Effect of Social Sustainability Reporting on Listed Industrial Goods Firms' Economic Value Added in Nigeria

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https://doi.org/10.56201/ijebm.vol.12.no9.2026.pg109.122

Abstract
This study examined the effect of social sustainability reporting on the EVA of listed industrial good firms in Nigeria. The study adopted an ex post facto research design with a population of 13 listed industrial goods firms, from which 9 firms were selected using judgmental sampling, resulting in 117 firm year observations from 2012 to 2024. Secondary data were obtained from the published annual reports and sustainability reports of the selected firms, and the hypothesis was tested using Panel random-effects regression after the Hausman test. The findings revealed that SSR had a positive and significant effect on the EVA of listed industrial goods firms in Nigeria ($\beta = 1.599779$, $p = 0.0012$). The study concluded that improvements in social sustainability reporting contributed significantly to value creation by enhancing the EVA of listed industrial good firms in Nigeria. The study recommended that the management of listed industrial goods firms should strengthen their social sustainability initiatives and improve the quality of related disclosures to enhance stakeholder confidence and promote greater EVA.

Keywords: *Social Sustainability Reporting, Economic Value Added, Industrial Goods Firms*

1.0 Introduction

usinesses now operate in an environment in which financial success alone is no longer regarded as a sufficient measure of corporate performance. Investors, regulators, customers, employees, and host communities increasingly expect organizations to create value while acting responsibly toward society. Consequently, corporate reporting has evolved from focusing solely on financial information to providing disclosures on social and environmental activities. Therefore, sustainability reporting has become an important component of corporate communication because it enables organizations to demonstrate accountability and transparency to a wide range of stakeholders (Johari & Komathy, 2019; Lawal et al., 2024). In Nigeria, the demand for sustainability reporting has continued to increase as regulators promote better corporate governance and stakeholders seek greater transparency regarding business operations. Listed industrial goods firms occupy a strategic position in the Nigerian economy because they manufacture products that support construction, infrastructure development, and industrial growth while creating employment opportunities and contributing to national income. These firms also interact closely with employees, customers, suppliers, host communities, and government agencies. Consequently, they are expected to conduct their operations responsibly and communicate their social contributions through appropriate reporting practices while maintaining satisfactory financial performance (Obadaki, 2025).

EVA has become an important measure of organizational performance because it determines whether a company creates wealth after covering the total cost of the capital invested in the business. Unlike conventional accounting measures that concentrate mainly on reported profits, EVA assesses whether a firm's returns exceed the expectations of providers of capital. Therefore, it provides a more comprehensive assessment of value creation and is widely used by managers, investors, and shareholders when evaluating corporate performance. Simultaneously, social sustainability reporting has become increasingly relevant because businesses are expected to disclose information relating to their responsibilities toward employees, customers, host communities, and other stakeholders. Such disclosures generally include employee welfare, workplace health and safety, staff training and development, diversity and equal opportunity, community development initiatives, human rights, and consumer protection (Al-Khawaja et al., 2024). These activities demonstrate an organization's commitment to responsible business conduct and sustainable development. In today's business environment, organizations are under increasing pressure to balance financial objectives with social responsibilities. Transparent SSR can strengthen stakeholder confidence, improve corporate reputation, encourage employee commitment, and support long-term organizational stability (Johari & Komathy, 2019; Ukoh et al., 2024). Consequently, both EVA and SSR have assumed greater importance because they reflect an organization's ability to create financial value while fulfilling its social obligations.

