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Triple Bottom Line Reporting and Performance of Oil and Gas Companies in Bayelsa State of Nigeria

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ABSTRACT: *This study examined triple bottom line reporting and performance of the oil and gas companies in Bayelsa State of Nigeria. Specifically, the study aimed to assess the degree of the oil and gas companies' intervention in the social-economic welfare of the host communities as well as their level of compliance to environmental sustainability and standards. The theoretical foundation for this study is anchored on the Maroochy Shire Council theory. Based on the descriptive survey approach research design, primary data was generated through a structured questionnaire for the study, and the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMCC) was adopted to analyse the data. The findings showed that there is a significant level of influence of the oil and gas companies' intervention on the socioeconomic welfare of the host communities on performance. The study also revealed that there is a significant level of influence of oil and gas companies' compliance to environmental sustainability and standards on performance. Hence the study concluded on the overall that there is a significant relationship between triple bottom line reporting and performance of oil and gas companies in Bayelsa State. Thus the study recommends among others that oil and gas companies should ensure that they intervene on issues that concerns the socioeconomic welfare of their host communities in terms of provisions of pipe born water, electricity, good road, scholarship to encourage individuals to study to any level of education of their choice. By so doing oil and gas companies would enjoy unhindered operations and achieve performance improvement.*

KEYWORDS: environmental sustainability standards, socio-economic welfare, triple bottom line.

INTRODUCTION

The business world has, in a sense, embarked on a journey towards greater transparency and accountability in its reporting. This is reflected in a progression towards, a more comprehensive disclosure of corporate performance to include environmental, social, and economic factors. Indeed, many companies are already communicating these aspects of corporate performance to their stakeholders. Also, most corporate organization's core strategic objective has become the pursuit of sustainability. The global pursuit of prosperity and better standards of living is geared toward society's awareness of the fragile environmental limits. The increased awareness is the society's expectations on all corporations both profit and not-for-profit organizations (Elkington, 1997).

The triple bottom line (TBL) catchphrase was coined by Elkington in 1994 to amplify the environmentalist agenda of these working closer to sustainability so that it more explicitly incorporates a social dimension (Asaolu et al, 2011). He used the phrase as the basis for his e-book "Cannibals with Forks", where he explains that TBL refers to the three bottom lines of "economic prosperity, environmental quality, and social justice". This could be attributed to the developing needs from stakeholders for extra vast records on the operations and economic standing of businesses, accordingly necessitating those managers to include data on sustainability-associated issues (Jackson et al. 2011).

The most frequently viewed factors used in overall performance measurement are: economic, environmental, and social (Brown et al, 2006). In the literature, there is no actual consensus as to the specific dimensions used for the performance measures (Dutta, 2014). To develop sustainability accounting framework, such as to allow a complete reappraisal of the relative significance of social, environmental, and economic benefits and risks in business operations; and their interactions in corporate accounting systems. An approach to the measurement of sustainability is by using triple-bottom-line accounting advanced by Elkington (1997), and to render and guarantee consistency in social and environmental information about the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), was established to provide guidelines to organizations reporting on sustainability.

Most studies on triple bottom line reporting practices of companies have focused on developed economies. However, a few studies have been conducted in the developing world such as Nigeria. However, triple bottom line reporting goes further than corporate social responsibility or environmental reporting. Researchers such as Asaolu et al (2011) and Obara et al (2017) dwelt on TBL and corporate sustainability to highlight the benefits of triple bottom line reporting to corporate organizations. Studies such as Mitchell et al (2008) and Fred (2006) also examined TBL reporting as it relates to regulatory compliance and corporate performance. Studies have also been conducted to examine the determinants of TBL and corporate performance (Brown et al, 2006).

The empirical results of these studies have been diverse and inconclusive indicating that the issues are still quite unresolved in the literature. Furthermore, there is also a knowledge gap about how community agitation will influence triple-bottom-line reporting for oil-producing areas of Nigeria as the level of awareness and implications of social cost differs considerably. Also, the nexus between triple-bottom-line reporting and corporate relationships with host communities is complex and leaves much to be desired.

