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Call for Papers

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Many economists today are concerned by the proliferation of journals and the concomitant labyrinth of research to be conquered in order to reach the specific information they require. To combat this tendency, **Theoretical and Practical Research in Economic Fields** has been conceived and designed outside the realm of the traditional economics journal. It consists of concise communications that provide a means of rapid and efficient dissemination of new results, models, and methods in all fields of economic research.

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The Relationship between Environmental, Social, Governance, and Export Performance in Manufacturing Companies: A Literature Review

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Abstract: *The swiftness with which environmental, social, and governance (ESG) has progressed and taken root in the manufacturing industry has had an immense impact on performance. The impact of ESG on the environment in the manufacturing context, however, remains ambiguous. This investigation endeavors to present a review of the recent literature on the relationship between ESG and export performance, while simultaneously providing a roadmap for future inquiries. Employing content analysis techniques and the VOS viewer tool, this analysis scrutinizes salient research components such as journals, countries, regions, plausible links between ESG and corporate performance, and trends, with particular emphasis on the environmental pillar. Subsequently, a research agenda for ESG implementation is proposed that encompasses both conceptual and empirical perspectives, which includes: (i) identifying the optimum ESG level and its effects on export performance; (ii) exploring the inherent inverse causality within the ESG-export performance nexus; (iii) conducting international comparisons; and (iv) presenting various arguments that support an indirect link between ESG and export performance.*

Keywords: ESG; manufacturing; export performance; environmental; social.

JEL Classification: Q56; M11; L25; L50; L53; A13.

Introduction

Since the 1990s, a global green revolution has made a profound impact on various aspects of human life, exerting significant influence on the world economy, politics, and behavior. One crucial concept that has emerged from this revolution is Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG). This concept emphasizes the integration of social and environmental considerations into corporate decision-making and operations, becoming critical in the context of the global economy.

The financial implications of ESG have been extensively explored in academic studies, particularly regarding the relationship between ESG, firm performance, and profitability. This relationship holds significant implications for managers, policymakers, and shareholders. Despite the extensive discussion on this topic, the direct link between ESG and export performance remains ambiguous.

Recent studies have sought to deepen our comprehension of this link by investigating how ESG influences innovation pathways and exploring the impacts of individual ESG components on innovation across various industry contexts. While some studies have demonstrated that companies focusing on ESG tend to be viewed as more responsible and sustainable (Li and Li, 2023; Alcaraz *et al.* 2022; Bıçakcıoğlu *et al.* 2019), Tatoglu *et al.* 2019), leading to increased investments, enhanced financial performance, and greater innovation, conflicting

perspectives exist. Researchers like Mijatovic *et al.* (2019), Chakraborty and Mukherjee (2013), and Birkin *et al.* (2009) propose a negative or negligible correlation between these variables. These conflicting findings can be attributed to differences in ESG and firm performance measurements, study periods, model specifications, and control variables used (Benlemlih 2017). Hence, understanding the potential positive and negative impacts of ESG on manufacturing companies is imperative.

This study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the influence of ESG practices on export performance, with a specific emphasis on the environmental pillar. While existing research has explored the relationship between ESG and financial performance, limited attention has been paid to the impact of ESG on export performance—an integral aspect of corporate strategy for numerous manufacturing companies. Furthermore, this study contributes to the literature by offering a fresh perspective on the connection between ESG and export performance. By employing qualitative literature review methods and synthesizing recent study findings, this research elucidates the intricate links between ESG practices and export performance. Moreover, it provides insights into potential strategies for implementing ESG practices within manufacturing companies. In conclusion, this study holds significance for both management researchers and practitioners as it offers a deeper understanding of how ESG practices impact corporate performance and provides practical recommendations for companies aiming to enhance their export performance through sustainable practices.

1. Literature Review

The worldwide awareness of environmental concerns has placed increased pressure on businesses, leading to greater scrutiny from various stakeholders. In response, companies have begun incorporating natural concerns into their strategic planning, as evidenced by research conducted by Aragon-Correa and Sharma (2003) and Buysse and Verbeke (2003). Elkington's "triple bottom line" (TBL) approach, which prioritizes people, profit, and the environment, has gained significant attention (Norman and MacDonald, 2004). According to this approach, corporations must evaluate their social and environmental impact, in addition to the economic value they create, whether it be positive or negative. Manufacturing companies can consider the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of their business models. Some authors, such as Carroll (1991) and Pawłowski (2008), take the multidimensional approach even further, including economic, legal, ethical, philanthropic, moral, and technical dimensions.