Social sustainability reporting can influence EVA in several ways. Organizations that invest in employee welfare, workplace safety, training programs, community development, and responsible labor practices are more likely to improve workforce productivity, employee retention, and organizational efficiency. Positive relationships with stakeholders may also strengthen customer confidence, improve corporate reputation, reduce operational disruptions, and create a more favorable business environment. These benefits can contribute to stronger financial performance and increase the wealth generated above the capital cost. Transparent disclosure of social sustainability activities enables stakeholders to understand how organizations manage their social responsibilities, thereby enhancing corporate credibility and strengthening investor confidence (Iliemena et al., 2023; Obadaki, 2025). However, social sustainability initiatives often involve additional expenditure on employee development, community projects, and social programs, which may place pressure on organizational resources, particularly in the short term. Therefore, managers are expected to ensure that such investments are properly planned and aligned with organizational objectives so that social responsibility contributes to sustainable value creation rather than becoming an additional financial burden. Since listed industrial goods firms play a significant role in Nigeria's economic development and interact with numerous stakeholder groups, examining whether social sustainability reporting contributes to these firms' EVA is important.

Business organizations are increasingly required to create value for shareholders while demonstrating responsibility toward employees, customers, host communities, and other stakeholders. This has made social sustainability reporting an important aspect of corporate reporting because it communicates how organizations address social issues such as employee welfare, workplace safety, staff development, diversity, human rights and community development. Simultaneously, firms are expected to cause returns that exceed the cost of the capital invested in their operations. EVA indicates whether a company has successfully created wealth for its investors after accounting for the cost of capital. Consequently, organizations should ensure that resources devoted to social sustainability activities support long-term value creation rather than serving only as disclosure requirements.

Despite the growing attention given to social sustainability reporting, many listed industrial good firms continue to face challenges in translating their social investments into improved economic performance. Considerable resources are often committed to employee development programs, occupational health and safety initiatives, community relations, and other social responsibilities; however, whether these activities contribute meaningfully to EVA remains a concern. Although several studies have reported the positive effects of social sustainability reporting on measures of corporate performance and value creation (Amahalu, 2018; Nzekwe et al., 2021; Iliemena et al., 2023; Lawal et al., 2024; Ezeji & Okoye, 2025), other evidence implies that not all dimensions of social responsibility contribute equally to value creation, with some disclosures producing insignificant effects across sectors and countries (Mieseigha & Adeyemi, 2024; Al-Khawaja et al., 2024). In addition, the level and quality of SSD differ across firms, making it difficult for investors and other stakeholders to assess the extent to which SRD supports CVC. This situation raises concerns about whether social sustainability reporting produces the intended economic benefits for Nigeria's listed industrial good firms.
If this situation persists, firms may continue to allocate substantial resources to social sustainability activities without achieving corresponding shareholder wealth improvements. Investors may also experience greater uncertainty when evaluating the financial benefits associated with SSR, reducing confidence in corporate disclosures. Managers may find it difficult to determine the appropriate level of investment in social initiatives if the contribution of such activities to EVA remains unclear. This could weaken decision-making, reduce the efficient allocation of corporate resources, and limit the ability of industrial good firms to achieve sustainable financial performance. Therefore, examining the effect of social sustainability reporting on the EVA of listed industrial good firms in Nigeria becomes necessary. review of the existing empirical literature showed that sustainability reporting and corporate performance across different sectors and countries have received substantial attention. Studies by Obadaki (2025), Ezeji and Okoye (2025), Al-Khawaja et al. (2024), Mieseigha and Adeyemi (2024), Lawal et al. (2024), Ukoh et al. (2024), Iliemena et al. (2023), Nzekwe et al. (2021), Johari and Komathy (2019), and Amahalu (2018) generally reported that sustainability-related disclosures contributed positively to various measures of organizational performance, although the magnitude and significance of the effects differed across sectors and disclosure dimensions. However, there are important gaps in the literature. Many previous studies examined sustainability reporting as a broad construct by combining its social, economic, environmental, and governance dimensions rather than isolating its specific contribution. Similarly, most studies adopted alternative measures of corporate performance, such as Tobin's Q, return on assets, return on equity, earnings per share, market value per share, and cash value added, while only a few focused-on EVA. In addition, the reviewed studies covered sectors such as manufacturing, oil and gas, breweries, pharmaceutical and chemical companies, consumer goods, and cross-country samples, leaving limited evidence that focused exclusively on listed industrial goods firms in Nigeria. Although Ezeji and Okoye (2025) examined EVA within the industrial goods sector, their study simultaneously considered social, economic, environmental, and governance reporting, making it difficult to isolate the independent effect of SSR. Therefore, this study addressed these sectoral, variable, and measurement gaps by specifically examining the effect of SSR on the EVA of listed industrial goods firms in Nigeria using panel data covering the period from 2012 to 2024. The main objective of this study is to examine the effect of SSR on the economic value added of listed industrial good firms in Nigeria. The study tested the following null hypothesis:
H_0: Social sustainability reporting has no significant effect on the economic value added of listed industrial good firms in Nigeria.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Synthesis of Empirical Studies

