

Original Article

Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development in Nigeria: A Study of Selected Multinational Corporations (MNCs)

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Abstract: *The aim of this research was to examine the degree to which multinational corporations operating in Nigeria have employed corporate social responsibility, or CSR, to assist Nigerians in overcoming the challenges associated with attaining the 2030 sustainable development goals. Nigeria is coping with a number of legal, cultural, political, social, and economic challenges. Many people still live in abject poverty and inhabitable conditions. Diverse ideas and opinions about how multinational corporations (MNCs) might help resolve these problems have surfaced as they become worse. Additionally, CSR has been mentioned as a way for international businesses to support Nigeria in overcoming these challenges related to sustainable development. In terms of financial resources, expertise, and resources, multinational corporations (MNCs) are better equipped to address these societal issues than ordinary Nigerian companies. It is also evident that researchers have not fully assessed how much MNCs' social responsibility initiatives advance sustainable development objectives.*

Moreover, not enough focus has been placed on how multinational businesses (MNCs) may incorporate CSR into their business plans to support sustainable development. Therefore, the goal of this study is to close that disparity. To test the application of the researched "constructs," a contextualized and literature-based research instrument was used in this study. Applying the survey approach, 100 respondents from four multinational corporations (MNCs) in Nigeria provided sample data for the study. Ninety-six of the administered questionnaires were deemed viable, indicating an effective response rate of 96%. Positive proof of the research instrument's validity and reliability was shown. After data were evaluated, the study's conclusion clearly indicates that multinational corporations (MNCs) operate in Nigeria; nevertheless, it neglects to emphasize the use of CSR to assist Nigerians in overcoming the challenges associated with reaching the 2030 sustainable development objectives. The research's findings and feedback will contribute to our understanding of how much Nigerian MNCs prioritize the many facets of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in order to achieve the SDGs. The study will also operate as a manual for scholars and practitioners in other developing nations.

Keywords: *Corporate Social Responsibility; Sustainable Development; Nigeria; Multinational Corporations.*

I. INTRODUCTION

In one way or another, sustainable development has been at the top of the agendas of many nations since 2017. Nigeria became one of 44 UN members to present its Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the execution of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Nigeria's ranking on the SDG Index for 2020 was 160th out of all countries. The SDGs are at the core of Nigeria's current development goals and objectives, according to the government. Nigeria placed 43rd out of 52 nations in 2021 for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, with an average score of 47.1%. Out of the 15 countries in West Africa, Nigeria is ranked 14th on the subcontinent. Nigeria's poverty rate is 71%, according to a World Bank report from June 27, 2021, based on the \$3.20 daily income poverty criterion.

Nigeria is dealing with several social, economic, political, security, legal, and cultural issues. Many individuals continue to live in poverty and deplorable conditions. The number of issues confronting Nigeria is simply enormous, and the list is never-ending. The issues have a significant impact on people's lives and businesses. For example, in the country, political failure and security instability have harmed agriculture, which has harmed food production, impacting the country's food supply. As these issues worsen, diverse thoughts and viewpoints on the role of multinational corporations (MNCs) in resolving them have emerged. As a result, CSR has become an unavoidable option for multinational corporations.

A business paradigm known as corporate social responsibility (CRS) helps an organization be responsible for society to the public, its stakeholders, and itself. Multinational corporations (MNCs) are firms that have a trading or business presence in nations other than the country where their headquarters are located. The United Nations General Assembly (1987) defined sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."



The four pillars of sustainable development, as defined by UNESCO, are economy, culture, environment, and society. These pillars are interconnected rather than separate. These are social fairness, environmental preservation, and economic viability.

A sustainable style of thinking about the future aims to raise people's quality of life by striking a balance between sociological, economic, and environmental issues. For instance, a prosperous civilization relies on a healthy environment to give its citizens access to resources, food, clean air, and safe drinking water.

The Global Sustainable Development Report 2023 states that political leadership must actively mobilize to support science-based transformations in order to implement the 2030 Agenda. Globally, MNCs, on the other hand, appear to be worsening the Nigerian issue based on observations made therein. A significant amount of money is invested financially in the operations of numerous Multinational Corporations (MNCs). The activities of Multinational Companies (MNCs) have been labelled as "greedy" since the majority have amassed enormous profits at the expense of communities and have failed to consider the effects of their actions. For example, MNCs pay their employees cheap wages to reduce production expenses. International businesses have also pillaged raw materials without thinking about the environmental effects (Korngold, 2014).