Manufacturing is a reflection of humanity's rational drive for continuous progress and expansion (Li and Li 2023; Malshe *et al.* 2015). In order to ensure environmental sustainability, there must be a balance between production activities and their effect on the environment. More and more, the connections between manufacturing and nature are being recognized (Rosen and Kishawy 2012), which has spurred manufacturers to prioritize environmental sustainability in their operations.

As we move further into the digital age, manufacturing companies are facing tougher competition because of the advancements in technology that allow for higher quality products, lower costs, and faster delivery times (Sartal 2020). To stay ahead of the curve, many companies are starting to implement eco-friendly strategies into their manufacturing processes to reduce their impact on the environment (Li 2022; Joung 2013). This shift in focus has allowed companies to exceed the basic standards of efficiency-based management philosophies and better meet the needs of a changing landscape.

The authors of this paper acknowledge the need to emphasize environmental sustainability more strongly, which the author defines as a strategic management method in which an organization is devoted to the environmental sustainability principles in its operations across sub-businesses, aims to employ renewable resources, and attempts to reduce the negative environmental impact of its activities. We operationalize environmental sustainability integration into the core business as the level of environmental sustainability, and consider various indicators to assess this level, such as environmental performance and eco-effectiveness, resource-/eco-efficiency (Wood 1991), and the intensity of integrating overarching principles related to corporate sustainability (*e.g.*, Life-Cycle Management, Circular Economy, Lean Manufacturing, innovation).

Export performance refers to a company's ability to meet performance targets in foreign markets, as noted by Cavusgil and Zou (1994) and Li (2022). Scholars have defined this term as both the outcome of a company's marketing initiatives and other business operations in overseas countries (Katsikeas *et al.* 2000; Shoham 1996), and the degree to which a company intends to achieve by transporting a product to a foreign market (Cavusgil and Zou 1994). As such, it serves as a vital indicator for management teams when making decisions regarding foreign operations, as it supports and promotes the development of long-term corporate sustainability (Sinkovic *et al.* 2018).

At the core of a company's strategic legislation process lies the attainment of successful export performance, as emphasized by Beleska-Spasova (2014). Tatoglu *et al.* (2020) contend that companies must adopt a product differentiation strategy to compete in the global market. This approach stresses the importance of setting a product apart from other similar competitor products (Porter 1985). Companies operating in export markets use ESG-based product differentiation to promote their brand image as socially and ecologically sustainable commodity producers (Fombrun and Shanley 1990). This approach satisfies consumer desires for environmentally friendly characteristics, which raises the value of a product in their eyes (Fandos-Roig *et al.* 2021) and leads to an increase in export sales (Li and Li 2023; Giallonardo and Mulino 2012; Boehe and Cruz, 2010). Therefore, this strategy boosts overall client satisfaction and engagement, resulting in an overall improvement in export performance.

This study was based on two different theories: the resource-based view and stakeholder theory, due to their importance and relevance to ESG. Stakeholder theory, as put forward by Freeman (1984), states that companies must not only consider the interests of stockholders, but also of a range of other stakeholders, such as employees, customers, suppliers, and local community organizations. This theory suggests that without engaging in certain ESG activities that benefit the social and environmental aspects of company procedures, they are at risk of losing the support of these stakeholder groups. Therefore, stakeholder theory has become the most commonly used theoretical approach to examine ESG, as it is the major motivation for corporations to go beyond legislative obligations (Cantrell, Kyriazis, and Noble 2015; Perrini 2006).

The social impact hypothesis, which derives from stakeholder theory (Freeman 1984), is the most effective way to explain the positive influence of ESG on financial performance. This hypothesis states that when companies satisfy the demands and expectations of various stakeholders, their financial performance is improved (Perrini *et al.* 2011). ESG is also seen as a strategic approach to earning financial gains, as it can yield competitive advantages on the market (Porter and Kramer 2002), bolster a company's reputation (Fombrun and Shanley 1990), strengthen its brand image (Murray and Montanari 1986), and enhance its legitimacy (Hart and Christensen 2002).

Resource-based view (RBV) is a key theory to understanding the importance of ESG in corporate performance. Developed by Wernerfelt (1984), and further expanded by Barney (1991), RBV views the use of valuable, scarce, unique, and non-substitutable resources and competencies as a source of sustainable competitive advantage. According to Castelo and Lima (2006), this theory suggests that businesses should aim to equip themselves with either tangible or intangible resources that rivals cannot readily replicate or acquire (Cho and Pucik, 2005).

Therefore, corporate engagement in ESG can be used as a control mechanism to accommodate the interests of different stakeholders (Li 2022; Mason and Simmons 2014). When stakeholders are satisfied, the company's reputation could lead to improved export performance. Conversely, if stakeholders are disgruntled, the export performance of the company might suffer. This concept is at the core of strategic management, requiring firms to consider the impacts of their operations on both stakeholders and the environment (Donaldson and Preston 1995).

