

EDITORIAL: Unveiling the intersection of governance and behavior: Insights from varied domains

Dear readers!

We are delighted to present the latest issue of the journal *Corporate Governance and Organizational Behavior Review*, dedicated to the fascinating fields of corporate governance and behavioral sciences. As an esteemed scholarly publication, our mission is to foster intellectual discourse and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in these interdisciplinary areas.

This issue features a diverse selection of research articles covering a wide range of topics, including supply chain distribution, economic evaluation of costs, challenges faced by informal traders, the effects of macroprudential regulation, sustainability reporting, well-being in the funeral parlor industry, application of green accounting, self-esteem, and job satisfaction among academic staff, science under occupation, oil exchange rates and organizational performance, the efficiency of zakat institutions, corporate social responsibility (CSR) adoption, talent management challenges, business risks, the impact of trust, and the impact of resilience.

We take great pride in presenting the results of this comprehensive research undertaken by scholars hailing from developing, emerging, and transitional economies, who represent a diverse range of academic institutions, backgrounds, and cultural perspectives. Their invaluable contributions serve as a testament to the unwavering dedication, expertise, and intellectual rigor that characterize the scholarly community. It is important to emphasize that each article featured in the journal *Corporate Governance and Organizational Behavior Review* has undergone a meticulous peer-review process, in line with our unwavering commitment to upholding academic excellence. This rigorous review process ensures that only the highest quality research with the utmost scholarly integrity is published. Our esteemed contributors have presented theoretical insights, empirical studies, and thought-provoking analyses, shedding light on critical issues, and offering innovative solutions to contemporary challenges.

According to *Thokozani Patmond Mbhele*, expansion into new markets creates new opportunities and dynamics which could enhance a company's growth prospects. It thus calls for scalable supply chain distribution systems in competitive marketplaces, which requires sustainable distribution systems to enhance cost efficiency.

According to *Abubakar Idris, Michael Nwoko, Shehu Salisu Umar, Emhenya A. Iyoha, and Kenneth T. Maduako*, who focused on the cost and outcomes of healthcare services in some African countries with a particular focus on sub-Saharan African (SSA) regions; optimal interventions to address technological inadequacy and inefficient system performance, are needed, to achieve quality health outcomes.

Research conducted in Thulamela municipality found that unemployment, poverty, and lack of income contribute to the rising number of people participating in informal trading, which consequently helps create jobs and reduce poverty. *Mukondeleli Angelina Ramasimu, Ntsieni Fitzgerald Ramasimu, and Tshilidzi Eric Nenzhelele*, therefore, strongly recommend that both the government and private sector take proactive measures to support informal traders. It is crucial to initiate and implement effective strategies that cater to the unique needs and challenges faced by this sector.

Anas Ahmad Bani Atta, Jamileh Ali Mustafa, Saif Saleh Al-Qudah, Eman Massad, and Ahmad Bani Ahmad investigated the effect of macroprudential regulation on banks' profitability during financial crises, to find out whether the instruments of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) enhance the performance of the Jordanian banking sector in terms of increasing banks' profitability and reducing banking sector exposure to financial crisis vulnerability. The results revealed that CBJ prudential regulation instruments succeeded in keeping the stability of the banking sector profitability during previous financial crises, but still need to enhance the level of gearing for banks against future shocks.

For companies that faced a challenge in reporting imposed-sustainability statements during COVID-19, *Zuraidah Mohd Zam, Haslinda Yusoff, Rina Fadhilah Ismail, and Hasan Fauzi* introduced the concept of sustainability reporting as a strategic crisis response mechanism. Their study proposes a comprehensive model and matrix that aligns stakeholder engagement disclosure strategies with quality disclosure practices. Between reporting practices and internal governance mechanisms, their study sheds light on how these mechanisms can shape reporting behaviors. The findings of their study offer valuable insights for organizations facing the task of sustainability reporting in times of crisis. Their research contributes to a broader understanding of how reporting practices can promote transparency and accountability.