Consequently, it is thought that Multinational Corporations (MNCs) can play a big role in helping to address these challenges related to sustainable development. Financially, strategically, and in terms of available resources, MNCs are better equipped to address these societal issues compared to ordinary Nigerians, with members of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Nigerian corporations. As the conversation thus far has shown, MNCs in Nigeria have undoubtedly contributed to the country's attaining sustainable growth. The degree to which MNCs' social responsibility initiatives help to accomplish sustainable development goals is not known.

However, it's evident that academics haven't given enough thought to how much MNC social responsibility initiatives help realize sustainable development objectives. Furthermore, there hasn't been enough focus on how multinational firms (MNCs) may incorporate CSR into their business plans to support sustainable development. The goal of this study is to close that gap as a result.

A. Objectives of the Study:

This research's main goal is to disseminate information on how multinational companies might use Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to assist Nigerians in overcoming barriers to 2030 sustainable development goals. The particular goals are:

- a) To look at how much Nigerian MNCs prioritize the different aspects of corporate social responsibility in reaching the SDGs.
- b) To investigate how much MNCs use Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to support Nigeria's economic viability.
- c) To investigate how much MNCs use Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to support environmental protection in Nigeria.
- d) To investigate how much MNCs use Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to advance social fairness in Nigeria.
- e) To investigate how much MNCs use Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to support sustainable agriculture in Nigeria.
- f) To investigate how MNCs use Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to support inclusive, equitable, high-quality education and possibilities for lifelong learning in Nigeria.

B. Research Questions:

To fulfill the study's goals, the following research questions were developed:

- a) How much do multinational corporations (MNCs) in Nigeria stress the application of CSR to assist Nigerians in overcoming the challenges associated with meeting the 2030 sustainable development goals?
- b) How much do multinational corporations (MNCs) stress the significance of paying attention to information on sustainable development in Nigeria?
- c) How attentive are MNCs to the need to use CSR to assist Nigeria in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals?
- d) How far does the degree of economic viability attained in Nigeria get influenced by the CSR initiatives of multinational corporations?
- e) How much do MNCs' efforts in corporate social responsibility affect Nigeria's degree of environmental protection achievement?

C. Research Hypotheses

a) Hypothesis 1:

Ho: The utilization of CSR by MNCs in Nigeria to assist Nigerians in overcoming barriers to 2030 sustainable development goals is not given much thought.

H1: The utilization of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by multinational corporations (MNCs) in Nigeria to assist Nigerians in overcoming challenges to 2030 sustainable development goals is highly valued.

b) Hypothesis II

Ho: The need of being aware of information about sustainable development in Nigeria is not given much thought by MNCs operating in Nigeria.

H1: The need of being aware of information on sustainable development in Nigeria is highly stressed by multinational corporations operating in Nigeria.

c) Hypothesis III

Ho: While pursuing CSR to assist Nigeria in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, multinational corporations (MNCs) in Nigeria do not prioritize sensitivity.

H1: Sensitivity is a top priority for MNCs in Nigeria as they work to use CSR to assist Nigeria in achieving its goals for sustainable development.

d) Hypothesis IV

Ho: Multinational corporations doing business in Nigeria pay little or no attention to CSR measures that affect the country's level of economic viability attainment.

H1: Multinational corporations doing business in Nigeria place reasonable priority on CSR initiatives that affect the country's economic viability.

e) Hypothesis V

Ho: The MNCs in Nigeria do not prioritize CSR initiatives that impact Nigeria's degree of environmental protection attainment.

H1: CSR initiatives that impact Nigeria's degree of environmental protection attainment are prioritized by multinational corporations operating in Nigeria.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The UN created the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000; however, several countries failed to meet their targets (Battersby, 2017; Satterthwaite, 2016). Hence, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were introduced in 2015 to solve the unfinished business left by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (Kumar et al., 2016). Together with climate change, other global challenges, including economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace, and justice, were added to the MDGs to create the 17 SDGs.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which represent the most ambitious global agenda, were endorsed by 193 UN members in September 2015. The SDG framework comprises 17 objectives and 169 targets with reference to poverty, food, health, education, women, water, energy, the economy, infrastructure, inequality, habitation, consumption, climate, marine ecosystems, institutions for peace, and sustainable development (Carreira et al., 2017). As stated by Borges et al. (2017), by 2030, there is a big plan in place to increase inclusion and sustainability on a global scale. The Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs for short, are universally applicable and applicable to all nations. Restructuring the global development paradigm is the main objective of the SDGs (Pradhan et al., 2017.).

