International Journal of Business and Economics, 2026; 2(1): 13-22
Doi: 10.62304/ijbm.v2i01.241
EISSN:2998-484X

EXPLORING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING AND GREEN FINANCE INVESTMENT

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Keywords

Blockchain Technology
Corporate Sustainability
Digital Tools
Environmental, Social and Governance
Green Finance
Green Investments
Sustainability Reporting

***Received**: 10, December , 2025*
***Accepted**: 14, January, 2026*
***Published**: 15, December,2026*

Doi: 10.62304/ijbm.v2i01.241

ABSTRACT

This study explores the relationship between corporate sustainability reporting and green finance investment, highlighting the significance of transparency in promoting sustainable investments. This research seeks to elucidate the impact of corporations' environmental, social, and governance (ESG) disclosures on the allocation of green financing investments across diverse sectors. It outlines essential facilitators, including digital tools and technology, that improve transparency in sustainability reporting and support the efficacy of green finance mechanisms. This study examines the influence of company sustainability practices on the appeal of green investments in response to the increasing global demand for sustainable financing. The research adopts a qualitative methodology, leveraging secondary data to investigate the intricate relationship between sustainability reporting and green finance. The findings indicate that comprehensive sustainability reporting is a crucial catalyst for green investments, as companies offering extensive ESG disclosures draw greater capital. The implementation of digital tools, including blockchain and artificial intelligence, enhances the transparency and trustworthiness of ESG data, hence cultivating investor trust and encouraging green investments. Nonetheless, obstacles such as varied reporting requirements and geographical inequities persist as impediments to the complete realisation of green finance's promise. The study offers both theoretical and practical contributions. It enhances the literature on green finance by underscoring the significance of transparency in corporate sustainability initiatives. It provides actionable information for governments, financial institutions, and enterprises on enhancing sustainability reporting and utilising digital platforms to attract green investments. Notwithstanding the constraints of the study, including dependence on secondary data and a sector-specific emphasis, it facilitates future enquiries into the enduring effects of sustainability reporting and the efficacy of nascent technologies in green financing. The study advocates for more examination of the efficacy of global compared to regional sustainability reporting requirements and posits that addressing legislative fragmentation is crucial for maximising the potential of green finance investments. This study

establishes a foundation for subsequent research aimed at enhancing sustainable practices and digital solutions within the green finance sector.

1 Introduction

The connection between corporate sustainability reporting and green finance investment is increasingly acknowledged as crucial for attracting green investments, especially through improved transparency and sustainable practices. Studies demonstrate that sustainability reports, particularly those adhering to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards, offer standardised metrics that improve organisational transparency, thus attracting investors in search of dependable information regarding corporate sustainability initiatives (Santos et al., 2025). Moreover, green finance functions as a dual mechanism that channels capital into environmentally advantageous projects while simultaneously motivating companies to embrace sustainable practices, thereby fostering a synergistic effect that enhances both corporate performance and social welfare (Selvakumar & Manjunath, 2025). Incorporating sustainability disclosures into financial practices is crucial for cultivating a resilient economy, as it harmonises

Figure 1: Sustainability Reporting Drives Green Investment

investment strategies with sustainability objectives, thus tackling climate change and advancing sustainable development (Fu et al., 2023). The efficacy of these approaches depends on strong regulatory frameworks and organisations' dedication to transparency and accountability in their sustainability initiatives.

Corporate sustainability reporting significantly influences the distribution of green finance investments across many sectors by enhancing transparency and accountability in environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices. Research indicates that firms that actively disclose sustainability information are more inclined to attract green investments, as investors increasingly prioritise ESG considerations in their decision-making processes (Nurhayati, 2025). The positive correlation between extensive sustainability reporting and improved financial performance suggests that companies can leverage these disclosures to strengthen their brand reputation and operational effectiveness, ultimately leading to better investment results (Suhatmi et al., 2024). Furthermore, green finance tools, such as green bonds and sustainable investment funds, are essential for directing capital into environmentally friendly activities, thereby aligning financial resources with sustainable development goals (SDGs) (Ali et al., 2023). However, challenges such as inconsistent reporting standards and regional disparities in financial practices may hinder the effectiveness of these investments (Abbas & Shahid, 2024) (Tolossa & Gota, 2023). Integrating sustainability reporting into corporate strategies is essential for fostering a conducive environment for green finance investments and promoting long-term sustainability across industries.

