



Impact of Corporate Social Responsibility on Performance of Manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed,

By

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Abstract

The research project looks at how manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed perform in terms of Corporate Social Responsibility with specific reference to Nestle Nig. Plc and Unilever Nig Plc. Also, look into how much CSR has an impact net profit margin of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed; examines the level to which Corporate Social Responsibility influence gross profit margin of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed and determines how Corporate Social Responsibility significantly affects return on asset of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed, from 2012 to 2021 which covers a period of ten (10) years for each of the selected companies. The annual amount of money spent on CSR was used to represent Corporate Social Responsibility, while gross profit margin, return on assets, and net profit margin were used to measure performance. The data was examined using descriptive statistics, correlations, and multiple regressions. The results show that Corporate Social Responsibility has a significant impact on manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed's return on assets, gross profit margin, and net profit margin.

Keywords: Corporate Social Responsibility, Gross Profit Margin, Net Profit Margin, Performance, Return on asset

Introduction

The primary objective of businesses is to focus more on their company's operations, diversified portfolios, and maximizing their profits methods; nevertheless, with the growing traditional financial reporting has been broadened due to pressure and interest from a number of stakeholders, including: scholars, the media, civil society, and human rights activists, amongst others, to deal with modern environmental and social obligations. (Mohammed, Saheed, & Oladele, 2016). Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a huge, fascinating topic at the moment.

According to some academics, any business entity's primary responsibility is to maximize profits, while CSR is characterized by external interference with legal processes, violations of rights of shareholders and arbitrary asset seizures by ownership and resources (Friedman, 1973; Henderson, 2015; & Lantos, 2011). In contrast, Mughal (2014) defined Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) as the constant commitment of businesses, regardless of their nature, to conduct ethically, participate in the growth of the economy and proclaim it an intrinsic element of governance.

There are a variety of reasons why businesses engage in social responsibility, and four of these causes have been recognized (Porter & Kramer, 2002). First, many communities came to the realization that businesses have an ethical obligation to engage in endeavors that serve the interests of everybody, regardless of whether they are performance-based or not. The sustainability idea also puts pressure on the business to be good stewards of the community and the environment. Third, organizations are granted licenses to conduct business activities by governments, communities, and authorities. Finally, by participating in CSR, the business can improve its reputation. CSR includes a business's obligatory adherence to ecological and human rights issues as well as its regard for any laws along with rules already in effect in the nations in which it conducts business and its involvement in the creation of new laws and regulations where none now exist (European Union-EU, 2011). Due to intrinsic structural differences, such as lax implementation of legislation, corruption, and not being informed of the fundamental rights of the many stakeholders, CSR performances in both developed and developing economies are not comparable (Mohammed & Kabir, 2019).



Through the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategies (NEEDS), the Federal Government encourages organizations to concentrate on the effectiveness of the product reduction of harmful substance emissions, improvement of the quality of life in the communities where they operate, and employment and labor relations to be able to guarantee that businesses functioning in Nigeria act in an accountable approach toward society (National Population Commission-NPC, 2004). Therefore, organizations must arrange their actions in a way that strikes a balance between the legal, economic, philanthropic, and ethical aspects of CSR in order to survive and thrive in the complicated and competitive business world. Given the foregoing context, it is essential to investigate the variables that affect CSR in Nigerian listed corporations.

The general study's goal is to determine how Corporate Social Responsibility impacts listed companies' performance Nigerian producers of goods. The precise goals are to:

- (i) investigate the extent to which Corporate Social Responsibility affects net profit margin of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed
- (ii) examine the level to which Corporate Social Responsibility influence gross profit margin of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed
- (iii) determine how Corporate Social Responsibility significantly affects return on asset of Nigerian manufacturing businesses with a list.

The following hypotheses will be examined during the course of this research based on the research questions

- Ho₁:** Corporate Social Responsibility has no significant effect on net profit margin of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed
- Ho₂:** Corporate Social Responsibility does not influence gross profit margin of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed
- Ho₃:** Corporate Social Responsibility does not significantly affect return on asset of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed

The scope of this Paper is limited to only two (2) manufacturing companies a company that is listed on the Nigerian Exchange Group (formerly the Nigerian Stock Exchange) as at June, 2021. This might make the sample of this study not to be fully representative of the population of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed.

