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Effect of Sustainability Reporting on Relevance of Accounting Information of Deposit Money Banks Listed in Nigeria

Owolabi Sunday Ajao
Professor, Department of Accounting, Babcock University, Ilishan Remo, Nigeria
Adegbie Folajimi Festus
Associate professor, Department of Accounting, Babcock University, Ilishan Remo, Nigeria
Oyetunji Oluwayomi Taiwo
Lecturer, Department of Accounting and Finance, McPherson University, Nigeria

Abstract:
The need for managers to prepare financial statements through sustainability report that possesses to a large degree the elements of quality cannot be over emphasized which have become a global concern and necessity. The quality of accounting information of any entity will affect the quality of its reports. The quality of reports to a large extent will determine investors decisions and financial managerial decisions but in most cases the decisions are lacking in quality as a result of the quality of the information contained in the reports. This paper investigated the effect of sustainability reporting on the relevance of accounting information of deposit money banks listed in Nigeria. The paper employed ex post facto research design. The population was 21 deposit money banks in Nigeria. The sample size consisted of 13 listed deposit money banks on the NSE for the 15-year period under study (2004 – 2018). Data was obtained from published annual reports of the sampled banks validated by certification of external auditors and CAMA. Descriptive and inferential (multiple regression) statistics were used to analyze the data. The paper found out that Sustainability reporting measures have significant and positive effect on relevance of accounting information (F – stat = 63.92, Adj. R^2 = 0.694, p = 0.000 i.e. p<0.05); The paper concluded that sustainability reporting measures (Environmental and social risk management, environmental and social footprint, women economic empowerment, financial inclusion and reporting) have significant effect on quality of accounting information (relevance) of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria. This paper therefore recommended that Banks should disclose environmental and risk management policies that are relevant in the financial statements for the users of accounting information.

Keywords: Deposit money banks, financial reports, Quality of accounting information, relevance, sustainability reporting

1. Introduction

The quality of financial reports prepared by managers have become a global issue that begs for serious concern because the quality of accounting information of an entity will definitely affect the quality of its report which when communicated to shareholders and stakeholders are expected to show the true state of affairs of the entity. The quality of the report can therefore be contested if the accounting numbers presented in the report is not relevant to it. Cases such as the Cadbury Nigeria Plc and some banks that have in recent past engaged in creative accounting have led to the reporting system being questioned and the confidence once placed in the financial system as well as financial reporting queried (Okereke, 2009). The quality and usefulness of accounting information is seen in the value relevance of the accounting numbers as presented in the financial statements for proper decision making.

Olayinka, Olojede and Olaoye (2017) posited that the relevance of accounting information is important for effective decision making and helps in measuring earnings, and net income from qualitative financial reports according to their study on sustainability reporting and quality of financial reporting and in addressing this problem of reports attaining the desired quality as expected Melegy (2019) affirmed in his study that there is need to develop guides and models to improve the level of sustainability disclosure and encourage the listed companies to disclose this information through annual reports or stand-alone reports and this will to a large extent improve the qualities of reports and accounting information that will be presented to stakeholders who are to make economic decisions.

Financial reporting is done in order to provide useful information for users, especially investors and creditors, in making investment decisions. The scope of financial reporting includes the financial statements and disclosures outside of the financial statements that are the products of accounting. Accounting information is the results of accounting processes, generally presented in a form of financial statement. Organization of any kind always needs accounting information for economic decision making. The users are interested in using the accounting information as such information has fulfilled a decision-usefulness-information criterion (Kieso,Weygandt & Warfield, 2012)

By using accounting information, decision makers would obtain information on the future of their companies, such as forecasting that involves annual plans, strategic plans, and decision alternatives (Susanto, 2008). In a strategic perspective, accounting information itself is one of the aspects of a company's competitive advantage. The quality of accounting information comes from the implementation of an accounting information systems quality (Baltzan, 2012). An accounting information system quality is an integration of quality hardware, software, brainware, telecommunication network, data base, and quality of work and user satisfaction (Sacer,Ivana, Zager, & Tusek,2006).

Given the aforementioned, the nature of accounting information and the need for stakeholders to rely on it in making business decisions and also following the mandate by the CBN for banks to adopt the Nigerian sustainability Banking principles (NSBPs); despite the reasons for and against sustainability reporting, it becomes imperative to examine the effect of sustainability reporting on the relevance of accounting information.