The integration of digital tools and technology is essential for enhancing transparency in sustainability reporting, thus augmenting green finance investments. Research indicates that advancements like as blockchain, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics markedly improve the accuracy and availability of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) disclosures, crucial for securing green investments

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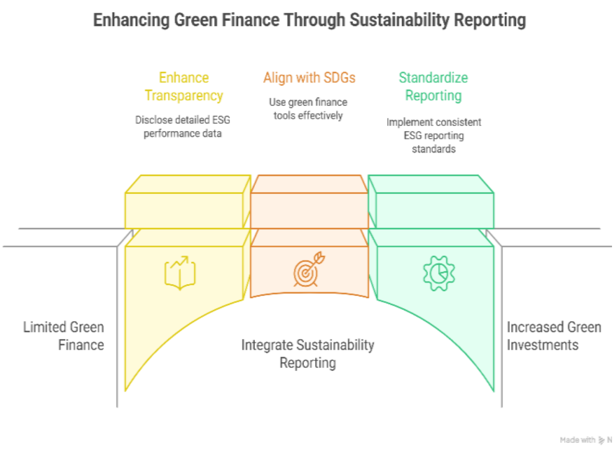
(Alabi, 2025). (Hasan et al., 2024; Acheampong et al., 2025). For instance, platforms employing these technologies provide real-time oversight of carbon emissions and financial transactions, thereby reducing information asymmetry and bolstering confidence among stakeholders (Chen, 2024) (Acheampong et al., 2025). The deployment of digital solutions promotes the uptake of green financial instruments, such as green bonds and sustainability-linked loans, by streamlining processes and improving accountability in financial practices (Sule et al., 2024) (Chen, 2024). However, challenges like regulatory fragmentation and the risk of greenwashing remain significant barriers to the full realisation of these technologies' potential in sustainable finance (Hasan et al., 2024) (Sule et al., 2024).

2 Literature Review

2.1 Impact of Corporate Sustainability Reporting on Green Finance Investments

Numerous studies emphasise the impact of corporate sustainability reporting on the trajectory of green finance investments, illustrating the interrelation of green accounting, ESG disclosures, and sustainable finance practices. Hemlata and Duggal (2023) assert that incorporating environmental costs into financial decision-making improves long-term profitability and brand value, especially in sensitive sectors (Hemlata & Duggal, 2025). Tolossa and Gota (2023) demonstrate that green finance enhances company sustainability performance and corresponds with overarching sustainable development goals, notwithstanding hurdles such as financial limitations. Abbas and Shahid (2023) present bibliometric evidence indicating that companies employing green finance are more inclined to implement energy-efficient technology, hence strengthening the beneficial influence of green finance on sustainability (Abbas & Shahid, 2024). Zik-rullahi and Jide (2023) contend that green accounting is crucial for successful sustainability reporting, thus impacting investment decisions and stakeholder engagement (Zik-rullahi & Jide, 2023). Finally, Sahoo and Sahoo (2023) demonstrate that clear ESG information is associated with diminished financial risks, hence fostering sustainable investment behaviours (Sahoo & Sahoo, n.d.).

Figure 2: Enhancing Green Finance through Sustainability Reporting



2.2 Leveraging Digital Tools and Technologies to Enhance Transparency in Sustainability Reporting and Boost Green Finance Investments

Digital tools and technology are essential for improving transparency in sustainability reporting, thus increasing investments in green finance. The use of FinTech markedly enhances ESG transparency by diminishing information asymmetry and enabling access to green financial resources, especially in energy-intensive sectors within BRICS nations (Acheampong et al., 2025). Moreover, blockchain technology enhances green finance strategies by improving transparency and accountability, hence reducing risks linked to fraudulent activities and streamlining funding procedures (Boumaiza, 2025). The use of digital technologies is crucial for tracking ESG data, as it improves reporting dependability and meets increasing stakeholder demands for enhanced ESG performance (Truant et al., 2023). The synthesis of literature on green finance and FinTech underscores the necessity for integrated frameworks that facilitate eco-innovation and sustainable development, highlighting the role of these technologies as catalysts in the transition to renewable energy initiatives (Joshipura et al., 2025) (Kwong et al., 2023).