Lucia Ndelu and Vuyokazi Mtembu examined the physical and mental health risks faced by funeral industry employees who are exposed to death and funeral activities, particularly in the context of a pandemic. Based on their findings, management should prioritize the implementation of robust wellness programs that are essential for minimizing the adverse effects of the coronavirus on employee well-being and promoting their overall mental health. By strengthening support systems and providing necessary resources, organizations can better protect the mental well-being of their employees in the funeral industry.

To evaluate the environmental impact on the economy, *Thi Minh Phuong Nguyen, Hong Hanh Ha, and Manh Dung Tran* conducted a comprehensive analysis using data obtained from 243 survey questionnaires completed by managers and accountants of construction firms in Vietnam. The study revealed that the application of green accounting in Vietnamese construction firms is influenced by five key determinants, namely staff levels and resources, legal and regulatory systems, customer demands, stakeholder and manager perceptions, and internal resources. Additionally, the study highlighted the significance of legal and educational systems in facilitating the implementation of green accounting practices. These findings provide valuable insights for construction firms and policymakers seeking to promote sustainable practices and enhance environmental performance in the industry.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) face the challenge of establishing a competitive edge to effectively compete with larger companies. To address this, a new dimension called “purpose” has been added to the well-known as of people, planet, and profit. Drawing on the theoretical frameworks of planned behavior and social cognitive theory, *Agus Masrukhin, Ang Swat Lin Lindawati, Bambang Leo Handoko, and Mohamad Heykal* examined the impact of attitude and self-efficacy on the concept of purpose. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the factors that drive sustainable practices among SMEs, providing insights for businesses and policymakers aiming to promote environmentally conscious strategies and enhance competitiveness in the market.

The objective of *Aferdita Ahmeti and Gordana Stankovska’s* paper is to examine the relationship between self-esteem and job satisfaction among 150 full-time academic employees working at three state universities in the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of North Macedonia. Through their research, the study identified job satisfaction and job success as significant moderators of self-esteem among academic staff. These findings shed light on the complex interplay between these variables in the academic context, providing valuable insights for both researchers and educational institutions seeking to enhance employee well-being and performance.

Yana Suchikova, Natalia Tsybuliak, Hanna Lopatina, Anastasiia Popova, Sergii Kovachov, Olha Hurenko, and Ihor Bogdanov study examine the profound impact of the Russian-Ukrainian war on research activity at a university that has been temporarily occupied. Through a combination of quantitative and qualitative analysis, the researchers conducted surveys and observations to explore the challenges faced by scientists under occupation. The findings reveal that these scientists not only experience limited access to essential equipment but also endure significant moral and psychological pressures. However, despite these adversities, the study highlights the resilient spirit of the scientists, who draw inspiration from the understanding of their scientific achievements’ meaning and value in contributing to Ukraine’s victory and post-war recovery. Furthermore, the support of the global scientific community serves as a source of motivation, encouraging the creation and advancement of knowledge even in times of hardship.

David Umoru, Solomon Edem Effiong, Enyinna Okpara, Robert Ike Eke, Davidson Iyayi, Cletus Ukon Nwonu, Muhammed Adamu Obomeghie, Anna Nuhu Tizhe, and Kasimu Eshemogie study examines the relationship between global oil prices and exchange rates in 21 developing countries, focusing on the channel of volatilities and returns. Using structural vector autoregression (SVAR) analysis, the findings reveal that oil-producing and exporting countries experience slight fluctuations in their exchange rates in response to changes in oil prices. This suggests that the two variables are interconnected, and investors can potentially diversify risks by independently investing in both oil markets and forex markets. The study provides insights into the dynamics of these relationships and highlights the potential benefits of diversification strategies for market participants.

Efficiency is a crucial aspect for institutions as it reflects the effective utilization of resources to achieve specific objectives. In the case of zakat institutions, efficient management is particularly vital to maximizing their impact in promoting socio-economic goals, especially poverty alleviation. The study conducted by *T. Muhammad Ghufuran, Muhammad Hasbi Zaenal, and Endri Endri* focuses on analyzing the efficiency levels of Baitul Mal districts/cities in Aceh Province, Indonesia. The findings of the study reveal that to enhance efficiency, Baitul Mal must optimize the utilization of socialization costs, operational costs, and the number of *amil* (administrators). Furthermore, increasing the collection and distribution of *zakat, infaq, and sadaqah* (ZIS) is identified as crucial in improving efficiency. It is recommended that Baitul Mal takes measures to enhance all relevant variables to achieve cumulative efficiency across the 23 districts.