Most empirical evidence implies that sustainability reporting positively contributes to organizational value creation, although the magnitude and significance of its individual dimensions vary across studies. Among the three dimensions of sustainability, social sustainability reporting has consistently attracted attention because of its direct connection with employees, customers, host communities, and other stakeholders. Studies conducted in Nigeria have largely reported favorable outcomes associated with SSPs. Obadaki (2025) found that CSD significantly improved the market performance of quoted industrial goods companies, indicating that firms that communicate their social responsibilities are more likely to enhance corporate value. Similarly, Ezeji and Okoye (2025) established that SSR exerted a positive and statistically significant effect on EVA among listed industrial good firms. Comparable findings from the study by Lawal et al. (2024) observed that SSD significantly enhanced the earnings per share of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria. Similarly, Ukoh et al. (2024) demonstrated that the SSIS significantly improved the market value per share of listed oil and gas companies, while Johari and Komathy (2019) reported that sustainability reporting was positively associated with firm performance among Malaysian listed companies. Collectively, these findings indicate that social sustainability reporting contributes positively to corporate value and financial performance across different sectors and countries.

vidence focusing specifically on EVA also supports the value relevance of social sustainability reporting. Amahalu (2018) reported that SSR significantly improved the economic value added of quoted brewery firms in Nigeria. Similarly, Iliemena et al. (2023) found that SSR exerted a positive and significant effect on the EVA of listed manufacturing companies, reinforcing the argument that responsible social practices create economic benefits beyond conventional accounting profits. Nzekwe et al. (2021) reached a similar conclusion by establishing that among quoted industrial good firms in Nigeria, social reporting significantly improved cash value added. These studies consistently imply that employee welfare, community relations, and other social initiatives may strengthen organizational productivity, improve stakeholder confidence and ultimately enhance value creation. The consistency of these findings across different sectors provides substantial support for the argument that SSR should not be viewed merely as a regulatory requirement but as a strategic corporate activity capable of improving long-term financial outcomes.

Despite the predominance of positive findings, the reviewed studies also reveal variations in the contribution of different sustainability dimensions and specific social disclosure components. Ezeji and Okoye (2025) found that although social and economic sustainability reporting significantly enhanced EVA, environmental sustainability reporting and governance disclosure exerted significant negative effects. Similarly, Lawal et al. (2024) observed that environmental sustainability reporting negatively affected earnings per share, whereas social sustainability reporting produced positive results. Al-Khawaja et al. (2024) equally reported mixed outcomes by demonstrating that disclosures relating to corporate governance, environmental issues, consumer issues, and community participation significantly influenced EVA, whereas disclosures concerning labor practices, human rights, and fair operational practices did not produce significant effects. Similarly, Mieseigha and Adeyemi (2024) found that the influence of individual social accounting disclosure variables differed across countries. Community project disclosure was insignificant in Nigeria but significant in South Africa and Kenya, whereas occupational health and safety and training disclosures generated varying effects across the countries studied. These inconsistencies imply that not every social disclosure component contributes equally to organizational performance and that the effectiveness of individual sustainability practices may be shaped by institutional, regulatory and economic conditions.