The background given above points to the fact that there still a lot of issues not yet resolved on the subject of triple bottom line reporting and performance of oil and gas companies in Bayelsa State, indicative of a gap that need to filled. This study on triple bottom line reporting and performance of oil and gas companies in Bayelsa State geared towards bridging the gap in literature. The purpose was to assess the influence of intervention on socio-economic welfare of host communities, and compliance to environmental sustainability and standards by oil and gas companies on their performance. This two-pronged goal formed the basis of the questions addressed and hypotheses tested in this study.

The remainder of this paper has been used to address the review of literature, methodology adopted, the presentation and discussion of results, and conclusion and recommendations.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Conceptual Review

Triple Bottom Line Reporting

Concept of triple bottom line reporting was first coined in 1994 by John Elkington, the founder of a British consultancy known as Sustainability (Elkington, 1997; 2018). His argument used to be that organizations need to be getting ready for three exclusive (and pretty separate) bottom lines. One is the regular measure of corporate profit - the bottom line of the income and loss account. The second is the backside line of a company's people account - a measure in some structure or structure of how socially responsible an employer has been at some point in its operations. The third is the bottom line of the company's planet account - a measure of how environmentally accountable it has been. The triple bottom line (TBL) accordingly consists of three “Ps”: profit; people; and planet.

It is ambitious to measure the financial, social, and environmental overall performance of the organization over a period of time (Bennett & James, 1998). Only a business enterprise that produces a TBL is taking account of the full value involved in doing business. The triple bottom line is made up of social, economic, and environmental factors. People, planet and profit succinctly described the triple bottom line and the purpose of sustainability. The phrase people, planet and profit was also coined through Elkington in 1997 whilst at Sustainability, and used to be later adopted as the title of the Anglo-Dutch oil enterprise Shell's first sustainability file in 1997 (O’donovan, 2002).

Corporate Social Responsibility

The term corporate social responsibility (CSR) came into common use in the late 1960s and early 1970s after many multinational corporations formed the term stakeholder, meaning those on whom an organization's activities have an impact. CSR policy functions as a built-in, self-regulating mechanism whereby a business monitors and ensures its active compliance with the spirit of the law, ethical standards, and international norms. In some models, a firm's implementation of CSR goes beyond compliance and engages in actions that appear to further some social good, beyond the interests of the firm and that which is required by law (McWilliams & Siegel 2001). CSR is a process to embrace responsibility for the company's actions and encourage a positive impact through its activities on the environment, consumers, employees, communities, stakeholders, and all other members of the public sphere who may also be considered stakeholders (McWilliams & Siegel, 2001 as cited in Aimienrovbiye et al, 2023).

Environmental Accounting

Environmental accounting is a subset of accounting proper, its target being to incorporate both economic and environmental information. It can be conducted at the corporate level or at the level of a national economy through the national accounts of countries {Handbook of National Accounting (UNSD), 2014}. Among other things, the national accounts produce the estimates of gross domestic product otherwise known as GDP (Da Piedade & Thomas, 2006; Azubike et al, 2019).

Sustainability Accounting

The concept of sustainability accounting has emerged from developments in accounting, with roots in a broader sense over the last forty years and a narrow sense over the last ten years. The development reveals two lines of thought. The first line is the philosophical debate about accountability and how it contributes to sustainable development and which are the necessary steps towards sustainability. This approach is based on an entirely new system of accounting designed to promote a strategy of sustainability. The second line is the management perspective associated with varied terms and tools for sustainability. This could be seen as an extension of or modification to conventional financial cost or management accounting. The former may be more appealing: Developing sustainability accounting allows a complete reappraisal of the relative significance of social, environmental, and economic benefits and risks and their interactions in corporate accounting systems (Burritt & Schaltegger, 2010).

THEORETICAL REVIEW

The theoretical foundation for this study is based on Maroochy Shire Council theory which has developed a reporting framework for TBL that relates to its corporate plan objectives and strategies. Maroochy Shire Council’s objectives are to:
1. Enhance the quality of life of the people of the Shire.
2. Building vibrant communities and improving the quality and value of services
3. Supporting the sustainable development of the regional economy and improving the Shire's infrastructure
4. Protecting and enhancing the Shire's natural and built environments ensuring the financial success and viability of Council.