Another possible limitation is that the study adopted only three (3) variables for measurement of performance (NPM, GPM and ROA). These variables might not be 100% representative enough for measuring performance, as there are several other ones. But it is believed that they will do relevant and adequate justice to the problem at hand.

Conceptual Framework

Corporate Social Responsibility

The definition of CSR was given by several authors in various ways. There is no single definition of the notion that is commonly acknowledged by all organizations because numerous meanings have been put out by different organizations, and there are various opinions about the phrase depending on both the domestic and global settings. However, if one looked closely at the several definitions offered, they might be seen to revolve around three themes, according to Wissink (2012). Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) are defined by Abbah (2013) as the considerate and impartial care for society's welfare that prevents preventing individuals and companies from taking actions that will eventually harm society, regardless of how quickly they reap financial rewards, and instead steers them in the direction of bettering humanity. In the eyes of Duthler & Dhanesh (2018), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) encompasses a wide range of topics, such as ecological issues, ties with the local community, relationships with the workforce, rights for human beings, and closures of plants. The definitions of CSR provided are based on taking into account the particularities of circumstances where descriptions are found aimed to depict, as can be seen from the list of definitions above. That helped to explain why different definitions exist and none seem to be entirely comprehensive.

Measures of CSR include the KLD Index (Kinder, Lydenberg, Domini), Community- Corporate Social Responsibility (C-CSR), Employee Relation (ER), Employee Responsibility, CSP (Corporate Social Performance)



Disclosure, Social Audit or Corporate Responsibility Index (CRI) among others (Salazar & Husted, 2008; Waddock & Graves, 1997; Martela, 2005; Szczepas 2015; Hart and Ahuja, 1994; Blackburn, Doran, and Shrader, 1994). The C-CSR and ER metrics were used in the study because they are quantifiable and indicate the total expenses incurred on these issues as shown on the financial records of the companies under investigation. Other CSR metrics include analysis of content and index creation, both of which have a tendency to have subjectivity is implied.

Performance

Regarding performance and the propensity to provide voluntary information, there are two contrasting conceptions. First, companies with higher performance levels tend to disclose more, whereas companies with lower performance levels tend to be more secretive. In order to distinguish themselves from led performance firms, performance firms may be more likely to reveal more information (Akerlof, 1970). Performance indicators are used to assess whether financial entities have been successful in accomplishing their declared strategy, goals, and important achievement criteria. A well-run business has incentives to stand out from less performance companies in order to raise capital on the best terms possible (Katja, 2019).

Return on Asset (ROA)

Because it considers the assets utilized to support business operations, ROA is thought to be a superior metric to EBITDA. It measures management's capacity to produce profits from the firm's assets. (Oyugi, 2014). Return on asset ratio measures the amounts of profits made from capital assets that have been invested (Ijaz & Naqui 2016). ROA enables users to understand how the measures are in place to support, secure, and track the management's effectiveness in using resources to make a profit. It is considered as an important performance measure when it includes Owners' equity and current liabilities together make up the total sources of money used to purchase assets. It turns into a helpful metric for assessing how efficiently a company has utilized its capital (provided by holders of bonds, stockholders, for a long - time unsecured creditors, and short-term creditors) to generate profits. It can also be used by the senior management of the company and the regulator to assess how well a manager or a company is doing at making a profit.