Overall, the empirical literature demonstrates substantial agreement that SSR contributes positively to organizational value creation, although differences remain regarding the strength and consistency of individual disclosure indicators. Most Nigerian studies, including those of Obadaki (2025), Ezeji and Okoye (2025), Lawal et al. (2024), Ukoh et al. (2024), Iliemena et al. (2023), Nzekwe et al. (2021), and Amahalu (2018), have consistently reported significant positive effects of SSR on various measures of corporate performance, including EVA, CVA, EPS, MV, and MV. However, evidence from Al-Khawaja et al. (2024) and Mieseigha and Adeyemi (2024) indicates that some social disclosure dimensions may not always produce significant performance improvements. These differences imply that the value generated by SSR depends not only on the extent of disclosure but also on the quality, relevance, and strategic implementation of specific social initiatives. Consequently, further investigation focusing specifically on the effect of social sustainability reporting on the EVA of listed industrial good firms in Nigeria remains justified.

2.2 The theoretical framework

This study was anchored on the Stakeholder Theory, which was developed by Edward Freeman in 1984 (Anaike et al., 2024). The theory was introduced in Freeman's book *Strategic Management: A Stakeholder Approach*. It emerged as an alternative to the traditional firm's shareholder-centered view, which maintained that a business's primary responsibility was to maximize shareholders' wealth. The Stakeholder Theory maintains that when making decisions and conducting business activities, organizations should recognize and balance the interests of all stakeholders (Nworie & Orji-Okafor, 2024). It argues that firms have responsibilities that extend beyond causing profits for shareholders. Businesses are expected to treat employees fairly, provide quality products and services to customers, maintain good relationships with suppliers, comply with government regulations, protect the interests of host communities, and contribute positively to society. According to the theory, organizations that respond effectively to stakeholder expectations are more likely to build trust, strengthen their reputation, reduce conflicts, improve operational efficiency and achieve sustainable performance (Chiu & Wang, 2015). The theory also emphasizes that transparent disclosure of corporate activities enables stakeholders to evaluate organizational commitment to responsible business practices and strengthens accountability.

The Stakeholder Theory is relevant to this study because SSR represents an important means through which organizations communicate their responsibilities to employees, customers, host communities, and other stakeholders. Disclosures relating to employee welfare, occupational health and safety, staff development, diversity, and community development demonstrate an organization's commitment to meeting stakeholder expectations (Anaike et al., 2024). Such commitments can strengthen stakeholder confidence, improve employee productivity, enhance customer loyalty, reduce operational risks, and support favorable relationships with the communities in which firms operate. These benefits can improve organizational performance and increase EVA by generating returns that exceed the cost of capital. Since this study examines the effect of social sustainability reporting on the EVA of listed industrial goods firms in Nigeria, the Stakeholder Theory provides an appropriate foundation for explaining how responsible engagement with stakeholders can contribute to CVC.

3.0 Methodology

his study adopted an ex post facto research design to examine the effect of SSR on the EVA of listed industrial good firms in Nigeria. The study design was considered appropriate because it relied on historical data obtained from published corporate reports without manipulating the variables under investigation. The ex post facto design is suitable for studies that seek to establish the effect of existing events or conditions using secondary data (Ikwuo et al., 2025).

It also enables the researcher to analyze the influence of social sustainability reporting on EVA over time.

The study population comprised 13 industrial good firms listed on the Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX) as contained in the NGX Factsheet (2024). These firms are listed as follows:

Table 3.1: Study population

1. Austin Laz & Company, Inc.
2. Berger Paints Plc.
3. Beta Glass Plc.
4. BUA Cement Plc.
5. CAP Plc.
6. Cutix Plc.
7. Dangote Cement Company
8. Greif Nigeria Plc.
9. Lafarge Africa Plc.
10. Meyer Plc.
11. Motor Chemical Industries Plc.
12. Premier Paints Plc.
13. Tripple Gee and Company Plc.