2.3 Objectives of the study

To explore the relationship between corporate sustainability reporting and green finance investment, analyzing the impact of transparency and sustainability practices on attracting green investments.

2.3.1 Specific objectives include:

i. To assess how corporate sustainability reporting influences the flow of green finance investments across various sectors.
ii. To identify key enablers, such as digital tools and technologies, that enhance transparency in sustainability reporting and their role in boosting green finance investments.

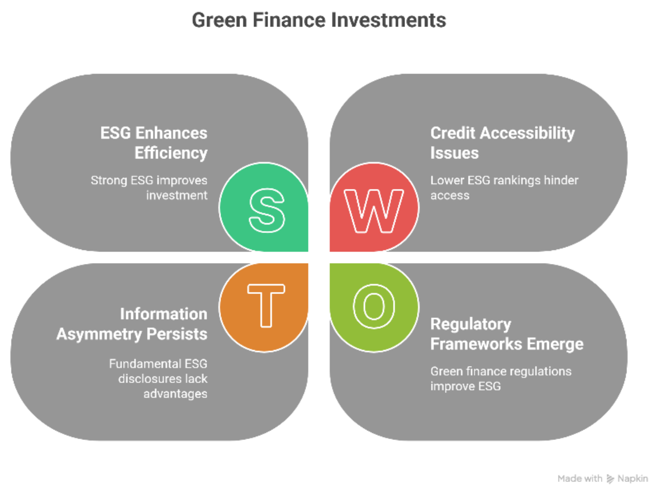
2.4 Methodology

A qualitative study methodology is employed to investigate the relationship between corporate sustainability reporting and green finance investments. Secondary data has been used. These sources guarantee a thorough comprehension of the research aim. Qualitative methods provide profound insights into the intricate interaction between sustainability reporting and green finance, which quantitative methods may inadequately encompass. Ethical principles established for the utilisation of secondary data.

2.5 Contextual Analysis

Corporate sustainability reporting profoundly impacts the allocation of green finance investments across diverse sectors by improving corporate investment efficiency and conforming to regulatory standards. Studies demonstrate that comprehensive environmental, social, and governance (ESG) disclosures enhance investment efficiency, especially in regions such as Saudi Arabia, where ESG practices correlate with diminished under- and over-investment levels (Kouaib, 2022). The adoption of green finance regulations in China has been demonstrated to improve corporate ESG performance, particularly for financially constrained enterprises, therefore drawing increased green investments (Lei & Yu, 2024). Moreover, European financial institutions indicate that although fundamental ESG disclosures may not provide immediate financial advantages, adherence to recognised ESG standards can enhance return on equity and assets, hence affecting investor choices (Horobeţ et al., 2025). Moreover, the correlation between green finance and ESG preparedness underscores that credit accessibility is essential for promoting sustainability transitions, especially in nations with differing ESG rankings (Azam et al., 2025). Ultimately, the enhancement of green disclosure mandates in China has been shown to markedly improve business investment efficiency, indicating that regulatory interventions can successfully direct green funds towards sustainable initiatives (Ho et al., 2023).

Figure 3: Green Finance Investments



Digital tools and technology are essential for improving transparency in sustainability reporting, hence increasing green finance expenditures. The amalgamation of digitalisation with green finance techniques has demonstrably enhanced carbon emission reduction, especially in economically developed areas, by utilising technology like artificial intelligence and blockchain (Zhou et al., 2025). The implementation of FinTech enhances the efficacy of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) disclosures, diminishing information asymmetry and improving access to green financial resources, particularly in highly regulated contexts (Acheampong et al., 2025). Moreover, blockchain technology improves the transparency and traceability of green investments, thereby promoting accountability among stakeholders and reducing risks linked to fraudulent activities (Boumaiza, 2025). The utilisation of digital devices, such as Sustainable Enterprise Resources Planning (S-ERP) systems, has been associated with enhanced sustainability reporting

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quality, facilitating more precise assessments of environmental data (Pizzi et al., 2024). These findings highlight the significance of digital advances in enhancing openness and efficiency in sustainability reporting, hence promoting greater investments in green finance (Joshipura et al., 2025).