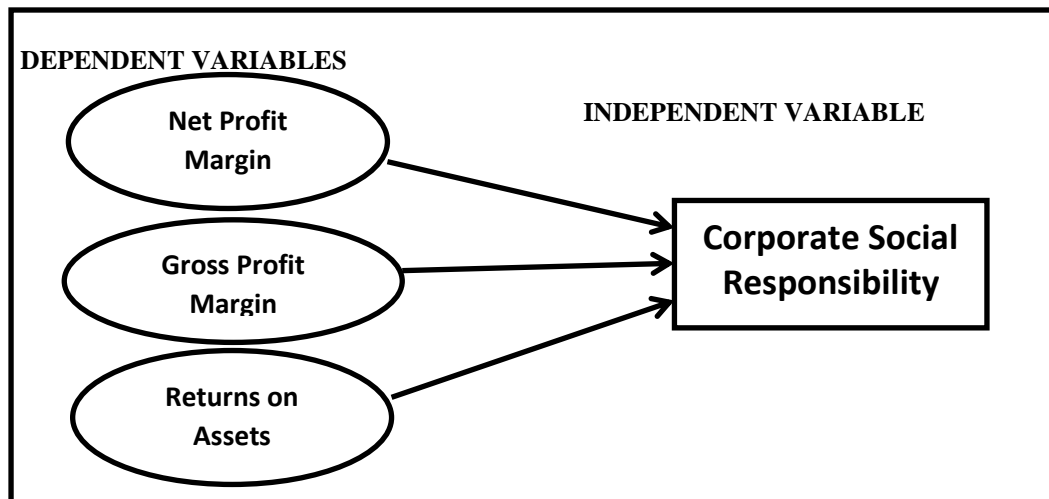
Net Profit Margin (NPM)

Palma (2014) defines is to ascertain what proportion of a company's total sales represents profit, the financial measure known as net profit margin is used. It measures the net profit an organization makes for every naira of revenue brought in. The net profit margin is the ratio of net profit, also known as net income, to total sales, expressed as a percentage.

$$\text{NPM} = \frac{\text{Profit for the year X}}{\text{Revenue}} \times 100$$

Conceptual Model

Figure 1



Source: Author's Design

2.0 Theoretical Framework

There are three (3) theories that are frequently used in studies related to Corporate Social Responsibility. These theories were reviewed briefly in this section. They are: the theory of stakeholders, Agency Theory and Legitimacy Theory.

Theory of Stakeholders

Freeman introduced the Stakeholders Theory in 1983. The core idea behind the stakeholder theory is that an organization's sustainability is contingent upon its capacity to effectively handle all of its relationships with its stakeholders. The term "stakeholders" was first used by Stanford Research Institute (SRI) to speak of those organizations that wouldn't exist without their assistance not be able to function in 1983. According to Managers must adhere to Freeman's theory of stakeholder appease a wide range of stakeholders (for instance, there are many parties (e.g., workers, clients, suppliers, neighbors, and so on) who can influence the results. of the organization. This point of view contends that managers must consider all requirements, not only those of stakeholders or company owners. This suggests that it could be helpful for the business to take part in certain ecological efforts the significance of which non-financial parties believe if it doesn't, these groups may stop supporting the company.

Agency Theory

Agency theory, in accordance with Jensen and Meckling (1976), addresses the problems that arise when one party—the principal—delegates work to another—the agent—who then completes and completes the work. When one person's activities have an impact on another's wellbeing in an express or implied contractual arrangement, there is an agency relationship. The individual who performed the function is referred to as the agent, and the person whose welfare was affected by the agent's actions and could be measured in monetary terms is referred to as the principal (Akaranga, 2010 & Temitope, 2014). The handover of power and the concentration of control agency theory is a supporter of in the board of directors. By doing submitting reports, the auditing process, and the implementation of rules and procedures, the board of directors monitors the agents (Mohammed, Ali & Zahra'u, 2018).

Legitimacy Theory

According to a socially constructed set of standards, principles, and descriptions is a formed sense or presumption that an entity's actions are preferable, legal, or suitable (Suchman, 1995). According to this notion, businesses try to conduct their operations within socially acceptable bounds. The firm must be willing to adjust to environmental developments while considering moral decisions into account because what is deemed acceptable behavior varies



with time (Islam & Deegan, 2007). A broad the belief or presumption that activity is preferred, proper, maybe suitable within a set of standards, principles, convictions, and meanings formed by society may also be referred to as legitimacy (Gotherstrom, 2012).