The current reporting framework consists of a monthly indicator ‘report card’ that was introduced in September 2001. This approach is driven by the financial reporting process and expanded into environmental and social criteria. Items measured and displayed on the reports are those that are measurable and available at present. Maroochy Shire Council has stated that a detailed annual TBL report will be available that contains additional indicators. However,

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this has not occurred at this stage. The framework uses effective visualization tools to transmit its message. Every month the indicators for environmental, social, and financial dimensions are monitored and resented in a convenient format, which lends itself to public involvement and education (Painter-Morland, 2006).

Empirical Review

Aimienrovbiye et al (2023) talk about the objective of the study is to empirically determine the relationship between the Triple Bottom Line Reporting and Firm Financial Performance in Nigeria. The specific objectives of the study includes: to determine whether business accounting, social accounting, environmental accounting, firm age, and firm size statistically relate to firm financial performance. The study used primary source to gather the data and employed the ordinary least square technique in validating the research hypotheses. The dependent variable was firm financial performance whereas business accounting, social accounting, and environmental accounting were used as the explanatory variables, and firm age and firm size were the control variables in defining the relationship. The study revealed that there was significant relationship between the independent variable and firm financial performance. The study concludes that business accounting, social accounting and firm age have a positive relationship with firm financial performance while environmental accounting and firm size showed a negative relationship with firm financial performance. The study recommends that regulatory agencies in Nigeria should develop and enforce a financial reporting mechanism that will be based on triple bottom line reporting.

Odogu (2022) did a study to ascertain the imperative of triple bottom line accounting and the performance of listed manufacturing companies in Nigeria. The study adopts a cross-sectional and ex-post facto research design. We examined the interrelationship among variables using data obtained from Nigeria Stock Exchange on a cross section of listed manufacturing companies in specific periods of 2015 to 2019. The total of two hypotheses formulated, were analysed using panel least square regression and multiple regression with the adoption of fixed effect or least square dummy variable (LSDV) model. From the findings, triple bottom line accounting jointly has significant influence on financial performance of listed manufacturing companies in Nigeria. It was established that economic cost (EC) and environmental cost (EVC) have a positive and significant effect on the variables of performance of listed manufacturing companies in Nigeria while social cost (SC) had positive and non-significant effect on the variable of performance of manufacturing companies in Nigeria. Recommendations were made, that government, as the custodian and protector of the society, and the environment, should help put in place some guidelines, for manufacturers to contribute to their environment and the society at large. Also, managers should adopt triple bottom line as a guide to report to stakeholder on the allocation of benefits not only to shareholders but to other stake holders.

Oladele et al (2021) did explore a study on the effects of triple bottom line reporting on corporate performance of listed manufacturing firms in Nigeria. The study employed an ex-post-facto research design with the population of sixty-four (64) quoted manufacturing firms on the Nigeria Stock Exchange as of 2019. Ten (10) manufacturing firms were selected. Five

(5) years data were obtained from the annual reports of selected manufacturing firms spanning the years 2015 to 2019. The ordinary least squares regression analysis was used to examine how the triple bottom line reporting variables influence the corporate performance. The study shows the significant level of the independent variables on corporate performance as follows: environmental reporting ($p=0.036<0.05$); board composition ($p=0.958>0.05$); employee relation ($p=0.048<0.05$); and community relations ($p=0.262>0.05$). The implication of these findings were that environmental reporting and employee relation do not have significant impact on corporate performance, whereas board composition and community relations had significant effect on the corporate performance of the selected manufacturing firms in Nigeria. The study recommends that Nigerian manufacturing firms should invest reasonably on the triple bottom line reporting rather than concentration on profit alone. Besides, the Nigerian Financial Reporting Council (FRCN) and other stakeholders should also ensure that sustainability reporting is mandatory and that effective penalties should be implemented for non-compliance.

Azubike et al (2019) did a study that examined effect of triple bottom line accounting on financial performance of listed manufacturing firms of consumer goods products in Nigeria. The sample comprises of 21 manufacturing firms listed on the Nigerian stock exchange (NSE), covering a period of five years, 2013 to 2017. The combination of 21 firms for a five year period provides a balanced panel of observations to be analysed using a cross-sectional and ex-post facto research design. Triple bottom line accounting measures are economic cost (fund employed), social cost (education tax), and environmental cost. Financial performance measure is earnings per share (EPS). The postulated hypotheses were tested, using ordinary least square method of multiple regression analysis. The empirical results showed that, the r-squared of 0.78 suggest that the regression model which regressed was a proper fit. The outcome is 78% and the probability value of f-statistics is significant at 1% supporting the credibility of the regression equation. This showed the ability of the selected explanatory variables to predict more than half of the changes that occur in financial performance of manufacturing firms of consumer goods product in Nigeria. Based on the findings, they recommended that government, as the main custodian and protector of the society and the environment should help put in place some guideline for manufacturers to contribute to their environment and the society at large.