With a 2030 deadline, the SDGs must be implemented quickly (Nhamo & Mjimba, 2020). In order to address the difficulties posed by the SDGs, creative and innovative approaches are required. Businesses have the ability and resources to advance SDGs through creativity, research, technology, resources, and labour force. However, businesses seek greater incentives to support the SDGs, particularly in terms of expenditure on corporate social responsibility (CSR) that goes above and beyond legal requirements (Scheyvens et al., 2016).

However, corporate social responsibility, or CSR, has drawn a lot of attention in the last few decades. Though the idea originated in the developed world, corporations and policy-making bodies worldwide have supported it, enabling many developing nations to adopt and modify it. Given the importance of growth and development as policy objectives in many countries, it is not unexpected that CSR has had a significant impact on sustainable development (Dongyong Zhang et al., 2018). It has been discussed how corporate social responsibility (CSR) has expanded in developed and developing nations, as well as the relationship between CSR and sustainable development.

The word "corporate social responsibility" (CSR) refers to the charitable, non-profit initiatives that business organizations use to solve moral, social, and environmental issues.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is becoming more popular in developing nations as businesses realize how important it is to support sustainable development. Although CSR techniques are becoming more popular in Nigeria, there is disagreement about what really constitutes a CSR practice. Through qualitative study, academics have examined CSR, examining theory and practice in the Nigerian setting. When participating in external social responsibility programs, businesses prioritize social responsibility. On the other hand, some see CSR as little more than philanthropy without any real strategy.

Environmental issues are still often disregarded in CSR initiatives. Businesses are not very motivated to increase their CSR efforts in the face of a weak institutional environment. A growing number of businesses are realizing that employee loyalty, effective CSR initiatives, and general performance are all related.

As a whole, CSR aims to assist society in addressing its developmental issues. It also offers answers to problems encountered in accomplishing local and worldwide sustainable development objectives. (Dashanker J. et al., 2021).

Carroll (1991) put out the following four components of corporate social responsibility (CSR):

- ❖ Economic Responsibility: Ensuring Profitability and Economic Growth
- ❖ Legal Responsibilities: Adhering to the law and rules.
- ❖ Ethical responsibility: maintaining moral and ethical principles.
- ❖ Discretionary responsibility going above and beyond the call of duty to voluntarily promote societal wellbeing.

The broader goal of CSR is to help society address its developmental challenges. Additionally, it offers ways to overcome obstacles in the way of accomplishing local and global sustainable development goals. (Jitendra K. Das et al., 2021.) Likewise, the goals of profit and social responsibility must coexist in sustainable development. Nigerian CSR involves complex interactions between social, economic, and ethical factors. MNCs that engage in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives foster long-term business growth while conforming to local legal and social norms.

III. RESEARCH METHODS

Secondary and primary data were both employed in the study. The study of four multinational corporations in the oil and gas sector provided the core data. In Nigeria, these companies include Chevron Nigeria, Shell Nigeria, Addax Petroleum, and ExxonMobil. Because of its various benefits, a multiple-case study was conducted. Yin (2014) asserts that evidence derived from several examples is more substantial and more convincing. If multiple cases are evaluated, there is an opportunity for replication, in which case differences can be compared or contrasted to see if a pattern emerges. Moreover, there is less likelihood that the study's findings will apply to a peculiar or severe situation. Single-case study designs typically have limitations because the investigation is dependent solely on one case (Yin, 2014).

Convenience sampling was also employed to choose the sample for this investigation, and previous research has demonstrated that this technique is relevant (Hall and Lockshin, 2000). Respondents from the four MNCs in Nigeria listed above made up the sample frame. The sample size includes a total of 100 potential respondents, and the researcher used a practical sampling technique.