The quality of reports to a large extent will determine investors' decisions and financial managerial decisions but in most cases the decisions are lacking in quality as a result of the quality of the information contained in the reports and consequently if researches can improve decision making through improved information, business organizations will benefit (Nwaobia, Kwarbai & Ogundajo (2016). Poor accounting information threatens the management's effectiveness which makes them ineffective administratively. The aftermath of this has been the recurrent distress in the banking sector. Huber (1999) & Okereke (2009). The worldwide increase in accounting scandals in the early 21st century has pointed to the weakness in the quality of reports which depends on the value of the accounting reporting. It therefore becomes something of concern that to provide high quality reports to influence users in making investment decisions.

In view of this heightened concern and the recent crisis that has evolved in these banks have called for so many questions about the quality of reports that have existed and practiced by companies internationally which has prompted regulators to propose new laws which is perceived as best practices of governance and sustainability reporting system. These practices help companies to reduce mismanagement and remedy any problem of financial reports (Nwobu, 2015).

Another issue of great concern which is perceived by the public is obviously seen in practice by Nigerian Deposit Money Banks to adopt creative accounting in anticipation of sourcing for equity capital from the capital firms. Although, this approach in financial reporting process often leads to over-valuation of assets and bank's net worth in the views of prospective investors invariably affect investments decision. The problem of financial reporting disclosure is the non-compliance to industry corporate governance, ethics, and a regulatory standard which is prevalent in the Deposit Money Banks of Nigeria. Also, financial statements do not reflect many factors that affect financial condition because they cannot be stated in monetary terms such as business model, competitive advantage, reputation and prestige of banks with the public, the credit rating of the banking, the efficiency, loyalty and integrity of management and board of directors (Okereke, 2009).Therefore, theobjective of this paper is to evaluate the effect of sustainability reporting on the relevance of accounting information of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Theoretical Review

2.1.1. Stakeholders' Theory

According to Freeman (1984), the stakeholder theory assumes and maintains that a firm have stewardship role towards a variety of stakeholders who are different from the shareholders who are the customers, suppliers, employees, government, community, environment and future generations. King (2002) opined that the importance of integrated sustainability reporting in strengthening the relationship between a firm and the society in which it operates and being insensitive to the interest of stakeholders may affect the reputation of the firm which would adversely affect the operational and financial performance.

Stakeholder theory views organizations as a system that accommodates not only the interest of the owners but also the interest of other groups within the environment which the organization operates. This view is contrary to the view of agency theory that sees organizations as a system of relationship between shareholders and management (Lawal, 2012). The theory argued that since organizations cannot operate and exist in isolation without relating to their immediate environments then, the interests of other stakeholders such as employees, customers, suppliers, government agencies and local communities should be considerably factored in the process of strategic decision making. Therefore, organizations should not only maximize the return of its shareholders, but also the expectations of other stakeholders should be considered.

The stakeholder group interest must be aligned since they are the providers of capital and the treatment of any stakeholder group will attract a reaction from those affected. The success of the management is largely dependent on the fusion of stakeholders into the chain and consideration for stakeholders' expectations in all aspects of direction of decisions will affect the future of the establishment or entity (Donaldson & Preston, 1995). The focus of the stakeholder theory is how the management creates values and how they respond and ths relationship that exists between them is key towards the success or failure of the firm.

The supporters of this theory such as Chen, Zhong and Chen (2012) explained that stakeholders are groups of constituents in a firm that have a legal claim from the firm in which they have a certain interest. This authority from stakeholders is therefore enforced through an exchange relationship that exists between an organization and its partners. On the other hand, the critics of this theory see it as vague and ambiguous in its graphical representation. Different scholars analysed and discovered its limitations which includes; a lack of widely accepted normative basis; weak and not being fully descriptive; and the empirical analysis of the organizational relationship is still a challenge.

2.1.2. Signaling Theory

Signaling theory was developed by Michael Spence in 1973. The intuitive nature of signaling theory in part helps explain its pervasiveness. The profundity of the theory, therefore, lies in ascribing costs to information acquisition processes that resolve information asymmetries in a wide range of economic and social phenomena. The assumption of this theory was premised on how asymmetry can be reduced when the party with more information signals it to others and recognizes the separation of ownership and management and also recognizing that the market pressures motivate mangers to disclose information because mangers have more information about the company than others such as the owners and investors. The assumption also holds that individuals are acting in their own self-interest as the criticism of the agency theory.