The purpose of this paper was to conduct an analysis of the latest empirical literature concerning the impact of ESG on the export performance of manufacturing companies. Our primary objective was to gain a comprehensive understanding of the most recent studies and discern how ESG factors influence firms' performance. We have presented an overview of the current state of research, having the potential to enrich the existing discourse and provide potential research avenues that could be beneficial for both scholars and practitioners.

Undoubtedly, the manufacturing industry plays a significant role in driving the growth of the global economy. Through the development of innovative materials, it offers a plethora of options that cater to people's daily needs and thus serves as a crucial engine for societal progress (Li and Li 2023; Guang *et al.* 2012). It is a fundamental pillar of the national economy, particularly in emerging countries. Moreover, the export business plays a substantial role in the operations of manufacturing companies.

With the implementation of eco-friendly trade policies, such as environmental certification requirements, by industrialized nations to safeguard the environment and ensure the well-being of humanity, the study of ESG and its impact on the export performance of manufacturing companies has become even more crucial. Therefore, it is imperative to conduct research in this area to understand the correlation between ESG practices and the export performance of manufacturing firms.

The present paper is thoughtfully structured to provide a comprehensive understanding of the correlation between ESG and export performance. To achieve this aim, it has been divided into five well-defined sections

that allow for a clear and coherent presentation of the research. Section 1 is dedicated to laying out the theoretical foundations of ESG and export performance and extensively examines the existing literature on the topic. It provides the necessary context for understanding the significance of the study. Moving forward, Section 2 sheds light on the methodology adopted for conducting the literature review, which is essential for understanding the credibility and reliability of the findings. Section 3 delves into the intricate links between ESG and export performance and highlights the significant impact that ESG practices have on the export performance of companies. Section 4 presents the crux of the study, where the authors thoroughly analyze the empirical results of the research and draw insightful conclusions that are likely to contribute to the existing literature. Finally, in Section 5, the authors outline the contribution and limitations of the study, providing a comprehensive overview of the research's strengths and weaknesses. The five-section structure is designed to ensure that the reader gains a deep understanding of the intricate relationship between ESG and export performance, making it an essential contribution to the academic discourse on the subject.

2. Materials and Methods

The present investigation employs a qualitative research methodology and formulates a comprehensive search strategy to pinpoint primary studies relevant to the research topic. A novel perspective is introduced to scrutinize the outcomes and furnish the groundwork for researchers and practitioners to utilize. The methodological practices adopted in this study are exploratory and theory-building, as recommended by Karlsson (2016). To comprehend the intricate interplay between the subject of inquiry and other allied fields, a process of literature review is employed. As elucidated by Hart (2018), this process entails handpicking, evaluating, scrutinizing, arranging, and articulating information from diverse sources concerning a specific topic to accomplish a particular goal. In line with Hart's instructions, the review comprises three essential stages: literature selection and evaluation, content analysis, and results delineation.

The search query was crafted with meticulous attention, utilizing the "OR" operator to sift through three distinct sets, namely A (ESG), B (export performance), and C (manufacturing). The combination of keywords was deftly achieved by employing the "AND" operator between these sets, weaving a sophisticated web of interconnected terms to refine the search. To ensure the search's robustness, the study harnessed the power of two renowned scientific databases, Scopus and Web of Science, with Scopus being the primary source of information, and Web of Science playing the supplementary role. In the pursuit of precision, every possible avenue was explored, and therefore, the search terms spanned across the title of the article, the abstract, and the author keywords.

Table 1. Keywords for search query

| Search query: set A AND set B AND set C | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|
| Set A | Set B | Set C |
| environmental, social, governance OR ESG OR corporate social responsibility OR CSR OR environmental sustainability | export performance | manufacturing |

In the first phase of our investigation, we conducted a meticulous search using various keywords such as environmental, social, governance, ESG, corporate social responsibility, CSR, and environmental sustainability, which resulted in a bounty of over 3,290 articles. Subsequently, we ventured into exploring the realm of export performance, and our search yielded a satisfactory amount of 127 outcomes. Lastly, we directed our efforts towards investigating the manufacturing industry, and our query fetched us a modest sum of 76 articles.

After this initial round of exploration, we carefully filtered our findings based on specific parameters such as language (English), the type of publication (peer-reviewed academic journals), and the fields of business economics, behavioral sciences, operations research, and management science, resulting in a reduced set of 31 articles for in-depth analysis. To ensure thoroughness and eliminate the possibility of duplication, we repeated the same search query on the Web of Science database, resulting in 168 articles. We then subjected these outcomes to the same rigorous standards as before, resulting in a further reduction to a meager 24 articles.