Empirical Evidence from Developed Countries

Zhou, Pan and Wang (2015) For the years 2006 to 2012, the relationship between 304 Chinese enterprises registered on the Shanghai and Shen Zhan exchanges of stocks and their financial performance was analyzed. As indicators of financial performance, the CSR score, ROA, and Tobin's Q were employed, with ownership type, government ownership share, influence, scale, dominance of industries, and industry features serving as regulating factors. Techniques for data analysis included descriptive statistics, correlation, and multivariate regression analysis. The study's conclusions show a strong correlation amongst corporate donations and financial performance.

Empirical Evidence from Developing Countries

Iqbal, Ahmad, Basheer, and Nadeem (2015) examined the connections throughout CSR and 156 companies listed on the Karachi Stock Exchange between 2013 and 2014 in terms of their financial performance, share market value, and financial leverage. They employed descriptive statistics, correlation, and regression to carry out the investigation. The results of this study were inconsistent; there was no link connecting CSR and financial leverage, and CSR both had no impact on the market prices of the companies and had a negative impact on them.

Cho and Park (2015) looked at the impact of CSR on listed firms' financial outcomes in Korea from 2002 to 2008. Size, risk, sales expansion, and R&D spending were considered as controls. CSR was quantified using the CSR indexes are stakeholder-weighted and Equal-Weighted (EW). Financial success was assessed using the ROE, ROA, and Tobin's Q. As methods for data analysis, descriptive statistics, correlation, and regression modeling were employed. The study's findings indicate that CSR has a favorable and significant impact on financial performance.

Wissink (2015) explored the link between Corporate Social Responsibility and financial performance. ROA, ROE, and ROS, three different accounting metrics, were used to operationalize corporate financial performance. By using questionnaires for self-report, media, and stakeholders studies, and data from secondary sources (business websites, annual reports, etc.), the 2500 largest corporations in the world were evaluated on both general and industry-specific sustainability criteria. According to the instrumental stakeholder theory, there is a positive correlation between CFP and CSP that is based on relationships with stakeholders. CSR has a favorable effect on a corporation's relationships with stakeholders, and these strengthened connections ultimately lead to higher financial performance. Ex-post facto in this study, a research design was employed since it was intended to gather crucial data on the state of the particular phenomena following some naturally occurring therapy without manipulating the environment. With the help of this design, the researcher will be able to thoroughly understand the study's objectives and variables as well as describe and summarize the data that was gathered for it. A causal relationship between Corporate Social Responsibility and the performance of publicly traded manufacturing enterprises, as well as any resulting repercussions, would also be established using the ex-post facto approach.

Materials and Methods

The study selected a sample size of two (2) listed manufacturing companies under the consumer goods sector. The sample size that was used to represent the whole population was determined using the judgmental sampling technique. The selected companies are; Nestle Nigeria Plc and Unilever Nigeria Plc. The data for this study would be extracted mainly from the secondary source. The data would be extracted and computed from the published annual financial reports and accounts of the selected listed companies, ranging from 2012 – 2021 this extended over a ten (10) year span. The Nigerian Stock Exchange Fact Book and an online database were used as sources for the annual reports and financial statements.

Model Specification

A model is employed to determine the impact of CSR on Nigeria's publicly traded manufacturing companies' productivity. From the model specified, Performance (represented by Net Profit Margin, Gross Profit Margin and Return on Asset) is estimated as a function of CSR (represented by the amount of expenditures spent on community). The following is the simple linear regression used to estimate the link:



Prof = f(CSR)

$NPM = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 CSR + e$ Model 1

$GPM = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 CSR + e$ Model 2

$ROA = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 CSR + e$ Model 3

Where;

- CSR_{it} = Corporate Social Responsibility in year t (Independent variable)
- α_0 = Constant
- $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3$ = The coefficients representing the various independent variables
- NPM = Net Profit Margin (Dependent variable)
- GPM = Gross Profit Margin (Dependent variable)
- ROA = Return on Asset (Dependent variable)
- e = Error term

The display, evaluation, and comprehension of gathered data mainly from the secondary source. For the secondary data, the variables are specified in a straightforward linear regression model, and their correlation is determined. The hypotheses formulated are tested.