For each of the aforementioned oil and gas companies, a total of 100 questionnaires—25 for each of the various MNCs—were sent. Ten respondents were used in a preliminary survey before conducting the main investigation. Verifying the excellence and reliability of the questionnaires is the goal of this survey. Ninety-six of the one hundred questionnaires distributed to the respondents were deemed usable, meaning that the effective response rate was 96%.

There are two sections to the research instruments' questions: A and B. In the first section, A, the following CSR actions in relation to Nigeria's development through the Sustainable Development Goals were measured: No poverty, no hunger, excellent health and wellbeing, gender equality, high-quality education, access to inexpensive, clean energy, clean water and sanitation, respectable employment, and economic growth

This will make it easier to gauge how much the Nigerian MNCs in the sample have adopted CSR. The research instrument's section B assessed the respondents' demographic profiles with regard to their title, department, email address, phone number, company, nature of business, number of employees, level of education, level of experience in the workforce, age, and gender.

The researcher has chosen to use a five-point Likert scale in this study. The possible answers to the hypotheses are "not at all" (1), "once in a while" (2), "occasionally" (3), "fairly often" (4), and "frequently, if not always" (5).

Descriptive statistics, percentages, and t-test analysis were used to analyze the data. The Cronbach alpha reliability coefficient was 0.81, indicating good validity and reliability of the research tool. This is greater than 0.70, indicating sufficient reliability (Cronbach, 1947). The measures' content validity was validated by management and marketing researchers, and the pilot study's outcomes proved their predictive validity. The research's conclusions are shown in the sections below.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This study aims to quantify how much Nigerian multinational corporations (MNCs) prioritize the different aspects of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Yet, as the conversation so far has shown, there is a belief that multinational corporations (MNCs) in Nigeria contributed to the country's problems in attaining sustainable development. Because the respondents are well-informed about the business's operations and, for the most part, aware of the implications their company has for the environment and social development, the target demographic is chosen from among the four MNCs in Nigeria.

A. Key Research Variables that were Employed

- A1: Do multinational corporations in Nigeria place a strong emphasis on using corporate social responsibility (CSR) to assist Nigerians in overcoming the challenges in reaching the 2030 sustainable development goals?
- A2: Do multinational corporations operating in Nigeria highlight how important it is to pay attention to information on sustainable development in Nigeria?
- A3: Do MNCs in Nigeria show a great deal of sensitivity to the desire to use CSR to assist Nigeria in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals?
- A4: Do CSR initiatives of multinational corporations (MNCs) affect the degree of Nigeria's achievement of economic viability?
- A5: Does Nigeria's degree of environmental protection accomplishment depend on the CSR efforts of multinational corporations?
- A6: Does Nigeria's degree of social justice attainment depend on the CSR efforts of multinational corporations?
- A7: In Nigeria, the CSR initiatives of multinational corporations contribute to raising people's standard of living.
- A8: MNCs' CSR initiatives in Nigeria contribute to the development of a prosperous society by, for instance, maintaining a healthy ecology that provides resources and food to the country's people, as well as clean air and safe drinking water.
- A9: The CSR initiatives of multinational corporations (MNCs) in Nigeria contribute to the development of an environmentally sound system that feeds the country's people.
- A10: The CSR initiatives of multinational corporations in Nigeria contribute to the development of a robust ecosystem that provides resources for the country's population.
- A11: In Nigeria, the CSR initiatives of multinational corporations contribute to the development of a robust ecosystem that produces clean drinking water.
- A12: In Nigeria, the CSR initiatives of multinational corporations contribute to the development of a robust environment that produces clean air.
- A13: In Nigeria, the CSR initiatives of multinational corporations contribute to the availability of high-quality education.
- A14: In Nigeria, the CSR initiatives of multinational corporations contribute to the SDGs' beneficial development.

B. The Respondents' Demographic Details

Based on gender data, the demographic data collected indicates that 62% of respondents were men and 38% were women. The primary cause of this is that more male respondents were observed working during breaks, and the majority of them were encountered in the restaurant when the researcher went to hand out the surveys. They could have been lounging around their office or out for personal reasons when the polls were conducted in the afternoon during the break. All respondents are MNC employees, and the sample was chosen at random with no prejudice.

According to the respondents' age group statistics, 69% of respondents were between the ages of 20 and 40, 28% were between the ages of 41 and 50, and 3% were older than 51.