After subjecting these 24 articles to thorough content analysis and removing duplicate and irrelevant papers, we were left with a final set of 28 articles, which were then meticulously analyzed. Table 2 presents a summary of the relevant findings of these articles, which specifically focus on the themes of ESG, export performance, and other pertinent conclusions.

Table 2. An overview of the recent research on the relationship between ESG and export performance discussed in this paper

| Authors | Country | ESG measure | Export performance measure | Result | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---|--|--------|---|
| | | | | | Mediator/moderator |
| Conceição <i>et al.</i> (2006) | Portugal | Level of RandD; Objectives and hampering factors of innovation; Sources used | Exports share | + | |
| Birkin <i>et al.</i> (2009) | China | Reducing waste and emissions, investing in renewable energy sources; Engaging in corporate social responsibility initiatives. | Export growth | 0 | |
| Urban and Govender (2012) | South Africa | Environmental Policy; Environmental Auditing; Environmental Training; Environmental Monitoring | Export intensity; Export growth | + | |
| Chakraborty and Mukherjee (2013) | Developing countries | Environmental Performance Index (EPI) score | Growth rate of exports | - | |
| Perry and Towers (2013) | Sri Lanka | Philanthropic/charitable activity; Monitoring and auditing of code of conduct; Waste generation | Production cost | + | |
| Hofman and Newman (2014) | China | Philanthropy; Environmental sustainability; Ethical labor practices | Employee's emotional attachment, loyalty, and identification | 0 | Cultural values |
| Palma, <i>et al.</i> (2014) | Brazil | Environmental management; Social responsibility; Economic prosperity | Export profitability; Market share; Export growth | + | |
| Tsai and Liao (2017) | Taiwan | Prevention of pollution; Reduction of waste. | Questionnaire | 0 | Market pulls; Environmental policy |
| Al-Amin <i>et al.</i> (2018) | Malaysia | Sustainable business climate; Promotion of best practice | Ability to sustain competitiveness | + | |
| Joo <i>et al.</i> (2018) | Korea | Firm's ability to generate and implement new environmentally-friendly products, processes or practices; | Exports growth rate; Export profit; Market share | + | Environmental and technological innovation capabilities |
| Mendoza-Fong <i>et al.</i> (2018) | Different countries | Green product design; Green purchasing; Green manufacturing; Green distribution; Green marketing | Cost reduction; Environmental sustainability; Brand image enhancement; Income increase | + | Updating of ICT; Implementation of the GSC |
| Bıçakcıoğlu <i>et al.</i> (2019) | Turkey | Environmentally-friendly product design; Environmentally-friendly manufacturing; Environmentally-friendly strategic planning | Export profit; Export sales | + | Internal resources; Product positioning |
| Mijatovic <i>et al.</i> (2019) | Serbia | Eco-friendly product design; Eco-friendly manufacturing; Eco-friendly strategic planning | Questionnaire | 0 | |
| Tatoglu <i>et al.</i> (2019) | Turkey | Eco-efficiency in production; Eco-friendly manufacturing; | ROA | + | |
| Chen and Hamilton | China | CSR reporting evaluation system | ROE; ROA | + | |

| Authors | Country | ESG measure | Export performance | Result |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| (2020) | | | | |
| Sardana <i>et al.</i> (2020) | India | Water usage; Energy usage; Environmental targets | ROA; Market share | + Plant capability |
| Galbreath (2021) | Taiwan | Materials, energy, carbon emissions and other pollution reduction; Recycling | Volume of foreign sales | + Government subsidies; Consumer demand; PCES; Absorptive capacity |
| Hu <i>et al.</i> (2021) | China | The macrocosm dimension; The content dimension; The technique dimension | ROE | + Value appropriation - |
| Ullah <i>et al.</i> (2021) | United States | CGVS score (Thom- son Reuters Asset4) | Foreign sales to total sales ratio | + |
| Alcaraz <i>et al.</i> (2022) | Mexico | Inbound sustainability; Internal sustainability; Outbound sustainability | Average return on sales and investment, profits growth, and market share | + Supplier integration; Customer integration; |
| Nguyen <i>et al.</i> (2022) | 10 different countries | Usage of vendor certification; Direct green investment and environmental col- laboration | Market share, revenue, and profit | + Process innovation; Export oriented manufacturing |
| Padilla-Lozano and Collazzo (2022) | Ecuador | Formal CSR tools; Environment-related CSR; Workplace-related CSR; Community-related CSR; Marketplace-related CSR | Market performance; Intangible performance | + Green innovation |
| Teplova <i>et al.</i> (2022) | Emerging market companies | Environmental indicators; Social indicators; Governance indicators | Share of direct export in revenue | + |
| Nguyen <i>et al.</i> (2023) | Multiple countries | Environmental impact; Environmental targets | Market share Profitability Total sales | + Green reputation pressures |
| Silva <i>et al.</i> (2023) | Portugal | Product; Price; Distribution; Promotion programs | Profits; Sales; Market share; Sales intensity | + |
| Uddin, Razzak and Abd Rahman (2023) | Bangladesh | Reduction of environmental impacts; Improvement of working conditions; Increased collaboration with stakeholders | Enhanced brand reputation; Improved financial performance; Enhanced customer satisfaction | + |
| Yang and Han (2023) | Korea | KCGS Evaluation Data (Score) | ROA; ROE; Export amount | + |