This theory also assumes that firms with good performance are the ones that make their voluntary disclosures more readily available, as doing so is referred to as an easy means of distinguishing themselves from others in the market place (Adekunle & Asaolu, 2013). Therefore, organizations disclose information on their sustainability practices to reduce information asymmetry and present themselves as responsible companies to their stakeholders. The critics are of a different opinion because they assume that it is not individuals who exercise power but institutions (Gray, Owen& Adams, 1996). Others like Penno (1997) and Nagar (1999) argued that the reason of non-disclosure may be that mangers do not have information to disclose or uncertainty about the effect of disclosure on the mangers' performance.

Signaling theory explains the action taken by firms to reduce information asymmetries between them and their stakeholders. Companies reduce the asymmetry by providing information. Companies that are characterized by increased information disclosure, signal to their stakeholders and distinguishes better performing companies from their peers. According to this theory, increase in voluntary disclosure increases public loyalty and this may lead to increase in demand for a company`s shares, products and services which then leads to sustainable growth and survival.

2.2. Empirical Review

2.2.1. Sustainability Reporting and Relevance of Accounting Information

Ching, Gerab and Toste (2017) studied the quality of sustainability report and corporate financial performance. The objectives of the study were to verify whether the sustainability reporting quality would affect corporate financial performance (CFP) among the firms listed on Corporate Sustainability Index (ISE) and to examine the quality of information disclosed in their sustainability reports (SR). The sample is composed of all firms listed on ISE for the period 2008 to 2014. The study considered accounting and market-based indicators and control variables. The result of the study showed that there is no association between accounting and market-based variables and the reporting quality, and although the quality of disclosure improved throughout the years studied, the scores are still low.

Olayinka, Olojede and Olaoye (2017) posited that the relevance of accounting information is important for effective decision making and helps in measuring earnings, and net income from qualitative financial reports according to their study on sustainability reporting and quality of financial reporting.

Nwobu, Owolabi and Iyoha (2017) studied sustainability reporting in financial institutions of the Nigerian banking sector. The study investigated sustainability reporting of Nigerian companies in the banking sector for the five-year period ended December 2014. A disclosure index was used to score the information content of corporate reports pertaining to sustainability indicators. There was an increase in the mean sustainability reporting scores of the banks across the five years. The economic indicators were skewed in favor of direct economic value generated, economic value distributed, estimated value of defined benefit plan obligations (liabilities). On the other hand, disclosures on climate change were few. Banks should focus on improving their environmental disclosures in areas of renewable materials used, greenhouse gas emissions and assessment of suppliers based on environmental risks.

Sutopo, Kot, Adiati and Ardila (2018) studied sustainability reporting and value relevance of financial statements. The study examined whether information about the winners of the Sustainability Reporting Award (SRA) contributes to the usefulness of the information in financial statements. The sample consisted of 110 winners of SRA (SRA firms) and 110 companies that did not receive SRA (non-SRA firms) from 2008 to 2016. The study adopted a comparative analysis and concluded that; a higher positive association exists between earnings per share and stock price of SRA firms than non-SRA firms. Hence, information about SRA contributes to the usefulness of financial statements. The relevance of accounting information is in its ability to make a difference in the decisions made by its users in their capacity as capital providers (IASB, 2010) which is now made possible because of its predictive value, confirmatory value or both. It helps the users to form predictions about the outcomes of past, present and future events or to even confirm prior expectations.

Nze, Okoh and Ojeogwu (2016) examined the effect of corporate social responsibility on earnings of quoted firms in Nigeria. Data for the study were secondary and were sourced from firms' financial statement and the fact book of the Nigeria Stock Exchange. The two firms studied were chosen from the oil and gas industry in Nigeria using the simple random sampling technique. The study covered a 10-year period and data was analyzed using the ordinary regression analysis. The results show that CSR has a positive and significant effect on earnings of firms studied.

Ebdane (2016) studied the impact of sustainability reporting on corporate performance in Philippine. The study focused on determining the effect of overall sustainability reporting and the individual performance indicators including economic, social and environmental disclosures to the performance of companies who submit sustainability reports. The studied showed that sustainability disclosure as a whole affects performance measured by return on asset (ROA) however when treated individually, economic, environmental, and social disclosures do not affect the company performance in terms of ROA.

The relevance of financial information is that it ought to create different options in decision making by its users (Power, 2010). This is to say that financial information should have the capacity of influencing decision towards predicting value, and confirmation of the value of a specific item contained in financial statements provided by management. This is used by shareholders or investors when making their decision and measuring the business level of return on investments. It has been mentioned that financial information relevance comes as to confirm the financial information provided by management to decision makers about past and current events or situation that can be used as predictors of future longevity of business (Bambang, Kot, Adiati & Nur, 2018; Garcia & Cuadrado, 2011; Olayinka, Olojede & Olaoye, 2017).