Jackson, et al (2011) in his studies examined the relationship between sustainability and triple bottom line as two related concepts that are used interchangeably in the literature. A comprehensive review of the relevant literature was conducted and revealed an inconsistent use of the term sustainability with respect to social, environmental, and economic lines. On the other hand, consistency in terms of referring to the three "Ps" simultaneously is built into the structure of triple bottom line as the concept is clearly based on the combination of social, environmental, and economic factors. The purpose of their study was not to support an argument that favours the use of one term over the other, but to provide an overview of the presence of both terms and their interconnectedness in the literature. It also explored sustainability and triple bottom line, as tools to examine, appraise or measure the effects of business activities on the economy, social equity, and environment. In the light of this, researchers in the business, management, and sustainability fields are encouraged to pay particular attention to how they use these terms in their studies for better understanding by other researchers.

Onyali et al (2015) in their study examined the effectiveness of triple bottom line disclosure practice of corporate firms in Nigeria by focusing on the perspective of corporate stakeholders. In achieving the above objective, three research questions were raised and two hypotheses were also formulated. The descriptive method of research design was employed to generate the required data. The population of the study was made up of three distinctive groups: investors, customers/consumers and accountants. The primary data obtained were summarized using tables, while the formulated hypothesis was analysed using one-sample z test procedure done. Their findings indicated that investors and consumers expressed dissatisfaction with the extent of firms' triple bottom line disclosure practice in Nigeria. In their own view, most reports provided by some organizations were often vague and far from the expression of actual performance. Also, accountants were negative on the level of the rigor and transparency exerted in the preparation of triple bottom line reports by firms in Nigeria. Based on this, it was recommended that companies should disclose more quantifiable triple bottom line indicators encompassing social, environmental and economic performance. The development of standards to guide companies in the identification of variables for disclosure was also suggested.

Mitchell et al (2008) carried out a study on triple bottom-line disclosure and financial performance in the USA. The study which covers 333 firms out of 500 for the years 2001-2019 revealed that triple bottom line disclosure and corporate financial performance have a significantly positive relationship in both directions and that corporate social performance leads to an increase in gross margin. From the above reviews, the relationship between triple bottom-line disclosure and a firm's performance has not been substantiated because; the study shows both positive and negative relationships. It is, therefore, the purpose of this Paper to rest the case by establishing whether there is a significant effect and the extent of the relationship.

Also, Fred (2006) carried out a similar study on the impact of triple bottom line accounting on the profitability of multinational companies in Nigeria. The study is an empirical investigation that sampled six (6) multinational companies in Nigeria from 2003-2019 using an annual report and with the use of simple regression analysis reviewed that there is a significant relationship between expenditure on social responsibility and profitability of multinational companies in Nigeria.
Chapman and Milne (2004) in their work titled "The triple bottom line: How New Zealand companies measured" stated that triple bottom line involves the measurement and reporting of economic environment and social performance indicators in a single report. Over the past few years an increase number of New Zealand companies have produced such report, due mostly to the promotional effort of the New Zealand Business Council for Sustainability Development (NZBCSD). A lack of legal requirement or mandatory reporting standard, however, means the uptake of such reporting is not widespread beyond council members based on the UNEP\Sustainability benchmarking tools, their article report the result of an analysis of 30

NZBCSD members 200 triple bottom line reporting results from analysis showing that while the number of companies undertaking triple bottom line reporting was increasing, the standard of reporting generally remains poor. Only two reports generated over half of the total possible score according to the benchmarking tool. Commonly disclosed issues relates to management policies and systems, with evidence of some efficiency metrics (mostly energy and waste) being commonly used, employee and local communities are those stakeholders most frequently addressed in these reports. The article concluded with a section on how future triple bottom line reports can be improved upon.