Despite being employees of multinational corporations, the poll reveals that some of the respondents are contract workers. According to the respondents' statistics, 26% of them are contract employees, and 74% are confirmed employees of their company.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development in Nigeria: A Study of Selected Multinational Organizations (n = 96)

Variable	Mean	STD. DEV.	Skewness	Kurtosis
A1	1.316	0.3318	-0.0051	0.006
A2	1.218	0.0478	-0.0036	0.016
A3	1.521	0.0621	-0.0081	0.056
A4	3.840	0.4617	-0.0321	2.272
A5	2.710	0.1172	-0.0616	1.310
A6	0.111	0.0021	-0.0016	0.004
A7	3.018	0.0216	-0.0211	1.810
A8	2.968	0.0813	-0.092	1.613
A9	2.115	0.0112	-0.403	1.351
A10	2.814	0.1064	-1.059	1.213
A11	2.146	1.0617	-0.201	0.981
A12	2.083	1.1461	-0.318	0.916
A13	3.926	1.2105	-0.606	1.951
A14	2.249	1.1514	-0.044	1.207

Source: Fieldwork 2023

As the mean values in Table 1 demonstrate, every variable (A1–A14) supported the proposition to some extent. With a mean value of 3.926, A13 - which states that in Nigeria, the CSR initiatives of multinational corporations contribute to the availability of high-quality education had the highest degree of support? Encouraging opportunities for lifelong

learning for all and ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education are two of the key goals of the Sustainable Development Goals. The study concludes that multinational corporations (MNCs) do, to a reasonable degree, support initiatives aimed at improving educational standards through CSR. As the study's conclusion shows, multinational corporations (MNCs) in Nigeria have supplemented government efforts to advance the nation's educational growth by devoting a percentage of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds to the country's education sector through a range of projects. When it comes to programs and projects, multinational corporations (MNCs) operating in Nigeria support educational institutions and schools; they provide scholarships to talented individuals from low-income backgrounds so they can pursue high-quality education; they annually provide financial support for high-achieving students enrolled in science and technology-related courses at reputable public universities, polytechnics, and colleges of education in Nigeria; they supply educational materials to these institutions; they provide scholarships to students with disabilities; they participate in youth skill development initiatives, and so on. According to the data gathered, 71% of those surveyed expressed agreement with the question.

In the same way, A4 was the following generation from the mean value, with a mean value of 3.840. A4 – which states, Do CSR initiatives of multinational corporations (MNCs) affect the degree of Nigeria's economic viability? MNCs provide employability workshops and graduate training sessions that prepare students for the workforce by teaching ICT and entrepreneurship. Give job seekers work opportunities. All of them are meant to increase Nigeria's economic viability and foster a youth sense of independence in the nation. Enhancing vocational college students' capacity to become skilled technicians in the workforce is the goal. Assistance with facility renovations was provided to several government technical and vocational colleges as part of the project. As part of the plan, a subset of government technical and vocational colleges received substantial facility improvements as well as modern technology for cutting-edge training and development. This project has assisted a few vocational institutions throughout several states, improving Nigeria's financial sustainability.

Similarly, with a mean value of 0.111, variable A6 (Does Nigeria's degree of social justice attainment depend on the CSR efforts of multinational corporations?) was given the least weight among the statements analyzed. This is the case because, according to the results of the in-person interviews, the majority of the participants feel that achieving social justice in Nigeria is outside the purview of their operational responsibilities. Social values and Nigeria's standing are key to that social justice project. This also means that Nigeria might have less success achieving social justice than other nations due to its low economic power, which has led to moral decadence and encouraged corruption in the judicial system, business sector, and government.

IV. THE TEST OF RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

A. Hypothesis I:

Ho: The utilization of CSR by MNCs in Nigeria to assist Nigerians in overcoming barriers to 2030 sustainable development goals is not given much thought.

H1: The utilization of corporate social responsibility (CSR) by multinational corporations (MNCs) in Nigeria to assist Nigerians in overcoming challenges to 2030 sustainable development goals is highly valued.

From the mean column in Table I, it can be seen that A1: Do multinational corporations in Nigeria place a strong emphasis on using corporate social responsibility (CSR) to assist Nigerians in overcoming the challenges of reaching the 2030 sustainable development goals? , saw a low level of degree of mean value of 1.316, in this way experiencing low support for the research question.