Source: NGX Factsheet (2024)

A judgmental sampling technique was employed to select nine (9) firms from the population. Firms were selected based on the availability of complete annual reports containing social sustainability disclosure information and financial data required for the computation of EVA from 2012 to 2024. The selected firms are as follows:

Table 3.2: Study sample size

1. Austin Laz & Company, Inc.
2. Berger Paints Plc.
3. Beta Glass Plc.
4. CAP Plc.
5. Cutix Plc.
6. Dangote Cement Company
7. Lafarge Africa Plc.
8. Meyer Plc.
9. Tripple Gee and Company Plc.

Source: Compilation of the Researcher (2025)

The study relied exclusively on secondary data obtained from the selected firms' published annual and sustainability reports. These reports were accessed through the Nigerian Exchange Group and the respective companies' official websites. The data covered the period from 2012 to 2024. Information relating to social sustainability reporting was extracted from the sustainability disclosure sections of the reports, while financial information required for the computation of EVA was obtained from the financial statements.

The study comprised one independent variable and one dependent variable. The independent variable was SSR, while the dependent variable was EVA.

Economic value added was measured as follows:

EVA = Log (Net Profit − (Weighted Average Cost of Capital × Invested Capital))

Social sustainability reporting was measured using a disclosure index adapted from Oyerogba et al. (2024).

Table 3.3: operationalization of the SRI

S/N	Social sustainability reporting index	Score
1	Social sustainability reporting was mentioned in the company's annual report.	1 if present, 0 if absent
2	The Chairman's Report briefly discussed social sustainability reporting without a detailed explanation	1 if present, 0 if absent
3	The annual report provided qualitative information on social sustainability activities.	1 if present, 0 if absent
4	The annual report provided quantitative information on social sustainability activities.	1 if present, 0 if absent

Total possible score = 4

Individual firm score = x/4

Source: Oyerogba, Oladele, Kolawole, and Adeyemo (2024)

Panel regression analysis was employed to determine the effect of social sustainability reporting on economic value added. The analytical model was adapted from Ezeokafor and Amahalu (2019) and modified to reflect this study's objective.

The model was modified as follows:

$$EVA_{it} = \alpha_0 + \beta_1 SSR_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Where:

- **EVA** = Economic value added of firm *i* at time *t*
- **SSR** = Social sustainability reporting of firm *i* at time *t*
- $\boldsymbol{\alpha_0}$ = Constant term
- $\boldsymbol{\beta_1}$ = Regression coefficient
- $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}$ = Error term
- **i** = cross-sectional unit (firm)
- **t** = period

ata were analyzed using the EViews 10 statistical software. Descriptive statistics, including the mean, minimum value, maximum value, and standard deviation, were computed to summarize the data characteristics. Panel regression analysis was then employed to examine the effect of SSR on EVA across the selected firms over the study period. Panel regression was chosen based on its ability to capture both cross-sectional and time series variations, thereby producing more efficient and reliable estimates than either cross-sectional or time series analysis alone. The hypothesis was tested at the significance level of 5%. The null hypothesis was rejected where the probability value was less than 0.05, indicating that SSR had a significant effect on EVA. Conversely, where the probability value exceeded 0.05, the null hypothesis was accepted, indicating that SSR had no significant effect on EVA.

4.0 Data Analysis

4.1 Descriptive Analysis and Diagnostic Models

Table 4.1. Descriptive Statistics

	EVA	SSR
Mean	6.061044	0.681624
Median	6.219753	1.000000
Maximum	9.235831	1.000000
Minimum	-3.890086	0.250000
Std. Dev.	2.197259	0.362022
Skewness	-1.991483	-0.285167

Kurtosis	8.000446	1.132533
Jarque-Bera	199.2339	18.58698
Probability	0.000000	0.000092
Sum	709.1422	79.75000
Sum Sq. Dev.	560.0418	15.20299
Observations	117	117

Source: Output of Eviews 10 (2026)