3 Findings

3.1 Impact of Corporate Sustainability Reporting on Green Finance Investments

Corporate sustainability reporting profoundly impacts the allocation of green finance investments across diverse sectors. Firms that consistently report sustainability information are more likely to attract green investments, as investors emphasise Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria in their decision-making processes. A positive association exists between comprehensive sustainability reporting and enhanced financial success. This indicates that organisations can utilise sustainability disclosures to improve brand perception, operational efficiency, and investment results.Green finance instruments, such as green bonds and sustainable investment funds, are essential for channelling capital into ecologically sustainable initiatives, thereby aligning financial flows with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

3.2 Role of Digital Tools and Technologies in Enhancing Transparency

The use of digital technologies, including blockchain, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics, augments the transparency and accessibility of ESG disclosures, hence enhancing the efficacy of sustainability reporting. Digital technologies facilitate the real-time monitoring of carbon emissions and financial transactions, thereby diminishing information asymmetry and fostering trust among stakeholders. The implementation of digital solutions significantly enhances the reliability of ESG data and optimises processes associated with green finance instruments such as green bonds and sustainability-linked loans.

3.3 Challenges in Sustainability Reporting and Green Finance

Despite progress, problems such as inconsistent reporting standards and regional inequalities in financial practices impede the full potential of corporate sustainability reporting in attracting green investments. Regulatory fragmentation and the threat of greenwashing continue to pose substantial obstacles to fully harnessing digital technology in sustainable finance.

3.4 The Role of Digital Solutions in Overcoming Challenges

The implementation of digital solutions such as Sustainable Enterprise Resource Planning (S-ERP) systems enhances the quality of sustainability reporting, facilitating more precise evaluations of environmental data. Digital tools are essential in connecting green finance policies with their effective execution, notably by enhancing the transparency and traceability of green investments.

3.5 Corporate Sustainability Reporting's Contribution to Investment Efficiency

Research demonstrates that ESG practices, particularly in nations such as Saudi Arabia and China, boost investment efficiency by mitigating under- and over-investment, hence rendering green finance more successful in promoting sustainable development. In European financial institutions, adherence to established ESG benchmarks favourably affects financial returns, illustrating the significant influence of sustainability reporting on company financial performance.

3.6 Global and Sectoral Differences in Sustainability Reporting

Figure 4: Sustainability Reporting Bridges the Gap to Green Finance Investments

The study emphasises the necessity of customising sustainability reporting methodologies to specific local and industry circumstances. Energy-intensive enterprises in BRICS nations substantially benefit from the adoption of digital tools to enhance ESG disclosures and secure green financing.

3.7 Green Finance's Dual-Driving Mechanism

Green finance not only allocates funds to ecologically advantageous projects but also motivates corporations to embrace sustainable practices. This fosters a synergistic effect, advancing company sustainability and wider social welfare goals.

3.8 Regulatory Frameworks as Enablers of Green Finance

Tightening green disclosure standards in nations such as China has been shown to raise corporate investment efficiency, indicating that regulatory measures can successfully direct green financing towards sustainable initiatives and amplify the overall impact of green finance investments.

4 Discussion

This study examined the correlation between corporate sustainability reporting and green finance investment. The study sought to elucidate the impact of increased openness in sustainability practices, specifically via Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) disclosures, on green finance investments. This specific study emphasis is situated within the wider framework of sustainable development, where the incorporation of sustainability principles into financial decision-making has emerged as a crucial factor in directing investment towards ecologically advantageous projects. The main research purpose was to investigate the influence of corporate sustainability reporting on green finance investments, with particular emphasis on transparency and the function of digital tools in improving reporting standards. The study challenge focusses on determining if and how organisations that provide comprehensive sustainability disclosures are more inclined to attract green investments. The precise objectives encompassed evaluating the distribution of green finance investments across diverse industries and identifying facilitators, such as digital tools, that improve transparency in sustainability reporting.

The principal findings of the study indicate a substantial impact of sustainability reporting for green finance investments, particularly in sectors with stringent environmental regulations. Companies that transparently publish sustainability information attract greater green investments, as investors increasingly prioritise ESG elements in their decision-making processes. The study established a significant correlation between comprehensive sustainability reporting and enhanced financial performance, indicating that such disclosures can optimise operational efficiency, elevate brand reputation, and yield superior investment results. The study emphasised the significance of digital tools, like blockchain and artificial intelligence, in improving the transparency and reliability of ESG disclosures, hence fostering trust and promoting investments in green finance.