Results and Discussion

Presentation of Results

Tab. 1 Normality of Test

	Kolmogorov - Smirnov ^a		
	Statistics	df	Sig.
ROA	.171	20	.127
GPM	.200	20	.035
NPM	.151	20	.200*
CSR	.192	20	.051

SPSS version 20.0

The top table displays the normality test with the use of Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests. The significant values for Kolmogorov-Smirnov align with normality assumption, as the p-values are statistically insignificant at 5% significant level. This further means that the data collected are normally distributed.

Tab. 2 Descriptive Result

Descriptive Statistics			
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
ROA	20	.1290	.08353
GPM	20	.3600	.09217
NPM	20	.1070	.05100
CSR	20	6.3020	.73413



Val. N (listwise)	20		
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SPSS version 20.0

The variables' means and standard deviations are included in the table above, along with descriptive statistics for the variables. CSR is seen to be a good predictor from the mean of ROA, GPM and NPM with the mean of 6.3020.



Table 3 R-Squared and Auto - Correlation Results

Model Summary ^b					
Model	R	R - Square	Adjusted R. Square	Stdev. Error of the Estimates	Durbin - Watson
1	.76 ^a	.57	.546	.05627	1.424
a. Predictors: (Constant), CSR					
b. Dependent Variable: ROA					

SPSS version 20.0

According to the table above, R, which represents a measure of the dependent variable's correlation with expected values and actual values, is reported as 0.755, which suggests a 75.5% probability. Only 57% of the overall variation in ROA can be described by CSR, according to the R-squared value, which is presented as 0.570. Other factors can be used to explain the remaining percentage not used in the study. However, since the number is below 1.5, the Durbin-Watson statistic of 1.434 demonstrates the presence of auto-correlation. This suggests that the variables are not in good condition.

Tab. 4 Analysis of Variances Results (Model Fit)

Model		Sum of Square	D.f.	Mean of Square	F _{val.}	Sig.
1	Regression	.076	1	.076	23.867	.000 ^b
	Residual	.057	18	.003		
	Total	.133	19			
a. Dependent Variable: ROA						
b. Predictors: (Constant), CSR						

SPSS version 20.0

The aforementioned table displays the analysis of variance of the regression because it includes the sum of squares, the degree of freedom, which is one fewer than the total number of variables (N-1), the mean square, and, most importantly, the F-value, which is given as 23.867 with a probability value of 0.000. This means that the model derived is statistically significant because the result is less than 5% significant level.

Table 5 Correlations Result

Correlations			
		ROA	CSR
ROA	Pearson's Correlation	1	.755**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	20	20
CSR	Pearson's Correlation	.755**	1



	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	20	20
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).			

SPSS version 20.0

Table 5 above demonstrates the relationship between ROA and CSR as measured by the Pearson's correlation coefficient. The degree of link between a series of variables is evaluated using Pearson correlation. The correlation table above's Pearson's correlation coefficient shows that the predictor (CSR) has strong positive relationship with ROA with correlation co-efficient of 0.755 and significant value of 0.000.

Table 6 Simple Linear Regression of Analysis

Co-efficients						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Errors	Beta		
1	(Constants)	-.412	.112		-3.698	.002
	CSR	.086	.018	.755	4.885	.000

a. Dependent Variable: ROA

SPSS version 20.0

The t-cal of the independent variable (CSR) in relation to ROA was shown as 4.885 which is more than the t-tab of 2, and whose probability values were likewise displayed as 0.000, which can be taken to mean that the value is statistically significant because it is below the 5% level of significance.

Table 7 R-Squared and Auto-Correlation Results

Model	R.	R – Square	Adjusted R. Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.675 ^a	.455	.425	.06990	1.110

a. Predictors: (Constant), CSR

b. Dependent Variable: GPM

SPSS version 20.0

From the table above, R, which represents the correlation between the dependent variable's predicted values and actual values, is reported as 0.675, implying a 67.5% probability. Only 45.5% of the entire variation in GPM can be explained by CSR, according to the R-squared statistic, which is presented as 0.455. Other factors can account for the remaining percentage not used in the study. However, because the number is between 1.5, the Durbin -Watson statistic of 1.110 implies the presence of auto-correlation. This suggests if the factors are not favorable condition.