Table 4.1 presents the descriptive statistics for EVA and SSR of the sampled listed industrial good firms in Nigeria over the study period. For EVA, the mean value of 6.061044 indicates that, on average, the sampled firms recorded a positive level of EVA during the period covered by the study. The maximum value of 9.235831 indicates the highest EVA achieved by any of the firms, while the minimum value of −3.890086 indicates that some firms experienced negative EVA in certain years, suggesting that returns generated were insufficient to cover the cost of capital. The standard deviation of 2.197259 shows a moderate level of variation in EVA across the firms and years, implying that the values were reasonably spread around the mean. The skewness value of −1.991483 reveals that the distribution was negatively skewed, indicating that the data were concentrated toward the higher values with a relatively longer tail on the lower side. The kurtosis value of 8.000446 indicates that the distribution was leptokurtic, meaning that it had a higher peak than the normal distribution and contained relatively more extreme values. The Jarque-Bera probability of 0.000000 indicates that the data did not follow a normal distribution. However, this does not invalidate the analysis because the study contained 117 observations, which exceeded the Central Limit Theorem's minimum sample size. Therefore, the large sample size ensured that the sampling distribution of the estimates approximated normality, making the statistical inferences reliable.

able 4.1 shows the descriptive statistics for SSR. The mean value of 0.681624 indicates that the sampled firms, on average, disclosed approximately 68.16 percent of the expected SRS items during the study period. The maximum value of 1.000000 indicates that some firms achieved full disclosure of the SRI, whereas the minimum value of 0.250000 indicates that the least performing firms disclosed only 25% of the required SRI. The standard deviation of 0.362022 implies relatively low variation in the level of social sustainability reporting among the sampled firms, implying that the disclosure practices were fairly consistent. The skewness value of −0.285167 indicates that the distribution was slightly negatively skewed, indicating that more firms recorded relatively high levels of SSR than low levels. The kurtosis value of 1.132533 indicates that the distribution was platykurtic, meaning that it was flatter than the normal distribution and had fewer extreme observations. The Jarque-Bera probability of 0.000092 indicates that the data were not normally distributed. Nevertheless, the sample size of 117 observations satisfied the requirement of the Central Limit Theorem. Consequently, the absence of normality in the raw data did not affect the validity of the regression analysis and hypothesis testing.

Table 4.2 Model diagnostics used

Correlated Random Effects: Hausman Test
Equation: Untitled
Test cross-section random effects

Test Summary	Chi-Sq. Statistic	Chi-Sq. d.f.	Prob.
Cross-section random	0.329130	1	0.5662

Source: Output of Eviews 10 (2026)

Table 4.2 presents the results of the Hausman specification test, which was conducted to determine the most appropriate panel estimation technique between the fixed- and random-effects models. The Hausman test examines whether the unique characteristics of the cross-sectional units correlate with the explanatory variable. If no significant correlation exists, the random-effects model is considered more efficient and consistent. Table 4.2 shows a chi-squared statistic of 0.329130 with a probability value of 0.5662. Since the probability value was greater than the 5% significance level (0.5662 > 0.05), the null hypothesis that the random-effects model was appropriate was not rejected. This indicates that no significant difference was found between the fixed effects and random effects estimators. Consequently, the random-effects model was considered the most suitable estimation technique for the study and was therefore adopted for testing the hypothesis because it provides more efficient and reliable parameter estimates under this condition.

4.2 Test of the Hypothesis

H_0: Social sustainability reporting has no significant effect on the economic value added of listed industrial good firms in Nigeria.

Table 4.3 Hypothesis test

Dependent variable: EVA
Method: Panel EGLS (Cross-section random effects) analysis
Date: 07/30/26 Time: 11:16
Sample: 2012 2024
Periods included: 13
Cross-sections included: 9
Total panel (balanced) observations: 117
The Swamy and Arora estimator of component variances

Variable	Coefficient	Std. Error	t-Statistic	Prob.
SSR	1.599779	0.481915	3.319627	0.0012
C	4.970597	0.704645	7.054048	0.0000
	Effects Specification			
			S.D.	Rho
Cross-section random			1.840581	0.7035
Idiosyncratic random			1.195049	0.2965
	Weighted Statistics			
R-squared	0.087914	Mean var dependent		1.074179
Adjusted R-squared	0.079983	S.D.-dependent var		1.242273
S.E. of the regression	1.191558	Sum squared resid		163.2781
F-statistic	11.08458	Durbin-Watson stat		1.605652
Prob(F-statistic)	0.001170			

Source: Output of Eviews 10 (2026)

Table 4.3 presents the results of the Panel EGLS random-effects regression analysis conducted to examine the effect of social sustainability reporting on the EVA of listed industrial goods firms in Nigeria.