“+” is positive; “-” is negative; “0” is not providing a definitive answer.

VOS viewer is a free, widely used software in bibliometric research that enables users to construct maps of journals, authors, citation data, and keywords. The term "VOS," which stands for "visualization of similarities," emphasizes the graphical representation of bibliometric maps. These maps are designed to be comprehensible and interpretable to the viewer (Van Eck and Waltman 2010). This study utilized visual network images to facilitate analysis of cited sources, regions, bibliographical relations and more.

3. Research Results

In recent times, scholars have taken a keener interest in the domain of ESG, which is a facet of sustainability rooted in scientific principles. The phrase "ESG" was initially introduced in the United Nations' report titled *Who Cares Wins*, in the year 2004. Since then, the field has witnessed an unprecedented surge in interest, marked by the publication of Conceição *et al.* in 2006, which serves as a testament to this fact. Moreover, the frequency of publications pertaining to ESG has increased each year since 2018. This surge in interest can be attributed to the implementation of environmentally friendly trading protocols by industrialized nations, which include the incorporation of environmental certification prerequisites. The objective of these protocols is to safeguard the environment and ensure the well-being of humanity. The Green Trade Barrier (GTB), a non-tariff commercial hindrance employed in international trade, is employed to enforce such regulations (Li and Bang 2020). The graph displayed in Figure 1 highlights the rapid proliferation of publications related to ESG and exports. In addition, 35% were mainly published in three journals, including Sustainability (14%), Business Strategy and the Environment (14%) Journal of Cleaner Production (7%). The distribution of published journals is shown in Fig2.