Table 8 Analysis of Variances Results (Model Fit)

ANOVA ^a					
Model	Sum of Square	D.f.	Mean of Square	F _{val.}	Sig.



1	Regression	.073	1	.073	15.035	.001 ^b
	Residual	.088	18	.005		
	Total	.161	19			
a. Dependent Variable: GPM						
b. Predictors: (Constant), CSR						

SPSS version 20.0

The table above displays the variance analysis of the regression as it displays the sum of squares, the degree of freedom, which is one fewer than the total number of variables (N-1), as well as the mean square and, most importantly, the F-value, which is given as 15.035 with a probability value of 0.000, indicating that the model derived is statistically significant as the figure derived is less than 5% significant level.

Table 9 Correlations Result

Correlations			
		GPM	CSR
GPM	Pearson's Correlation	1	.675**
	Sig. (2 - tailed)		.01
	N	20	20
CSR	Pearson Correlation	.675**	1
	Sig. (2 - tailed)	.01	
	N	20	20
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).			

SPSS version 20.0

The correlation table above's Pearson's correlation coefficient demonstrates that the predictor (CSR) has strong positive relationship with GPM with correlation co-efficient of 0.675 and significant value of 0.001.

Table 10 Simple Linear Regression Analysis

Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-.174	.139		-1.254	.226
	CSR	.085	.022	.675	3.878	.001
a. Dependent Variable: GPM						

SPSS version 20.0



The t-cal of the independent variable (CSR) in relation to GPM was shown as 3.878 this is more than the t-tab of 2, and whose probability value was also displayed as 0.001, which can be taken to mean that it is statistically significant because the result is below the 5% criterion of significance.

Table 11 R-Squared and Auto-Correlation Results

Model Summary ^b					
Model	R.	R. Square	Adjusted R. Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin -Watson
1	.613 ^a	.376	.342	.04138	1.111
a. Predictors: (Constant), CSR					
b. Dependent Variable: NPM					

SPSS version 20.0

From the top table, R, the correlation between the dependent variable's anticipated values and actual values, is provided as 0.613, implying a 61.3% correlation. Only 37.6% of the entire variation in NPM can be described by CSR, according to the R-squared statistic, which is presented as 0.376. The rest other factors can be used to explain percentage not used in the study. However, because the value is between 1.5 and 2.5, the Durbin-Watson statistic of 1.111 reveals that auto-correlation is present. This suggests that the variables are not in good condition.

Table 12 Analysis of Variance Results (Model Fit)

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean of Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	.019	1	.019	10.855	.004 ^b
	Residual	.031	18	.002		
	Total	.049	19			
a. Dependent Variable: NPM						
b. Predictors: (Constant), CSR						

SPSS version 20.0

The table above indicates the analysis of variance of the regression as it displays the sum of squares, the degree of freedom, which is one fewer than the total number of variables (N-1), as well as the mean square and, most importantly, the F-value, which is given as 10.855 with a probability value of 0.004, which implies that the model derived is statistically significant as the figure derived is less than 5% significant level.

Tab. 13 Correlations Result

Correlations			
		NPM	CSR
NPM	Pearson Correlation	1	.613**
	Sig. (2 - tailed)		.004
	N	20	20



CSR	Pearson Correlation	.613**	1
	Sig. (2 - tailed)	.004	
	N	20	20
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).			

SPSS version 20.0

The Pearson's correlation co-efficient the correlation chart above demonstrates that the predictor (CSR) has strong positive relationship with NPM with correlation co-efficient of 0.613 and significant value of 0.004.

Table 14 Simple Linear Regression Analysis

Coefficients ^a						
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-.162	.082		-1.969	.065
	CSR	.043	.013	.613	3.295	.004

a. Dependent Variable: NPM

SPSS version 20.0

The t-cal of the independent variable (CSR) in relation to NPM was shown as 3.295 which is more than the t-tab of 2, and whose probability values were likewise displayed as 0.004, which can be taken to mean that the value is statistically significant because it is below the 5% level of significance.