IASB, (2008) considered financial information relevance as the capability that makes a significant difference in decision making by different information users especially the owners of capital and other financial resources. It continued by mentioning that for information to be relevant it must have the capacity of predictive and confirmatory value. This means that information from the company must have capacity to provide important future cash flows. Contrary, a predictive value is when information has a certain value as input in predictive processes used by the owners of investors and other stakeholders to form their views about the company's future and what it will give them as a result of investing in such a business (Niyonzima & Soetan, 2018).

For a financial, investing or operation decision to be effective it has to be based on the predictive value which comes from relevance of financial information. This cannot be achieved unless financial statements and other narrative reports show forward looking statements and that the reports provide complete information in their disclosures where all the risks and opportunities are reported, and whether the financial reports are based on fair value. The meaning of forward-looking statement is that financial reports should explain and describe the expectations of managers regarding the future periods of the firms (Olayinka, Olojede & Olaoye, 2017). The relevant annual report should contain financial and non-financial information that are useful for clarification of decision to be taken on major components of the financial statements. Both financial and non-financial should be able to provide business opportunities, risks and other useful business strategies (Tasios & Bekiaris (2012).

Barth, Beaver and Landsman (2001) suggested that there should be a comparison between fair value and historical cost for all the firm's assets and such a comparison should provide predictive value and most of the time fair value that can provide information that is reliable than cost principle. Relevance of financial information is important factor in financial reporting. The study of Kadous, Koonce and Thayer (2012) mentioned that the relevance of financial information contained in the financial statements is the basis of the setting of IAS/IFRS and is mostly considered by International Accounting Standards Board and Financial Accounting Standard Board in order to provide what should be expected from each standard to be issued and the study found that relevance of financial information is important for measuring the value of a firm.

Oshodin and Chijoke (2014) demonstrated that the relevance of financial information is measured by EPS and is mostly considered by investors during their investment decision and the study found that financial statements information from oil and gas businesses is more relevant than the information from banking sector.

Omokhudu and Ibadin (2015) posited that the relevance of accounting information is a measurement of the value of shares of the listed companies. It provides evidence for effective measurements of shareholders' value in terms of dividends. When financial information is not relevant it becomes difficult for capital market participants to make informed decision on types of investments to be done. Relevance of accounting information enhances financial reporting quality of the reporting entity (Cheung, Evans & Wright, 2010; Mbobo & Ekpo, 2016).

3. Methodology

The research design adopted for this paper is *ex-post facto.* The population of this study is the total deposit money banks in Nigeria based on their categorization from 2004 to 2018. There are 21 deposit money banks according to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) 2019 and 13 listed deposit money banks on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NGSE) as at June 13, 2019.To achieve the stated objective of this paper, both the descriptive and inferential statistics is employed. The descriptive statistics examined the means, maximum, minimum and standard deviation parameters of the variables. The multiple regression analysis is used to analyze the data from the annual reports and will show the extent of the causal relationship of the two variables (independent and dependent).

3.1. Model Specification

A regression model was formulated to evaluate the effect of sustainability reporting on quality of accounting information.

$Y = f(X)$

$QAI = f(SR)$

Where QAI = Quality of Accounting Information

SR = Sustainability Reporting

Y = QAI (dependent variable)

$Y = y_1$

y_1 = Relevance (RL)

X = SR (independent variable)

$X = x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5$

x_1 = Environmental &Social Risk Management (ERM)

x_2 = Women Economic Empowerment (WEE)

x_3 = Financial Inclusion (FI)

x_4 = Reporting (RP)

x_5= Environmental and Social Footprint (ESF)

$RL_{it}=\alpha_0 + \beta_1 ERM_{it} + \beta_2 WEE_{it} + \beta_3 FI_{it} + \beta_4 RP_{it} + \beta_5 ESF_{it} + \mu_{it}$

Where:

α_0 is the intercept for the models

β_1 - β_5 is the coefficients of the explanatory variables

μ is the error term of the proxies

i represents the Bank

t represents the period of study

4. Results and Discussions

Variables	Mean	Max	Min	Std. Dev.
RL	4.53	5.00	4.50	0.09
ERM	1.94	279.26	0.00	20.28
ESF	4.99	8.20	2.89	0.78
WEE	0.14	0.43	0.00	0.11
RP	6.21	13.00	2.00	2.12
FII	336.72	1151.00	13.00	305.75

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics

The mean value of the relevance of accounting information is 4.53, while the maximum and the minimum value is 5.00 and 4.50 respectively. This shows that banks in Nigeria have different relevance in terms of the information they provide to the stakeholders. The standard deviation of 0.09; shows that the relevance of accounting information is not likely to change overtime.