Figure 1. Timeline of publications

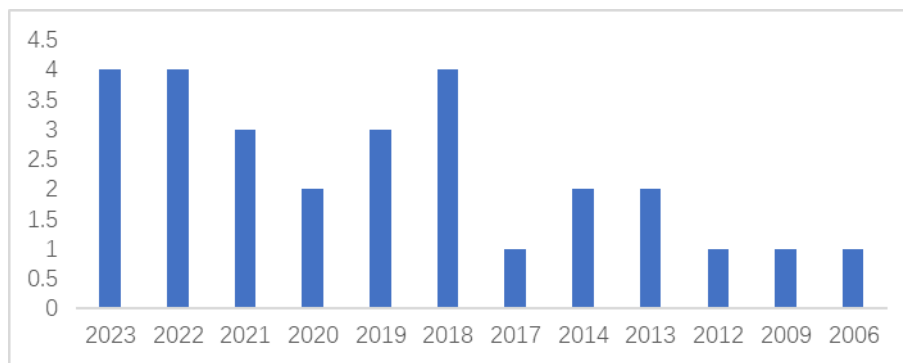


Figure 2. Contributions of the journals

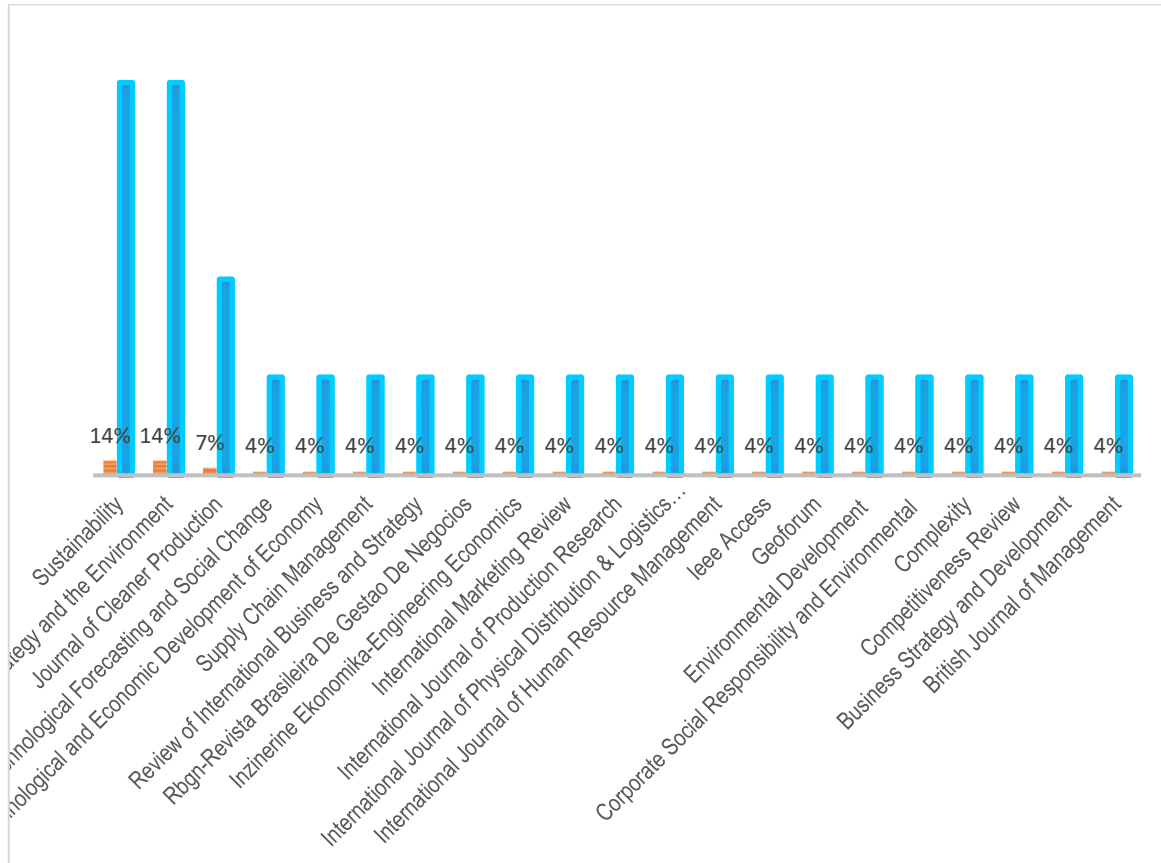


Figure 3. Collected papers considering country

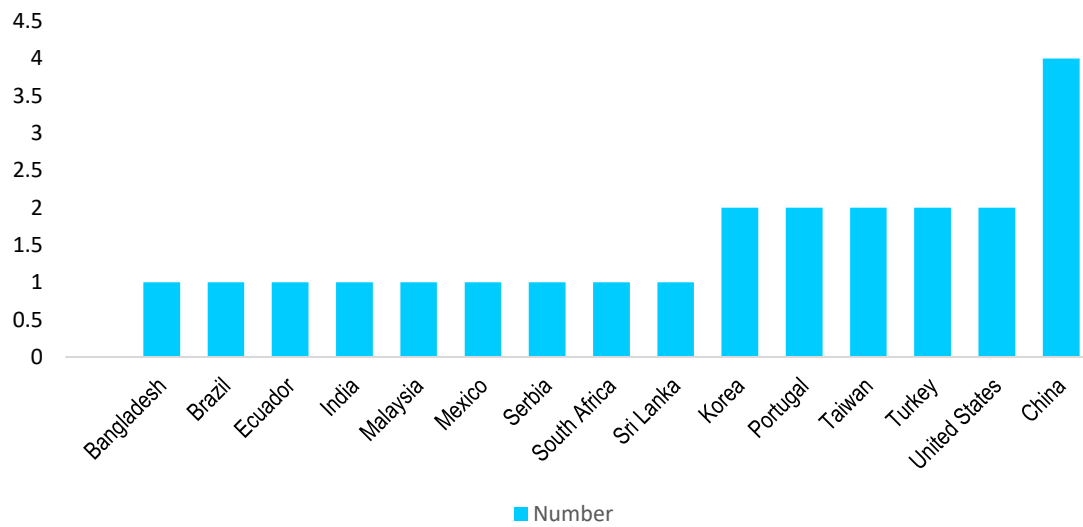


Figure 3 reveals that China is the most researched country with four articles devoted to it. Korea, Taiwan, Portugal and the United States follow, each with two articles; the remaining regions are represented by single articles.