The model validity statistics show that the regression model was statistically fit for explaining the effect of social sustainability reporting on EVA. The Prob(F-statistic) of 0.001170 is less than the 5% level of significance (0.001170 < 0.05). This indicates that the regression model was statistically significant and suitable for explaining changes in the dependent variable. Therefore, the model provided sufficient evidence that SSR significantly explained variations in the EVA of the sampled listed industrial good firms in Nigeria. The R-squared value of 0.087914 indicates that social sustainability reporting explained approximately 8.79 percent of the variation in EVA, while the remaining 91.21% was explained by other factors not included in the model but captured by the error term. Although the model's explanatory power is relatively low, it does not invalidate the result because numerous financial and operational factors beyond social sustainability reporting influence EVA. The Durbin–Watson statistic of 1.605652 is reasonably close to 2, indicating the absence of serious autocorrelation in the residuals. This implies that the error terms were largely independent, supporting the reliability and validity of the estimated regression results.

Table 4.3 shows that the constant coefficient (C) of 4.970597 represents the expected value of economic value added when social sustainability reporting is assumed to be zero. This implies that even in the absence of social sustainability reporting, the sampled listed industrial goods firms would be expected to record an average EVA of 4.970597 owing to the influence of other factors not captured in the model. The probability value of 0.0000 is less than the 5% significance level, indicating that the constant is statistically significant. This confirms that the baseline EVA was significantly different from zero throughout the study period.

Table 4.3 shows a coefficient of 1.599779 with a probability value of 0.0012. The coefficient indicates the marginal effect of social sustainability reporting on EVA. Specifically, a one unit increase in social sustainability reporting would lead to an average increase of 1.599779 units in EVA, holding every other factor constant. This positive coefficient shows that improvements in SSR were associated with corresponding increases in the EVA of listed industrial good firms in Nigeria. The probability value of 0.0012 is less than the 5% significance level (0.0012 < 0.05), indicating that the effect is statistically significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis that social sustainability reporting has no significant effect on the EVA of listed industrial good firms in Nigeria was rejected. Therefore, the study concluded that SSR had a positive and significant effect on the EVA of listed industrial good firms in Nigeria.

4.3 Discussion of the Findings

The finding that SSR had a positive and significant effect on the EVA of listed industrial goods firms in Nigeria ($\beta = 1.599779$, $p = 0.0012$) indicated that improvements in SSR disclosures were associated with greater value creation after accounting for the cost of capital. This result implies that firms that invest in employee welfare, occupational health and safety, staff development, community relations, human rights, and other social initiatives are more likely to strengthen employee commitment, improve stakeholder confidence, enhance corporate reputation, and reduce operational disruptions. These benefits can improve operational efficiency and profitability, thereby increasing the residual wealth available to capital providers. The result also implies that SSR serves as more than a compliance requirement because it communicates responsible corporate behavior, reduces information asymmetry, and strengthens investor confidence, all of which contribute to improved EVA. This finding is consistent with that of Ezeji and Okoye (2025), who found that social sustainability reporting had a positive and significant effect on the EVA of listed industrial goods firms in Nigeria. It also agrees with Iliemena et al. (2023), who reported that SSR significantly enhanced the EVA of listed manufacturing companies in Nigeria, and with Amahalu (2018), who found a significant positive effect of SSR on the EVA of quoted brewery firms in Nigeria. Similarly, Obadaki (2025) established that CSD significantly improved the market performance of quoted industrial goods companies, while Lawal et al. (2024) found that SSD had a positive and significant effect on the earnings per share of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria. Ukoh et al. (2024) reported that the Social Sustainability Index significantly improved the market value per share of listed oil and gas companies in Nigeria. Nzekwe et al. (2021) found that social reporting had a significant positive effect on the cash value added of quoted industrial goods firms in Nigeria. Johari and Komathy (2019) observed that sustainability reporting improved firm performance among publicly listed companies in Malaysia. However, the finding is not fully consistent with Al-Khawaja et al. (2024), who reported that while community participation significantly influenced EVA, labor practices and human rights disclosures did not have significant effects, suggesting that the influence of specific social disclosure components may differ across industries and institutional environments.