Odupitan (2017) examined the possible relationship between sustainable business practice and firm performance. Using a field survey methodology, a sample of sixty manufacturing companies in Nigeria was included in the study. An investigation was undertaken into the possible relationship between firm performance and three selected indicators of sustainable business practice: employee health and safety (EHS), waste management (WM), and community development (CD). This study revealed that the sustainable practices of the firms are significantly related to firm performance. The study concluded that, within the Nigerian setting at least, sustainability practices affects corporate performance.

Painter-Morland (2006) carried out a similar study on the effect of Environmental regulations on the financial performance of manufacturing companies in Tanzania. The study used regression analysis with a sample of five (5) selected listed manufacturing companies. The findings indicated that Environmental compliance has no significant effect on the financial performance of listed financial companies in Tanzania. Brown et al (2006) researched the effect of sustainability reporting on firms' profitability. The study was carried out using secondary data. Data collected were analysed using ordinary least square regression analysis. The findings revealed that sustainability reporting had significant effect on firms' profitability. The study recommends that organizations should ensure that they report their social, economic, and environmental activities for an increase in profitability.

METHODOLOGY

Study Design

The research design employed here is the descriptive survey approach. Descriptive research is used to obtain information concerning the current status of the phenomena concerning variables or conditions in a situation. The method is crucial for this study because the issue at hand requires to be described and the phenomenon analysed for conclusions.

Study Population and Sample Size

The population of the study comprised all the staff of Shell E&P, MOPOL, and Indigenes of Imiringi Community in Ogbia Local Government Area in Bayelsa State. A purposive sampling technique was used to select the participating company's and indigenes of the Imiringi Community. The sample size of this study is made up of 70 respondents while the sampling procedure adopted is random sampling because it is the generally acclaimed method of probability.

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Data Collection, Validity and Reliability of Instrument, and Analysis
The method of data collection mainly involved primary source which was through the administration of a structured questionnaire to the sample targeted for the study. Validity and reliability aim to ensure that the instrument relates to the research questions and measures what it ought to measure. Based on the critical examination and correction of the researchers' supervisor and other experts in the Department of Accounting in NDU, the instrument was made valid. To ensure the reliability of the instrument for data collection, the test-retest method of reliability was adopted.

Both the responses of the first administration of the instrument (Pre-test) and the second administration (post-test) were tested for correlation using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) to obtain the coefficient of stability of the responses and the same PPMC was used to analyse the data from the actual field survey.

Model Specification
The following model, an adaptation from Odey et al (2023) was used to facilitate the analysis of data using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation. It expressed performance of oil and gas companies as a function of intervention in socio-economic welfare of host communities, and compliance to environmental sustainability and standards by oil and gas companies.
$PERF = f\ (ISEW, CESS)$
When transformed into a mathematical equation it becomes:
$PERF = \alpha + \beta_1 ISEW + \beta_2 CESS + \mu$ Equation 1
Where;
PERF = Performance of oil and gas companies
ISEW = Intervention in socio-economic welfare of host communities by oil and gas companies
CESS = Compliance to environmental sustainability and standards by oil and gas companies
α = Constant
β_1 and β_2 = The coefficients of the independent variables to be determined by use of PPMC
μ = Error term of the equation

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results
Demographic Data
First, in Tables 1 and 2 are presented the demographic data gathered on respondents in terms working experience and knowledge of accounting and the concept of triple bottom line. Table 1 shows number of years of working experience while Table 2 shows level of knowledge in accounting and triple bottom line.

Table 1 shows demographic data collected on the years of working experience of the respondents. The results show that 16.7 per cent (11) of the respondents have worked and lived in the area for 1 to 10 years. 56.1 per cent (37) of the respondents have worked and lived in the area for 11 to 20 years, 12.1 per cent (8) of the respondents have worked and lived in the area for 21 to 30 years, while 15.2 per cent (10) of the respondents have worked and lived in the area for 31 years and above.

Table 1: Years of experience of respondents

		Frequency	Cum	Valid Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Valid	1 to 10 years	11	11	16.7	16.7
	11 to 20 years	37	48	56.1	72.8
	21 to 30 years	8	56	12.1	84.9
	31 and above	10	66	15.1	100.0
	Total	66		100.0	

Source: Researchers' Field Survey 2024

Table 2 shows demographic data collected on the knowledge of accounting and triple bottom line of respondents associated with the oil & gas companies. The results show that 70 per cent (46) of the respondents have knowledge of accounting and the concept triple bottom line at the same time, 30 per cent (20) of the respondents do not.