Figure 4. Analysis of the bibliographical relations based on density

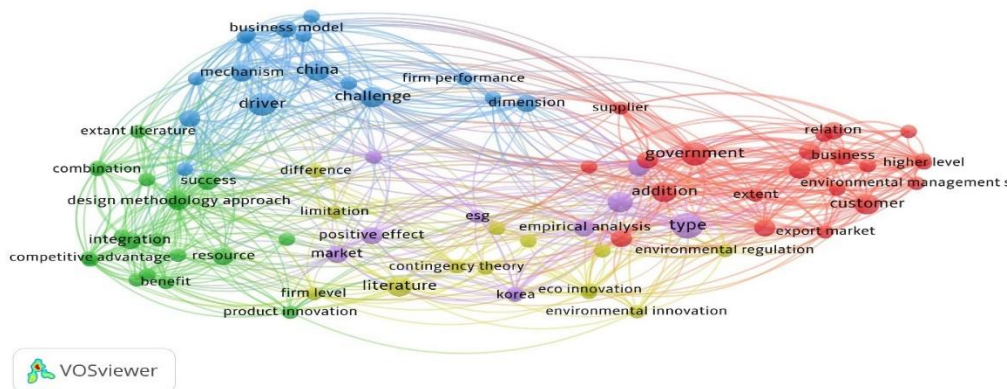


Figure 4 illustrates the most frequently mentioned terms in the articles, as well as the relationship between them. 'Integration', 'business model', 'government', 'customer', 'environmental regulation' and 'China' had the highest density. This result suggests that a majority of the articles examined some of the elements that impact ESG implementation. Additionally, the analysis suggests that China is one of the most studied countries in this context. However, it is important to note that this analysis was limited to the presence of such terms in the articles and thus, it is impossible to make a generalized assessment without considering the context in which the terms are utilized.

Conclusions

The present study offers a comprehensive review of recent literature concerning the intricate nexus between ESG and export performance. It is revealed that investigations in this domain have progressed significantly, covering a broad spectrum of topics such as the nuanced impacts of distinct ESG components on export performance, differentiating between strengths and concerns in the analysis, and scrutinizing the mediators and moderators of the relationship. Despite the growing body of literature on this subject, several queries still linger. Primarily, given the inconclusive findings regarding the link between ESG and export performance, it would be intriguing to ascertain the optimal ESG level and its impact on export performance. Such an optimal level would serve as a threshold, indicating that investing below or above it could adversely affect financial outcomes.

A further avenue of intriguing inquiry beckons, one which explores the inverse causality inherent within the ESG-export performance nexus. According to Tatoglu *et al.* (2019), a notable shift towards a customer-centric business model, coupled with a heightened emphasis on differentiation strategy and a greater awareness of the significance of stakeholder orientation, can prompt corporations to implement ESG measures to a greater degree. Astonishingly, research on the effects of export performance on ESG implementation remains woefully scarce.

As a few companies are presently embarking upon the implementation of Environmental Management System (EMS) practices at their manufacturing and operational levels, reaping the rewards of waste minimization and cost reduction through their unwavering commitment to continuous improvement techniques, there are others who are yet to follow suit. Therefore, it would be intriguing to delve deeper into the subject matter, utilizing a meta-analysis research approach to establish an international comparison between firms from various countries. This would enable us to undertake a thorough analysis of different industries, discerning the dependence of the relationship between the EMS practices and their impact on the contextual landscape, along with the inherent characteristics of such a correlation.

Ultimately, the fundamental mechanisms by which ESG influences export performance remain shrouded in mystery. Within the author's comprehensive literature review, various studies presumed that the correlation between ESG and export performance is not overt, and therefore sought to identify the conduits by which ESG impacts a firm's performance. It is worth noting that the majority of moderators and mediators, such as a company's capacity, environmental orientation, and innovation performance, are abstract and elusive in nature. Thus, it can be inferred that this association has captivated a significant amount of research and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future.

Contribution and Further Research

Our research, while theoretically grounded in the decision to limit our review to the manufacturing industry, has two significant drawbacks. Firstly, this choice, motivated by the desire to move beyond a general overview of ESG to a more targeted analysis of industrial ESG practices, inevitably excludes a considerable portion of the ESG phenomenon - that which is exclusively related to the tertiary sector. Secondly, our approach did not rely on quantitative methodologies, thereby precluding any immediate examination of correlations or potential causal relationships. Nonetheless, this limitation provides an opening for a future meta-analysis of the papers, a promising avenue for exploring such associations.

Our research has made a noteworthy addition to the ESG literature, having the potential to enrich the existing discourse and provide valuable insights for policymakers, academics, and practitioners alike. There exist a limited number of publications on ESG practices in the manufacturing industry that scrutinize the performance of exports. Most of these studies primarily delve into financial performance, but there is no doubt that the manufacturing sector plays a pivotal role in propelling global economic growth. Through pioneering the development of innovative materials, this industry proffers a diverse range of solutions to meet the daily requirements of people, and thereby functions as a vital driving force for societal advancement (Guang *et al.* 2012). It stands as a fundamental cornerstone of the national economy, especially in emerging nations. Additionally, the export sector assumes a significant role in the manufacturing operations.