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One

Corporate Social Responsibility has no discernible impact on the net profit margin of listed Nigerian manufacturers. The above-stated study hypothesis is appropriately viewed in light of the simple linear regression. The t-cal for CSR is displayed in the regression table as 3.295 with a probability value of 0.001, which was taken to mean that it was statistically significant at the 5% level of significance. As a result, the study rejects the null hypothesis and reiterates the large impact that CSR has on the net profit margin of listed Nigerian enterprises.

Hypothesis Two

Corporate Social Responsibility has no bearing on the gross profit margin of listed Nigerian manufacturers. The above-stated study hypothesis is appropriately viewed in light of the simple linear regression as well. The t-cal for CSR is displayed in the regression table as 3.878, with a probability value of 0.004 and was deemed to be statistically significant at the 5% level of significance. As a result, the research refutes the null hypothesis and confirms that Corporate Social Responsibility significantly affects the gross profit margin of listed Nigerian manufacturers.

Hypothesis Three

Corporate Social Responsibility has little impact on listed Nigerian enterprises' return on assets.



The above-stated study hypothesis is appropriately viewed in light of the simple linear regression as well. The t-cal for CSR is displayed in the regression table as 4.885 with a probability value of 0.000, which was taken to mean that it was statistically significant at the 5% level of significance. As a result, the research shows that Corporate Social Responsibility considerably outperforms the null hypothesis. affects the return on assets of listed Nigerian firms.

Discussion of Results

In accordance with the findings, it was shown that CSR has strong positive relationship with ROA with correlation co-efficient of 0.755 and significant value of 0.000. Also, it was revealed from the regression result that the net profit margin is significantly impacted by Corporate Social Responsibility of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed. This result goes along with the study conducted by Shehu and Farouk (2016) and Mujahid and Abdullah (2016) but against the study conducted by Yusoff, Othman and Yatim (2016).

Additionally, the association table showed that CSR has strong positive relationship with GPM with correlation co-efficient of 0.675 and significant value of 0.001. On the other hand, at 5% level of significance, it was concluded that Corporate Social Responsibility has significant influence on gross profit margin of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed. This study concurs with the result of Ilaboya and Omoye (2015), Yusoff, Othman and Yatim (2016) and Muhammad and Sanni (2017). But against the study conducted by Olaroyeke and Nasieku (2015) and Abdurrahman (2016).

The correlation table shows that CSR has strong positive relationship with NPM with correlation co-efficient of 0.613 and significant value of 0.004, while the result from the regression table revealed that Corporate Social Responsibility has significant impacts on return on asset of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed.

In line with the research findings that examines the impact of Corporate Social Responsibility on performance of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed, the researcher concludes thus: The researcher therefore concludes that Corporate Social Responsibility has significant impacts on return on asset of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed.

However, it can be seen that the t-cal of Corporate Social Responsibility in relation to dependent variable NPM was 3.295 with a corresponding p-value 0.001 which was interpreted to be statistically significant at 5% significant level. With this, the researcher therefore concludes that Corporate Social Responsibility has significant impacts on net profit margin of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed.

Conclusion

In line with the research findings that examines the impact of Corporate Social Responsibility on profitability of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed, the researcher concludes thus: As stated in the interpretation above that the t-cal of Corporate Social Responsibility in relation to dependent variable ROA was 4.885 with a corresponding p-value 0.000 which was interpreted to be statistically significant at 5% significant level. With this, the researcher therefore concludes that Corporate Social Responsibility has significant impacts on return on asset of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed. However, it can be seen that the t-cal of Corporate Social Responsibility in relation to dependent variable NPM was 3.295 with a corresponding p-value 0.001 which was interpreted to be statistically significant at 5% significant level. With this, the researcher therefore concludes that Corporate Social Responsibility has significant impacts on net profit margin of manufacturers in Nigeria that are listed.

Recommendations

It is advised that businesses implement CSR policies and initiatives in order to boost their performance as well as their legitimacy, reputation, and ability to compete.

The study urges Nigeria's government, organizations, environmentalists, accountants, economists, and business management experts to work together to inform and raise awareness of the investing public and corporate bodies regarding the importance of CSR as one of the key guiding factors for investment decisions.



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