Table 2: Knowledge of Accounting and TBL of respondents

		Frequency	Cum	Valid Per cent	Cumulative Per cent
Valid	Yes	46	46	70.0	70.0
	No	20	66	30.0	100.0
	Total	66		100	

Source: Researchers' Field Survey 2024

Analysis Questionnaire Retrieved

The results of the analysis of the copies of the questionnaire administered and retrieved are presented in Tables 3 and 4. 70 copies of the questionnaire were administered, 68 were retrieved and 66 were valid for use in the analysis. These were used to answer the two research questions derivable from the two specific research goals.

Research Question One

What is the relationship between level of intervention in the social-economic welfare of the host communities and performance of oil and gas companies?

To answer this research question, the scores in questions 1 to 10 were analysed as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Intervention and Social-Economic Welfare of the Host Communities

ITEM	SA	**A**	**D**	**SD**

Financial reporting of E&P and MOPOL Integrate environmental and economic dimensions	13 (11.7%)	45 (68.2%)	6 (9.1%)	2 (3.0%)
Financial reporting of E&P and MOPOL align with generally accepted accounting principles	15 (22.7%)	25 (37.9%)	15 (22.7%)	11 (16.7%)
External financial reporting of Shell E&P and MOPOL takes into account the social obligations of the local communities.	15 (22.7%)	34 (51.5%)	17 (25.8%)	0 (0%)
Shell E&P and MOPOL disclose their reports on wealth distribution to stakeholders through their financial reporting system	1 (1.5%)	33 (50%)	32 (48.5)	0 (0%)
The company's business model is designed to benefit the local community	19 (28.8%)	30 (45.5%)	11 (16.7%)	6 (9.1%)
Sustainability is specifically included in the company's mission and broad values	23 (34.8%)	38 (57.6%)	4 (6.1%)	1 (1.5%)
The company gives technical training to the host communities	2 (3.0%)	32 (45.5%)	32 (45.5%)	0 (0%)
The company has a community service policy and encourages employee volunteerism	15 (22.7%)	39 (59.1%)	12 (18.2%)	0 (0%)
The company supports and sponsors local events and organizations	18 (27.3%)	29 (43.9%)	19 (28.8%)	0 (0%)
The company invests in education by giving scholarships to qualified indigenes of the host communities	8 (12.1%)	58 (87.9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Source: Researchers' Field Survey 2024

Table 3 shows the responses to the oil and gas companies' intervention in social-economic welfare of the host Communities. The results indicate that 13 (11.7%) strongly agree that financial reporting of E&P and MOPOL integrates environmental and economic dimensions, 45 (68.2%) agree, 6 (9.1%) disagree, and 2 (3.0%) strongly disagree. 15 (22.7%) strongly agree that financial reporting of E&P and MOPOL is aligned with generally accepted accounting principles, 25 (37.9%) agree, 15 (22.7%) disagree and 11 (16.7%) strongly disagree. 15 (22.7%) strongly agree that the financial reporting of Shell E&P and MOPOL takes into account the social obligations of the local communities, 15 (22.7%) agree, 34 (51.5%) disagree and 17 (25.8%) strongly disagree. Furthermore, 1 (1.5%) strongly agree that Shell E&P and MOPOL disclose their reports on wealth distribution to stakeholders through their financial reporting system, 33 (50%) agree while 32 (48.5) disagree. 19 (28.8%) strongly agree that The companies' business model is designed to benefit the local community, 30 (45.5%) agree, 11 (16.7%) disagree and 6 (9.1%) strongly disagree. 23 (34.8%) strongly agree that sustainability is specifically included in the companies' mission and broad values, 38 (57.6%) agree, 4 (6.1%) disagree and 1 (1.5%) strongly disagree. 2 (3.0%) strongly agree that

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the company gives technical training to the host communities, 32 (45.5%) agree and 32 (45.5%) disagree. 15 (22.7%) strongly agree that the company has a community service policy that encourages employee volunteerism, 39 (59.1%) agree while 12 (18.2%) disagree. 18 (27.3%) strongly agree that the company supports and sponsors local events and organizations, 29 (43.9%) agree and 19 (28.8%) disagree. Finally, 8 (12.1%) strongly agree that the company invests in education by giving scholarships to qualified indigenes of the host communities while 58 (87.9%) agree. The above result shows that the majority of the respondents think that there is a significant level of influence of the oil and gas companies' intervention in the social-economic welfare of the host communities on performance.