The primary results correspond with the study's expectations, notably the affirmative association between sustainability reporting and green finance investments. The findings highlight the significance of clear ESG disclosures in attracting green investments, reinforcing the idea that well-documented sustainability initiatives enhance a company's investment attractiveness. The incorporation of digital tools in augmenting ESG reporting was expected, as these technologies facilitate reporting processes and enhance the precision of environmental data, hence diminishing information asymmetry.

The findings align with other research highlighting the significance of sustainability disclosures in recruiting investments (Abbas & Shahid, 2023; Suhatmi et al., 2024). Nonetheless, the analysis diverges from anticipations in several aspects, notably the recognition of obstacles like varied reporting standards and regulatory fragmentation, which impede the efficacy of these efforts. These issues were not as prominently highlighted in previous investigations, rendering this discovery a significant contribution to the field. This study highlights the contribution of blockchain and AI to enhancing transparency and accountability in green finance investments, hence enriching the discourse on digital tools in finance (Acheampong et al., 2025; Boumaiza, 2025).

4.1 Implications of the Study

The results of this investigation hold substantial significance for both theoretical and practical applications. This study theoretically enhances the literature on transparency in green finance by illustrating the essential function of sustainability reporting and digital tools in facilitating investment flows.It further elucidates how regulatory measures

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might augment the efficacy of sustainable strategies, especially regarding business investment efficiency.

The study underscores the significance of implementing transparent and standardised ESG reporting processes. Companies that include sustainability disclosures into their business strategy are more effectively positioned to attract green investments, resulting in long-term sustainability and enhanced financial performance. Furthermore, the incorporation of digital tools into sustainability reporting can enhance the efficiency of these activities, facilitate improved tracking and report of ESG data. This is especially pertinent for energy-intensive sectors and areas such as the BRICS nations, where openness in sustainability policies is essential for accessing green finance.

4.2 Acknowledgment of Limitations

The study offers significant insights into the correlation between corporate sustainability reporting and green finance investments; however, it possesses certain limitations. The study depended on secondary data, potentially constraining the breadth of findings and introducing biases due to the quality and accessibility of previous reports. The study concentrated on particular locations and sectors, thereby failing to encapsulate global norms comprehensively. The sample size and the emphasis on digital tools may restrict the generalisability of the findings to other sectors or geographical areas. Subsequent study may rectify these limitations by integrating a wider array of data sources, broadening the geographical reach, and investigating the influence of additional emerging technologies on the improvement of sustainability reporting.

4.3 Suggestions for Future Research

Future research may investigate the enduring effects of sustainability reporting on business financial performance, especially in areas beyond energy-intensive industries. Furthermore, the impact of emerging technologies on green finance warrants a more in-depth examination, concentrating on particular instruments such as blockchain and artificial intelligence across various legal frameworks. Moreover, research might examine the efficacy of global versus regional sustainability reporting requirements and their impact on green finance investments. Investigating the obstacles to implementing sustainable practices in less-regulated markets would yield significant insights for policymakers and businesses aiming to improve transparency in their sustainability initiatives.

5 Recommendations

This section offers actionable recommendations based on the principal results of the study, intended to improve corporate sustainability reporting and increase green finance investments.

5.1 Strengthening Corporate Sustainability Reporting

Organisations must emphasise thorough and transparent sustainability reporting by implementing standardised ESG indicators that conform to international reporting frameworks. This would not only draw green investments but also improve brand reputation and operational efficiency. Corporations ought to incorporate comprehensive environmental, social, and governance data into their financial reports. Adherence to explicit norms and optimal procedures is essential to maintain uniformity across industries, hence facilitating investors' assessment of sustainability initiatives.

5.2 Embracing Digital Tools and Technologies for Enhanced Transparency

Companies ought to invest in digital technologies, like blockchain, artificial intelligence, and big data analytics, to enhance the transparency and reliability of ESG disclosures. This will diminish information asymmetry and enhance trust among stakeholders, hence promoting green finance investments. Organisations can implement FinTech technologies and blockchain technology to streamline ESG data collection and reporting, facilitating real-time monitoring of carbon emissions and financial transactions.