The mean value of environmental risk management is 1.94, while the maximum and the minimum value is 279.26 per cent and 0 per cent respectively. This shows that banks in level of environmental risk management differ across banks. The standard deviation of 20.28; shows that the level of environmental risk management of banks is likely to change overtime.

The mean value of environmental and social footprint is 4.99, while the maximum and the minimum value is 8.20 and 2.89 respectively. This shows that banks in Nigeria level of environmental and social footprint differ across banks. The standard deviation of 0.78; shows that the level of environmental and social footprint of banks is less likely to change overtime.

The mean value of women economic empowerment is 0.14 per cent, while the maximum and the minimum value is 0.43 per cent and 0.00 per cent respectively. This shows that banks in Nigeria level of women economic empowerment differ across banks and that most Nigerian banks do not give women the opportunity to occupy positions in the board. The standard deviation of 0.11; shows that the level of women economic empowerment of banks is less likely to change overtime.

The mean value of reporting is 6.21 per cent, while the maximum and the minimum value is 13 and 2 respectively. This shows that banks in Nigeria level of reporting differ across banks and that most Nigerian banks numbers of meetings held differs. The standard deviation of 2.12; shows that the level of reporting of banks is less likely to change overtime.

The mean value of financial inclusion proxy by the number of bank branches is 336.72 per cent, while the maximum and the minimum value is 1151 and 13 respectively. This shows that numbers of branches owned by banks in Nigeria differ. The standard deviation of 305.75; shows that the level of financial inclusion is likely to change overtime.

Dependent Variable: RL										
Panel A:	Pooled OLS					Panel B:	Random Effect			
Variables	Coefficient	SE	T-stat	p-value		Variables	Coefficient	SE	T-stat	p-value
ERM	2.204	0.373	5.909	0.000		ERM	1.775	2.289	0.775	0.438
ESF	0.758	0.261	2.904	0.004		ESF	0.578	0.295	1.959	0.050
WEE	2.109	0.524	4.025	0.000		WEE	0.871	0.713	1.222	0.222
RP	0.475	0.151	3.146	0.000		RP	0.272	0.167	1.629	0.104
FI	0.005	0.024	0.208	0.843		FI	0.001	0.027	0.037	0.967
Constant	5.386	1.528	3.525	0.001		Constant	3.195	1.830	1.746	0.081
Adjusted R-squared	0.694	F-test	63.92(0.00)			Adjusted R-squared	0.570	Wald test	66.25(0.00)	
Panel C:	Fixed Effect					Panel D	FGLS			
Variables	Coefficient	SE	T-stat	p-value		Variables	Coefficient	SE	T-stat	p-value
ERM	1.668	0.329	5.070	0.000		ERM	1.002	1.254	0.799	0.424
ESF	0.431	0.323	1.334	0.183		ESF	0.164	0.113	1.451	0.146
WEE	0.605	0.168	3.601	0.000		WEE	0.855	0.319	2.680	0.007
RP	0.308	0.183	1.683	0.094		RP	0.055	0.057	0.965	0.337

Dependent Variable: RL									
FI	0.004	0.030	0.133	0.905	FI	0.047	0.025	1.880	0.064
Constant	1.580	1.998	0.791	0.430	Constant	5.206	0.783	6.649	0.000
Adjusted R-squared	0.610	F-test	74.06(0.00)		Adjusted R-squared	0.610	Wald-test	60.76(0.00)	
Panel E: Diagnostic Test			Stat	Prob				Stat	Prob
Hausman Test			5.330	0.377	Heteroscedasticity Test			326.330	0.000
Bresuch-Pagan RE Test			2.380	0.433	Serial Correlation Test			3.552	0.084
Observations			195						

Table 2: Sustainability Reporting and the Relevance of Accounting Information of
Listed Deposit Money Banks In Nigeria

Table 2 shows the results of the regression analysis of the effects of sustainability reporting on the relevance of accounting information of some listed banks in Nigeria. The results show that environmental risk management, environmental and social footprint, women economic empowerment, reporting and financial inclusion have positive relationship with relevance of accounting information in selected listed deposit money banks in Nigeria.