Research Question Two

What is the relationship between level of compliance to environmental sustainability and standards and performance of oil and gas companies?

To answer research question two, the scores in questions 11 to 20 were analysed as shown in

Table 4.

Table 4: Compliance to Environmental Sustainability and Standards

ITEM	SA	A	D	SD
The activities of Oil and Gas companies in the host community cause many environmental issues	0 (0%)	2 (3.0%)	64 (97%)	0 (0%)
The company committed to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions	15 (22.7%)	38 (57.6%)	11 (16.7%)	2 (2.0%)
Shell E&P carryout out recovery or rehabilitation of degraded areas in the host communities	16 (24.2%)	27 (40.9)	16 (24.2%)	7 (10.6)
the lands and properties of degraded individuals are properly compensated for	32 (48.5%)	21 (31.8%)	8 (12.1%)	5 (7.6%)
The financial reporting of Shell E&P has environmental standards	46 (69.7%)	11 (16.7%)	5 (7.6%)	4 (6.1%)
Shell E&P carry out Environmental Impact Assessments of the region they operate to ascertain the environmental damages	17 (25.8%)	35 (25.8%)	10 (15.2%)	4 (6.1%)
The records of Shell E&P are Transparent	1 (1.5%)	19 (28.8%)	23 (34.8)	23 (34.8)
Financial reports of Shell E&P sensitive to the are stakeholders and host communities	22 (33.3%)	21 (31.8%)	17 (25.8%)	6 (9.1%)
The financial report of the company depicts the environmental condition of the host community	33 (50%)	23 (34.8%)	10 (15.2%)	0 (0%)

There are proper measures of waste management in the working environment of Shell E&P and Mopol	26 (39.4%)	32 (48.5%)	5 (7.6%)	3 (4.5%)

Source: Researchers' Field Survey 2024

Table 4 shows the responses about the compliance of oil and gas companies to environmental sustainability and standards. The results indicate that 2 (3.0%) agree that the activities of oil and gas companies in the host community cause many environmental issues while 64 (97%) disagree. 15 (22.7%) strongly agree that the companies are committed to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, 38 (57.6%) agree, 11 (16.7%) disagree and 2 (2.0%) strongly disagree. 16 (24.2%) strongly agree that Shell E&P carries out recovery or rehabilitation of degraded areas in the host communities, 27 (40.9) agree, 16 (24.2%) disagree and 7 (10.6) strongly disagree. Furthermore, 32 (48.5%) strongly agree that the lands and properties of degraded individuals are properly compensated for, 21 (31.8%) agree, 8 (12.1%) disagree and 5 (7.6%) strongly disagree. 46 (69.7%) strongly agree that the financial reporting of Shell E&P comply with environmental standards, 11 (16.7%) agree, 5(7.6%) disagree and 4 (6.1%) strongly disagree. 17 (25.8%) strongly agree that Shell E&P carry out an environmental impact assessment in areas where they operate in order to ascertain the environmental damages, 35 (25.8%) agree, 10 (15.2%) disagree and 4 (6.1%) strongly disagree. 1 (1.5%) strongly agree that the records of Shell E&P are transparent, 19 (28.8%) agree, 23 (34.8) disagree and 23 (34.8) strongly disagree. 22 (33.3%) strongly agree that the financial reports of Shell E&P are sensitive to the stakeholders and host communities, 21 (31.8%) agree, 17 (25.8%) disagree and 6 (9.1%) strongly disagree. 33 (50%) strongly agree that the financial report of the company depicts the environmental condition of the host communities, 23 (34.8%) agree and 10 (15.2%) disagree. Finally, 26 (39.4%) strongly agree that there are proper measures of waste management in the working environment of Shell E&P and MOPOL, 32 (48.5%) agree, 5 (7.6%) disagree and 3 (4.5%) strongly disagree. These results shows that the majority of the respondents think that there is a significant level of compliance by oil and gas companies to environmental sustainability and standards.