According to *Ngoc Hung Tran*, the adoption of CSR practices is widely acknowledged as a crucial factor in the success of companies. His study, conducted in Vietnam, investigated the impact of enterprise size, corporate governance, ownership structure, board gender diversity, business industry, innovation, and knowledge of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues on CSR adoption. The findings indicate that enterprise size, corporate governance structures, diverse ownership, and higher representation of women on boards are positively associated with greater CSR adoption. Additionally, the study reveals the positive influence of innovation and knowledge of ESG issues on CSR practices. These findings emphasize the significance of these factors in promoting and enhancing CSR adoption among companies.

Londeka Xulu and Sanjana Brijball Parumasur utilize a case study research strategy, employing exploratory and descriptive approaches to examine the subject. The study specifically focuses on a single case, the Retail Business Banking (RBB) analytics division of a major banking institution in South Africa, which operates numerous branches globally. The findings highlight the crucial role of human resources practices, such as attraction, recruitment, and employee engagement, in talent management. It was observed that Millennials place greater value on factors like upskilling or development opportunities, knowledge management, and work-life balance, rather than monetary recognition.

Abdulwahab Baroun conducted an analysis to investigate the impact of various dimensions of human capital, including skills, attitude, and knowledge, on organizational performance. The study focuses on a specific population of Kuwaiti workers employed in private oil and gas companies. The findings indicate that skills, attitudes, and knowledge play a significant role in influencing organizational performance among employees in Kuwait's private oil and gas sector. This research highlights the importance of developing and nurturing human capital to enhance overall organizational performance in the specific context of the oil and gas industry in Kuwait.

S. Martono, Arief Yulianto, and Angga Pandu Wijaya's paper aimed to analyze the influence of the debt-to-asset ratio and managers' overconfidence level on business risk. The study found that the presence of risky debt does not always lead to risk-shifting; rather, it results in risk-avoidance, specifically underinvestment in risky projects. The managers' fear of job loss and damage to their reputation plays a significant role in distorting their confidence levels at all organizational levels.

The study conducted by *Ranti Utami and Doddy Setiawan* utilized three dimensions, namely ability, virtue, and integrity, along with accounting information quality, to investigate the impact of trust on access to finance for SMEs in Tanjungpinang. The study's results provide compelling evidence to support the idea that trust plays a crucial role in mitigating the problem of information asymmetry between banks and SMEs when it comes to accessing credit.

Jeena Ann John, Danilo C. Diotay, Jayendra P. Sankar, and Sayed Haytham Yaseen Alawi's study focused on identifying variables that could affect the sustainability of banks. The survey included 99 managers from different banks, whose perspectives were essential to the study. The findings revealed that there is no direct relationship between organizational learning and sustainability. However, the study identified that organizational learning indirectly impacts sustainability by influencing innovation and change. These results underscore the critical role of innovation and change in driving sustainability within the banking sector.

After the brief presentation of the papers, we would finally like to express our gratitude to the authors who have entrusted us with their research and shared their valuable insights. Their commitment to producing high-quality scholarly work contributes significantly to the intellectual enrichment of our readership and previous literature (Astuti et al., 2023; Karger & Kostyuk, 2023; Asogwa et al., 2022; Mantovani et al., 2022; Ali et al., 2022; Hogan & Kostyuk, 2021; Lahjie et al., 2021; Hafez, 2016; Hossain et al., 2015).

We would also like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated reviewers for their invaluable expertise and guidance in maintaining the rigor and academic merit of the journal.

And lastly, we extend our sincere thanks to our readers, who are the driving force behind our journal. Your continued support, engagement, and feedback are essential in shaping the future direction of our journal.

We hope that the articles presented in this issue will stimulate fruitful discussions, inspire further research, and make notable contributions to the progress of the interdisciplinary fields of governance and behavior. We encourage you to explore the rich collection of research articles and engage in scholarly discourse.

Thank you for your ongoing support and readership.

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