In addition, there is evidence that the environmental risk management, environmental and social footprint, women economic empowerment and reporting of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria have significant relationship with relevance of accounting information of listed banks in Nigeria (ERM= 2.204, t-test= 5.909, $p < 0.05$, ESF=0.758, t-test = 2.904, $p < 0.05$, WEE= 2.109, t-test= 4.025, $p < 0.05$ and RP= 0.475, t-test= 3.146, $p < 0.05$) respectively. This implies that environmental risk management, environmental and social footprint, women economic empowerment and reporting were significant factors influencing changes in relevance of accounting information of the financial statements of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria.

Concerning the magnitude of the estimated parameters for the coefficients of the regression analysis, a unit increase in the environmental risk management, environmental and social footprint, women economic empowerment, reporting and financial inclusion will lead to 2.204, 0.758, 2.109, 0.475 and 0.005 increase in relevance of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria respectively.

The Adjusted R^2 which measure the proportion of the changes in relevance of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria as a result of changes in environmental risk management, environmental and social footprint, women economic empowerment, reporting and financial inclusion explains about 69 per cent changes in relevance of listed firms in Nigeria, while the remaining 31 per cent were other factors explaining changes in relevance of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria but where not captured in the model.

The F-statistics of 63.92 is statistically significant with $p < 0.05$ indicating that on the overall, the statistical significance of the model showed that the null hypothesis that there is no significant effect of sustainability reporting on the relevance of accounting information of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria was rejected. Thus, the alternative

hypothesis that there is significant effect of sustainability reporting on the relevance of accounting information of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria was accepted.

5. Discussion of Findings

The results of this paper have shown a positive relationship between the independent and dependent variable judging by the values of the R^2 of 69%. That a unit increase in sustainability reporting will also bring about a unit increase in the relevance of the financial statements for the users. Nonetheless, this paper also agrees and conforms with the work of Olayinka, Olojede and Olaoye (2017) which also found a relationship between sustainability reporting and relevance of accounting information as a predictor for effective decision making. In their findings, relevance is an important aspect of decision making and much emphasis was placed on the reporting itself to bring about relevance.

This study also aligns with the theoretical framework which considers the stakeholders who are the users of the statements amongst who are the investors who can decide to invest or not. This study also lays credence to the fact that the relevance of the annual report is a signal to the investors who are assured and guaranteed of their returns in relation to what has been employed in terms of resources to the entity.

This study therefore agrees with the study of Sutopo *et al* (2018) which revealed the value relevance of accounting information in its ability to make a difference in the decisions made by its users and providers of capital. In their study the importance of value relevance was emphasized upon as relevant disclosures enhances efficient and effective economic decisions and for information to be relevant it presupposes that the disclosures themselves are appropriate to a very large extent which influences the final decision which this study also discovered.

The results of this paper show that environmental risk management, environmental and social footprint, women economic empowerment, reporting and financial inclusion have positive relationship with relevance of accounting information of selected listed deposit money banks in Nigeria. This implies that these sustainability indices will increase the relevance of the financial statements of the users thereby influencing their decisions. This implies that as more disclosures are contained in the financial statement, the more relevant it becomes. It also implies that the financial statements are relevant because it contains all relevant information which is premised on several disclosures which are non- financial in nature which the sustainability reporting has captured making the annual reports complete and fulfills the relevance and feedback test. This finding also implies that economic phenomenon can be predicted as a result of the disclosed relevant information which present and potential investors are very much interested in.

This study is also in line with Ebdane (2016) and Nwobu (2017) that found out that sustainability reporting will enhance the relevance of the financial statements which eventually will affect the performance of the banks in general. This study also reveals that there is evidence that the environmental risk management, environmental and social footprint, women economic empowerment and reporting of listed deposit money banks in Nigeria have significant relationship with relevance of accounting information of listed banks in Nigeria

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

The study concluded that sustainability reporting measures (Environmental and social risk management, environmental and social footprint, women economic empowerment, financial inclusion and reporting) have significant and positive effect on relevance of accounting information of deposit money banks

Based on the result obtained from studying the effect of sustainability reporting and quality of accounting information using the relevance of accounting information, it was recommended that banks should disclose environmental and risk management policies that are relevant in the financial statements for the users of accounting information (public, investors, shareholders, government etc.)

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