With the increasing adoption of eco-friendly trade policies such as environmental certification requirements by developed nations to preserve the environment and promote human welfare, researching the influence of ESG practices on the export performance of manufacturing firms has become even more imperative. Hence, it is essential to conduct studies in this realm to comprehend the correlation between ESG practices and export performance of manufacturing companies. Furthermore, this article expounds on potential avenues for future research.

Credit Authorship Contribution Statement

Yan Li contributed to the Conceptualization, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Software, Formal analysis, Writing – original draft, Supervision, Data curation, Validation, Writing – review and editing, Visualization.

Jilian Li contributed to Conceptualization, Investigation, Methodology, Project administration, Software, Formal analysis, Writing – original draft, Supervision, Data curation, Validation, Writing – review and editing, Visualization.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

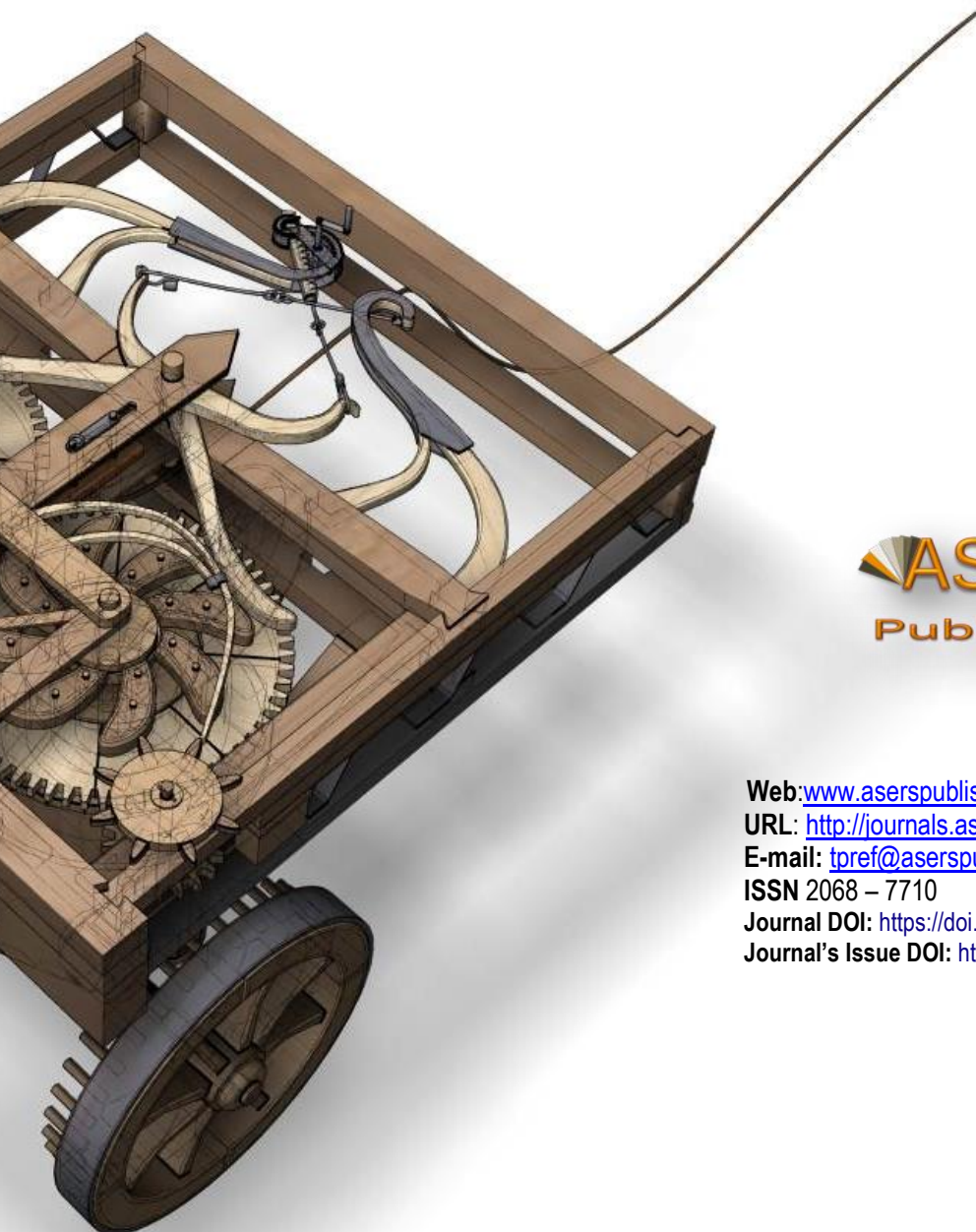
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