information focused on the circular economy in a sample of Spanish companies. From an Institutional theory perspective, this study defines the economic-financial determinants of high accountability levels and the relationship between circular economy disclosure and main companies' characteristics to improve circular economy performance indicators for waste management. In summary, this study provides an innovative and integrated measurement of the CE from a theoretical and applied approach. Thus, our study contributes to academics, practitioners, and policy-makers to promote CE deployment in the waste sector.

Keywords: Circular Economy, Accountability, Institutional Theory, Waste Management, Environmental Management Accounting, Material Flows Cost Accounting

---

Professional Ethics in Accounting in the Context of Current European Union Requirements for Non-Financial Reporting of Carbon Footprint Information

Pawel Modrzynski
Bydgoszcz University of Science and Technology, Poland

Grazyna Voss
Bydgoszcz University of Science and Technology, Poland

Abstract

This article explores the intersection of non-financial reporting, ethics, accounting, carbon footprint, and environmental protection. It delves into the evolving landscape of non-financial reporting, examining the introduced uniform standards, particularly in the context of environmental norms. The primary goals of the article include (1) presenting the legal requirements of the European Union (EU) for non-financial reporting on ecological issues, and (2) investigating this realm of non-financial reporting through the lens of professional ethics in accounting. The study focuses on the contemporary research trajectory of non-financial reporting, encompassing both the expanding scope and the evolving presentation format of data. Comparative research results are presented, analyzing selected elements of non-financial reports related to greenhouse gas emissions from major companies in the apparel industry listed on the Warsaw Stock Exchange (WSE). The article also discusses research findings on potential ethical norm violations by accountants, serving as a source of irregularities in non-financial reporting. Overall, the article contributes to understanding the intricate relationship between non-financial reporting, ethical considerations, accounting practices, carbon footprint, and environmental conservation.

Keywords: Non-financial Reporting, Ethics, Accounting, Carbon Footprint, Environmental Protection

---

Working Capital Management and Firm Profitability: Insights and Strategies in the Context of Economic Uncertainty and the COVID-19 Pandemic

Sanjeev Kumar
Jindal Global Business School, O.P. JIndal Global University, India

Hanna Olasiuk
Jindal Global Business School, O.P. Jindal Global University, India

Abstract

Objective: The primary aim of this study is to investigate the association between the efficiency of working capital management (WCM) and the profitability of manufacturing companies in India, focusing on how the COVID-19 pandemic has influenced these dynamics as an external policy shock. Data and Methods: Our research examined a comprehensive dataset comprising 2,312 firms manufacturing companies listed on India's National Stock Exchange (NSE) from 2015 to 2021. We employed fixed effects panel regression models to investigate the significance of working capital management efficiency and profitability in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, we conducted a difference-in-differences (DID) analysis, utilizing the year 2020 as a reference point to assess the impact of the external policy shock caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Results: Our empirical findings reveal a negative correlation between the cash conversion cycle (C2C) and the return on assets (ROA), indicating that an extended C2C duration corresponds to a diminished ROA. Likewise, we observe a similar adverse relationship between the leverage ratio and ROA. Our analysis identifies leverage, Interest Coverage Ratio (ICR), Current Ratio (CR), and firm size as significant factors impacting a company's profitability. To enhance their profitability, firms should consider reducing their leverage, favoring equity-based financing, and endeavor to increase their Current Ratio. Conclusions: This study illustrates the vital connection between effective working capital management and firm profitability, particularly during the challenging backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. It recommends enhancing the cash conversion cycle to boost profitability, highlighting its significance in economic uncertainty. The research reveals a consistent and substantial correlation between these factors, offering valuable insights for smaller, unlisted firms. Notably, companies with superior working capital management performed better during the pandemic.

Keywords: Working Capital Management, Manufacturing Firms, Profitability, Cash to Cash Cycle, Returns on Assets

---

Supply Chain Finance for Sustainable Development of Organizations: An Emerging Economy Study

Ashish Dwivedi
O.P. Jindal Global University, India

Akansha Tripathi Dwivedi
Bansal Institute of Technology, Lucknow, India

Shefali Srivastava
Christ University, India

Dindayal Agrawal
Institute of Management Technology Ghaziabad, India

Abstract

Purpose: In modern business era, sustainable development has risen to prominence as a primary objective for organizations worldwide. The integration of supply chain finance (SCF) practices has emerged as a pivotal strategy for organizations to achieve both financial stability and sustainable growth. Objectives: The study initiates by conducting an extensive literature review to comprehend the multifaceted dimensions of SCF and the role of digital technologies therein. It delves into the adoption of innovative digital solutions, including blockchain, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), and their implications for SCF in promoting sustainability across supply chains. Employing EFA, the research identifies the key facilitators influencing the adoption and effectiveness of digital technologies in SCF for sustainable development. Data and Methods: This study investigates the transformative potential of new digital technologies, supported by an analytical framework combining Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA), Interpretive Structural Modeling (ISM) and Best-Worst Method (BWM). Results: The results shed light on which facets of SCF and digital technology integration merit the most attention and investment. To account for uncertainties and variations in the implementation of these strategies, sensitivity analysis is performed, allowing for a comprehensive assessment of the robustness of the proposed SCF framework in the face of changing conditions and parameters. The study highlights the transformative potential of new digital technologies as facilitators of SCF strategies that not only optimize financial operations but also promote environmental stewardship and social responsibility. Conclusion: By emphasizing the significance of these analytical methodologies, this study offers a comprehensive blueprint for organizations seeking to navigate the complex landscape of supply chain finance and align their growth with sustainable development imperatives.

Keywords: Facilitators, Supply Chain Finance (SCF), Sustainable Development, Digital Technologies, EFA, ISM, BWM, Sensitivity Analysis.