5.3 Addressing Inconsistent Reporting Standards

Governments and regulatory agencies should cooperate to establish standardised sustainability reporting protocols. This will reduce disparities in financial practices across regions and sectors, improving the overall effectiveness of green finance. Regulatory authorities ought to establish explicit mandates for ESG reporting that conform to international norms. Mandatory ESG reporting for corporations in high-polluting sectors, as implemented in China, could be expanded to further markets.

5.4 Overcoming Regulatory Fragmentation and Greenwashing

To alleviate greenwashing and regulatory fragmentation, it is essential to create a centralised regulatory authority that oversees the veracity of ESG assertions and imposes more stringent sanctions for deceptive material. Governments and international organisations ought to establish regulatory committees tasked with verifying the veracity of business sustainability assertions. Independent third-party audits and certifications may also be required.

Fostering Green Finance through Policy and Regulatory Measures

Governments ought to implement rules that encourage enterprises to embrace sustainability practices and engage in green finance instruments such as green bonds and sustainability-linked loans. Policy incentives may encompass tax reductions for firms who issue green bonds or satisfy specific ESG criteria. Furthermore, green finance resources must to be designated to promote the funding of sustainable initiatives.

5.5 Promoting Sector-Specific Reporting Practices

Customise sustainability reporting processes to meet the distinct requirements of various sectors, especially energy-intensive businesses, which may gain from implementing digital tools to enhance ESG disclosures. Guidelines tailored to specific sectors must be established to address distinct environmental concerns and legal obligations. Industries like energy and manufacturing want to incorporate supplementary data regarding energy use and waste management.

5.6 Encouraging the Adoption of Digital Solutions in Green Finance

Financial institutions and enterprises ought to partner with technology suppliers to create digital solutions for enhanced monitoring and reporting of green investments. These technologies can optimise procedures, diminish expenses, and enhance transparency. Collaborations with technology suppliers can facilitate the development of advanced systems for investment tracking and environmental effect monitoring. Financial organisations may include these techniques into their investing plans to improve reporting precision.

Conclusion

This study examined the correlation between corporate sustainability reporting and green finance investment, highlighting the significance of transparency in drawing green investments via comprehensive Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) disclosures. The research sought to elucidate how improved sustainability practices, especially those associated with ESG measurements, can create an atmosphere favourable to sustainable financial investments. The study specifically examined the distribution of green financing investments across multiple industries and identified crucial enablers, including digital tools, that improve transparency in sustainability reporting. The study's principal findings reveal that firms that proactively disclose comprehensive sustainability information attract greater green investments, as investors increasingly emphasise ESG considerations. The favourable association between extensive sustainability reporting and enhanced financial performance indicates that these disclosures not only increase operational efficiency but also bolster brand reputation, hence facilitating superior investment results. The use of digital technologies, including blockchain and artificial intelligence, has demonstrated enhanced accuracy and dependability in ESG disclosures, hence fostering investments in green finance. Nonetheless, obstacles such as inconsistent reporting requirements and regional differences in financial practices present substantial impediments to the optimal realisation of these investments. These findings underscore the essential necessity of implementing standardised ESG reporting standards and utilising digital tools to enhance the transparency and accessibility of sustainability disclosures. This study enhances the existing literature on green finance by illustrating how improved corporate sustainability reporting and the implementation of digital technology might facilitate investment in environmentally advantageous initiatives. Furthermore, the study highlights the importance of legislative frameworks in enhancing the legitimacy of sustainability reporting and promoting green finance investments. The study recognises significant limitations, including dependence on secondary data and concentration on particular sectors and areas. These limitations may restrict the generalisability of the results, and subsequent research should investigate the enduring effects of sustainability reporting on firm financial performance across diverse industries. An in-depth examination of the efficacy of global versus regional sustainability reporting requirements and the impact of developing technologies on green finance would yield significant insights. This study has elucidated the correlation between sustainability reporting and green finance investments. The results underscore the necessity for increased transparency in corporate sustainability strategies and the incorporation of digital tools to improve ESG reporting. By tackling the difficulties outlined in this study, policymakers, enterprises, and financial institutions may cultivate an environment that promotes sustainable investments, thereby enhancing long-term economic and environmental resilience. This research has ramifications that transcend academia, providing practical ideas for improving green finance practices in real-world contexts.

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