Additionally, based on the data gathered, 80.20% of respondents disagree that MNCs in Nigeria are trying hard enough through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to help Nigerians overcome the challenges that stand in the way of achieving the country's 2030 sustainable development goals, while only 19.80% of respondents said that it had. As a result, the null hypothesis (There is little consideration given to how MNCs in Nigeria may use CSR to help Nigerians get beyond challenges in the way of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals) is accepted, and the alternative hypothesis is hereby rejected. Similarly, in the t-test analysis (not documented here), the t-score values were 1.02 at the 5 percent significance level. The null hypothesis is accepted since the t-score value is less than the t-table value of 1.96, and the alternative hypothesis is hereby rejected.

B. Hypothesis II:

Ho: The need to be aware of information about sustainable development in Nigeria is not given much thought by MNCs operating in Nigeria.

H1: The need to be aware of information on sustainable development in Nigeria is highly stressed by multinational corporations operating in Nigeria.

Table I's mean column indicates that A2: Do multinational corporations operating in Nigeria highlight how important it is to pay attention to information on sustainable development in Nigeria? observed the second-lowest level of support for the study questions posed, with a mean score of 1.218. Similarly, the information gathered showed that only 7% of respondents agreed with the question posed, with 93% of respondents not agreeing. Similarly, at a 5 percent

significant level, the t-score values for $A_2 = 1.01$ in the t-test analysis (not shown here). The null hypothesis, which reads, "Ho: The need of being aware of information about sustainable development in Nigeria is not given much thought by MNCs operating in Nigeria," is hereby accepted because the t score value is less than the t table value of 1.96. The alternative hypothesis, which reads, "H1-The need of being aware of information about sustainable development in Nigeria is highly stressed by multinational corporations operating in Nigeria," is hereby rejected.

C. Hypothesis III

Ho: While pursuing CSR to assist Nigeria in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, multinational corporations (MNCs) in Nigeria do not prioritize sensitivity.

H1: Sensitivity is a top priority for MNCs in Nigeria as they work to use CSR to assist Nigeria in achieving its goals for sustainable development.

From the mean column in Table I, it can be seen that A3: Do MNCs in Nigeria show a great deal of sensitivity to the desire to use CSR to assist Nigeria in achieving Sustainable Development Goals? Witnessed a low degree of mean value of 1.521, so experiencing low support for the research question. Similarly, the information gathered showed that 95% of respondents disagreed with the question, while only 5% of respondents agreed. Likewise, in the t-test analysis (not documented here), the t-score values were 1.16 at the 5 percent significance level. The alternative hypothesis, H1, is now rejected, and the null hypothesis, Ho, is accepted because the t-score value is less than the t-table value of 1.96.

D. Hypothesis IV

Ho: Multinational corporations doing business in Nigeria pay little or no attention to CSR measures that affect the country's level of economic viability attainment.

H1: Multinational corporations doing business in Nigeria place reasonable priority on CSR initiatives that affect the country's economic viability.

As may be shown from Table I's mean column, A4: CSR initiatives of multinational corporations (MNCs) affect the degree of Nigeria's achievement of economic viability? , observed a mean value of 3.840, showing a respectable degree of support for the posed study topics. Similarly, the information gathered showed that 58% of the respondents agreed with the question posed, while only 42% disagreed. Similarly, at a 5 percent significant level, the t-score values for $A_4 = 1.98$ in the t-test analysis (not noted here). The null hypothesis, Ho: multinational corporations operating in Nigeria pay little or no attention to CSR measures that affect the country's level of economic viability attainment, is hereby rejected because the t score value is greater than the t table value of 1.96. The alternative hypothesis, H1: multinational corporations operating in Nigeria place a reasonable priority on CSR initiatives that affect the country's economic viability, is hereby accepted. The mean table in A10, A11, A12, and A13 is also in favour of this.