5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

The positive and significant effect of social sustainability reporting on EVA indicates that investments in social responsibility are associated with greater value creation among listed industrial goods firms in Nigeria. This shows that after accounting for the cost of capital, activities related to employee welfare, workplace health and safety, staff training, community development, and other social initiatives can contribute to improved financial outcomes. The results also imply that SSR serves not only as a means of meeting disclosure expectations but also as an important business practice that supports long-term corporate performance. It further demonstrates that organizations that pay adequate attention to their social responsibilities are more likely to strengthen stakeholder confidence, improve public image, and create conditions that support higher economic returns. For investors, the findings indicate that information contained in social sustainability reports can provide useful evidence when assessing firms' value creation potential. For managers, it shows that social sustainability activities are closely linked with corporate financial outcomes rather than being merely compliance-driven exercises. The findings also support the view that responsible treatment of employees, customers, host communities, and other stakeholders can contribute to sustainable business growth while increasing the wealth generated for capital providers.

he studies concluded that improvements in social sustainability reporting contributed significantly to value creation by enhancing the EVA of listed industrial good firms in Nigeria. The study recommended that the management of listed industrial goods firms should strengthen their social sustainability initiatives and improve the quality of related disclosures to enhance stakeholder confidence and promote greater EVA.

5.1 Contribution to Knowledge

This study contributes to the existing literature by providing empirical evidence on the effect of social sustainability reporting on the EVA of listed industrial good firms in Nigeria. Unlike many previous studies, including those of Obadaki (2025), Al-Khawaja et al. (2024), Mieseigha and Adeyemi (2024), Lawal et al. (2024), Ukoh et al. (2024), Iliemena et al. (2023), Nzekwe et al. (2021), Johari and Komathy (2019), and Amahalu (2018), which examined sustainability reporting as a multidimensional construct or focused on other measures of corporate performance such as Tobin's Q, return on assets, return on equity, earnings per share, market value per share, and cash value added, this study concentrated exclusively on social sustainability reporting and adopted EVA as the performance measure. Although Ezeji and Okoye (2025) examined EVA among listed industrial goods firms, their study considered the combined effects of social, economic, environmental, and governance reporting. This study isolated social sustainability reporting to provide clearer evidence of its specific contribution to EVA. The study also enriched the literature by focusing exclusively on listed industrial goods firms in Nigeria from 2012 to 2024, thereby providing current sector-specific evidence that can support future research, corporate decision-making, and policy formulation on social sustainability reporting and value creation.

5.2 Limitations of the Study and Suggestions for Future Studies

his study was limited to listed industrial good firms in Nigeria and covered the period from 2012 to 2024. Only nine firms were included because complete sustainability and financial reports for the selected period were available. The study also relied entirely on secondary data obtained from annual and sustainability reports. As a result, the accuracy of the findings depended on the firms' information quality and completeness. In addition, the study focused only on social sustainability reporting and did not examine how other dimensions of sustainability reporting may jointly influence EVA.

Future studies should examine the effect of other dimensions of sustainability reporting, such as economic, environmental, and governance reporting, on EVA to provide a broader understanding of value creation. Researchers may also extend the study to other sectors of the Nigerian economy, including banking, insurance, oil and gas, and consumer goods, to determine whether the findings remain consistent across industries. Further studies can cover a longer period and include more firms where data are available. Different analytical methods may also be applied to compare the results with those obtained in this study.

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