 percent (1%) significance level. H_{03} is rejected. The implication of this is that older firms have more disposition to sustainability reporting in order to safeguard their market share position, maintain their corporate reputation amongst others.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

This study examines the effect of firm attributes on sustainability reporting of manufacturing firms in Nigeria. The study was conducted for the period of Ten(10) years spanning from 2013 to 2022. The study concludes that firm profitability is a strong determinant of sustainability reporting of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria. Indeed, it was concluded that bigger firms are more inclined to Sustainability reporting than their smaller counter-parts. Moreover, the study concludes that older firms have more incentives to embrace sustainability reporting than the younger firms.

In line with the conclusion, the study recommends that; management of the listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria should make proper utilization of their firm profitability since it was found to be instrumental in promoting their sustainability reporting. Specifically, greater emphasis should be given to the profit before interest and tax relative to their total assets. Moreover, Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of the listed manufacturing firms should review their firm size by deploying a growth plan which is tailored at boosting the assets quality by acquiring more new assets and/or innovating on existing ones.

Furthermore, the management of the listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria should endeavor to utilize the potentials availed of their firm characteristics especially in the use of their firm age. Indeed, the listed manufacturing firms should endeavor to justify their corporate existence since the age of the firms is believed to be commensurate with their goodwill and business reputation. Hence, information related to the goodwill/reputations of the firms should be adequately reported to the various stakeholders for numerous decision-making purposes.

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