A10: The CSR initiatives of multinational corporations in Nigeria contribute to the development of a robust ecosystem that provides resources for the country's population with mean value of 2.814; A11: In Nigeria, the CSR initiatives of multinational corporations contribute to the development of a robust ecosystem that produces clean drinking water, with a mean value of 2.546; A12: In Nigeria, the CSR initiatives of multinational corporations contribute to the development of a robust environment that produces clean air, with a mean value of 2.083; and A13: In Nigeria, the CSR initiatives of multinational corporations contribute to the availability of high-quality education, with a mean value of 3.926. Even though there are raised concerns about MNCs' operations in developing nations due to their predatory orientation, all of the mean values above showed some level of support for the research questions that could be inferred to support the idea that MNCs in Nigeria place some level of emphasis on CSR activities that influence the level of attainment of economic viability in Nigeria. But if one only focuses on the negative aspects of their business, a fair assessment will not be given.

Multinational corporations (MNCs) contribute to community development by funding healthcare, infrastructure, and investment projects in various local areas. It supports a robust ecosystem that provides Nigerians with resources. MNCs are also well-known in Nigeria for their contributions to employment, skill development, and education for a large number of Nigerians. Investments in education, skill development, and student scholarships are common examples of corporate social responsibility initiatives that impact Nigeria's economic viability.

E. Hypothesis V

Ho: The MNCs in Nigeria do not prioritize CSR initiatives that impact Nigeria's degree of environmental protection attainment.

H1: CSR initiatives that impact Nigeria's degree of environmental protection attainment are prioritized by multinational corporations operating in Nigeria.

A5: Does Nigeria's level of environmental protection accomplishment depend on the CSR efforts of multinational corporations? is evident from the mean column in Table I. observed a respectable degree of mean value of 2.710, which, while not high, does support the research hypothesis that H1: The MNCs in Nigeria give some importance to CSR initiatives that impact the degree of attainment of environmental protection in Nigeria economically. Because it provided some support for the study issue, the alternative hypothesis, H1, is thus accepted, and the null hypothesis, Ho, is hereby

rejected. According to the data gathered, 34% of respondents disagreed with the question, while just 66% of respondents agreed with it.

Similarly, in the t-test analysis (not documented here), the t-score values were 2.06 at the 5 percent significance level. The alternative hypothesis, H1, is therefore accepted, and the null hypothesis is rejected because the t-score value is greater than the t-table value of 1.96.

They also fund community development initiatives, encourage environmental sustainability, and assist entrepreneurship activities. MNCs attract investors, foster trust, improve the general economic climate, and, to some extent, contribute to a stable business environment by exhibiting ethical business practices, transparency, and excellent corporate governance. The overall goal of these CSR initiatives is to have a positive impact on Nigeria's sustainable development and economic wellbeing, even though their benefits to the country are insufficient.

V. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

The study explores the role of multinational corporations in Nigeria's corporate social responsibility (CSR) in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. While some MNCs engage in immoral business practices, they have significantly influenced Nigeria's economic development. However, their integration of CSR efforts in business plans has received insufficient attention. MNCs in Nigeria are pushing CSR to advance sustainable development, improve economic viability, and support educational initiatives. However, further research is needed to understand the effectiveness of these efforts fully.

Multinational companies based in Nigeria are actively involved in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives aimed at enhancing community development, environmental conservation, and education. They create learning centers for the community, collaborate with educational establishments, offer educational resources, back special education, push STEM education, make infrastructure investments, and advance literacy and numeracy. Additionally, they promote research, development, and program enhancement by facilitating increased communication between academia and business. These programs are intended to increase the financial wellbeing of local communities, encourage the development of new skills, lower carbon emissions, support sustainable practices, and advance both environmental and economic sustainability.

To generalize findings, this study should be conducted again in Nigeria's manufacturing, oil, and investment sectors. To ascertain the consistency of corporate social responsibility initiatives, future studies should compare samples that are specific to different industries. Scholars and business experts may find this useful in understanding Nigeria's economy's efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Regarding the suggested applicability of this research to organisational practice, it is anticipated that multinational corporations (MNCs) will gain knowledge from the study's findings regarding the degree to which they have contributed to the attainment of sustainable development objectives in Nigeria. Such knowledge would be very helpful in helping people comprehend the urgently needed sustainable development goals and how CSR can help address difficulties. The research's findings and feedback will contribute to our understanding of how much Nigerian MNCs prioritize the many facets of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in order to achieve the SDGs. The study will also operate as a manual for scholars and practitioners in other developing nations.

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