Correlation Matrix

Table 5 shows the relationship between the study variables: intervention in socio-economic welfare of host communities (ISEW) and compliance to environmental sustainability and standards (CESS) by oil and gas companies (proxy for triple bottom line reporting – independent variables) and performance (PERF) of oil and gas companies (dependent variable) in a correlation matrix. Table 5 shows a strong positive correlation between ISEW and PERF (0.8250) and a strong positive correlation between CESS and PERF (0.8041). There is also positive correlation between ISEW and CESS (0.3517); meaning that the sampled oil and gas companies as a result of compliance with environmental sustainability and standards intervenes in socio-economic welfare of their host communities. Based on the results in Table 5, the two null hypotheses of this study derived from the specific goals are rejected:

Table 5: Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficients

Variables	PERF	ISEW	CESS

PERF	1.0000		
ISEW	0.8250	1.0000	
CESS	0.8041	0.3517	1.0000

Source: Extract from E-Views 9 Output, 2024

Hypothesis One
There is no significant relationship between ISEW and PERF of oil and gas companies. This is rejected because at 0.8250 ISEW has a strong positive relationship with PERF; and

Hypothesis Two
There is no significant relationship between CESS and PERF of oil and gas companies. This is also rejected because at 0.8041 CESS has a strong positive relationship with PERF.

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to examine the influence of triple bottom line reporting and performance of the oil and gas companies in Bayelsa State. Concerning the oil and gas companies' intervention in the socio-economic welfare of the host Communities, this study reveals that there is a significant level of influence of the intervention in the socio-economic welfare of the host communities on the performance of oil and gas companies in Bayelsa State. The correlation as shown in Table 5 is 0.8250. Also, from Table 3 it was revealed that most staff of Shell E&P, MOPOL, and residents in Imiringi agree with the assertion that the financial reporting of E&P and MOPOL integrate environmental and economic dimensions, most staff of Shell E&P, MOPOL, and residents of Imiringi agree that Shell E&P and MOPOL disclose their reports on wealth distribution to stakeholders through their financial reporting system.
Finally, the study revealed that there is a significant level of influence of compliance to environmental sustainability and standards on the performance of oil and gas companies in Bayelsa State. Again, the correlation as shown in Table 5 is 0.8041. Besides, Table 4 shows that Shell E&P carries out recovery or rehabilitation of degraded areas in the host communities, although about 30% disagree with this assertion. Also, the majority of the respondents feel that the financial reports of Shell E&P sensitive to the stakeholders and host communities. However, just a minority of the respondents disagree with the assertion that the records of Shell E&P are transparent.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Conclusion

This study examined the influence of triple bottom line reporting on the performance of oil and gas companies in Bayelsa State of Nigeria. Based on a descriptive survey design study collected primary data through a structure questionnaire administered to a sample of 70 respondents selected purposively from sample two oil and gas companies operating in the states and indigenes Ogbia Local Government Area – the host community. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was employed for the analysis of data. The findings showed that the level of intervention in socio-economic welfare of host communities by oil and gas companies has significant influence on the performance of sampled oil and gas companies. The findings also show that the level of compliance to environmental sustainability and standards by oil and gas companies has significant influence on the performance of oil and gas companies operating in Bayelsa State. This is because in terms of compliance of oil and gas companies to environmental sustainability and standards, staff and indigenes of Imiringi agree that the financial reporting of E&P and MOPOL integrate environmental and economic dimensions, Also, the study revealed that the financial reports of Shell E&P and MOPOL are sensitive to the stakeholders and host communities' socio-economic welfare. The study concluded that triple bottom line reporting has significant influence on the performance of oil and gas companies operating in Bayelsa State.

Recommendations

1. Oil and gas companies should ensure that they intervene on issues concerning the socio-economic welfare of indigenes of their host communities in terms of provisions of pipe born water, electricity, good road, scholarship to encourage individuals to study to any level of education of their choice. By doing so, the oil and gas companies would enjoy uninterrupted operations to boost performance.
2. Oil and gas companies should endeavour to comply with the environmental laws and standards that will sustain the environment on which they operate. Ensure that their damage control and waste management policies continually reviewed and improvement initiated.

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