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COLLEGE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

2022/2023 PhD Thesis Abstract

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RT: Intellectual Capital and Corporate Sustainability of Non-Financial Firms Listed in Nigeria

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AB: Achieving sustainability in business gives an organization a competitive advantage in the market environment. Studies have indicated that corporate sustainability of non-financial firms in Nigeria has been threatened because of their inability to deploy the various aspect of intellectual capital in their operations. Extant Literature exists on intellectual capital and corporate sustainability in the financial sector but scanty in non-financial firms listed in Nigeria, which is one of the crucial sectors of the economy. Therefore, the study examined the effect of intellectual capital on corporate sustainability (earnings sustainability: Higgin's model, Colley's model, and Rappaport's model, turnover sustainability, assets sustainability, equity sustainability) of non-financial firms listed in Nigeria.

Ex-post facto research design was adopted for the study. The population of the study was 32 firms listed in industrial and consumer goods sectors on the Nigerian Exchange Group as at December 31, 2021. Purposive sampling technique was employed to select sample of 20 firms with the relevant data. Validated data covering a period of 15 years (2007–2021) were extracted from published annual financial statements of the selected firms. The reliability of the data was premised on the statutory audit and regulatory agencies' certification of the source documents. Descriptive and inferential (multiple regression) statistics were used to analyse the data at 10% level of significance.

Findings revealed that intellectual capital had significant effect on earnings sustainability using: Higgin's model ($W(6, 287) = 68.91, p < 0.10$) Colley's model ($W(6, 287) = 396.18, p < 0.10$) and Rappaport's model ($W(6, 287) = 95.26, p < 0.10$). The study also found that intellectual capital had significant effect on turnover sustainability ($W(6, 287) = 11.84, p < 0.10$) and assets sustainability ($W(6, 287) = 21.96, p < 0.10$). The study also revealed that liquidity and firm age significantly controlled the effect of intellectual capital on earnings sustainability using: Higgin's model ($W(8, 285) = 33.49, p < 0.10$), Colley's model ($W(8, 285) = 502.82, p < 0.10$) and Rappaport's model ($W(8, 285) = 240.89, p < 0.1$). The study further revealed that liquidity and firm age had significant control in the effect of intellectual capital on turnover sustainability ($W(8, 285) = 27.05, p < 0.10$) and assets sustainability ($W(8, 285) = 27.69, p < 0.10$).

The study concluded that intellectual capital enhanced corporate sustainability of non-financial firms listed in Nigeria. It was recommended that the management of the firms should adopt intellectual capital in their business operations in order to enhance corporate sustainability.

Keywords: Assets sustainability, Colley's model, Corporate sustainability, Earnings sustainability, Higgin's model, Intellectual capital, Rappaport's model

Word Count: 407

Abbreviations: RFN: Researcher's Full Name, RD: Researcher's Department, RS: Researcher's School, RE: Researcher's Email, RAE: Researcher's Alternate Email, RP: Researcher's Phone Contact, RT: Registered Title, MS: Main Supervisor, ME: Main Supervisor's E-mail Address, SP: Main Supervisor's Phone Contact, CS: Co-Supervisor, CE: Co-Supervisor's E-mail Address, CP: Co-Supervisor's Phone Contact, AB: Abstract

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