

FACTORS INFLUENCING SUSTAINABILITY (A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW)

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Abstract

This study aims to identify and analyze the factors influencing sustainability by employing a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach. The research method was conducted through article searches on Google Scholar using the Publish or Perish software, with the keyword "factors influencing sustainability." From an initial result of 48,200 articles, after screening based on inclusion and exclusion criteria, 10 SINTA-indexed journal articles published between 2020–2025 were selected for further analysis. The findings reveal that sustainability is influenced by environmental factors (vegetation cover, carbon stock, spatial planning), fiscal factors of local governments (local revenue, regional spending, dependency on central transfers), internal company factors (profitability, firm size, leverage, financial efficiency, core capital), as well as external factors (advertisement intensity, media exposure, social support, participation of indigenous communities, and environmental awareness). These results emphasize that sustainability is a multidimensional concept, determined not only by financial aspects but also by social, environmental, and governance dimensions. The implications of this study are expected to provide references for both public and private sectors in designing comprehensive sustainability strategies, while also opening opportunities for future research on the integration of internal and external factors in supporting long-term sustainability practices.

Keywords: Sustainability, Systematic Literature Review, Internal Factors, External Factors, Financial Management

Introduction

Sustainability has increasingly become an essential concern for organizations, governments, and communities in addressing the challenges of global development. The concept of sustainability is often framed through the integration of economic, social, and environmental dimensions, commonly referred to as the triple bottom line. Recent studies emphasize that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a comprehensive framework to strengthen these dimensions in organizational and policy contexts (Fonseca et al., 2020).

Several studies have identified internal organizational factors that significantly influence sustainability performance. Profitability is a crucial determinant because financially healthy companies have greater capacity to invest in sustainable practices (Winarto et al., 2022); (Lisnawati et al., 2024). Similarly, company size also matters, as larger firms are subject to greater public scrutiny and thus tend to be more transparent in sustainability reporting (Yuliza et al., 2021). Meanwhile, leverage can either

constrain sustainability efforts due to financial pressure or encourage efficiency-driven innovations (Pangestu & Hati, 2024).

On the other hand, external factors are equally significant. Media exposure has been shown to strengthen corporate sustainability performance by pressuring firms to adopt socially responsible behavior (Welfalini et al., 2024). Community support and social awareness, particularly among younger generations, also contribute to sustainable practices, especially in the tourism sector (Yudawisastra et al., 2023). In the public sector, fiscal independence through local revenue (PAD) and effective budget allocation are critical in achieving sustainability goals (Wardhani & Payamta, 2020).

Moreover, environmental aspects such as vegetation cover, carbon stock, and spatial planning are essential in urban and regional sustainability (Wulandari et al., 2020). The role of indigenous communities and local wisdom also emerges as a determinant in maintaining sustainable practices in coastal and rural areas (Dabamona & Salim, 2024). These findings highlight that sustainability is not only a managerial or financial issue but also deeply embedded in ecological and socio-cultural contexts.

In addition, sustainability communication and intellectual capital have been shown to moderate the impact of organizational activities, such as advertising intensity, on sustainability reporting (Yuliza et al., 2021). This underscores the importance of strategic communication in enhancing stakeholder engagement and reinforcing sustainable practices.

Based on these studies, it is clear that sustainability is shaped by the interaction between internal capabilities and external pressures. The literature indicates that a holistic approach—integrating economic, environmental, social, and governance dimensions—is necessary to achieve long-term sustainability (Rochdiani et al., 2025).

Theoretical Framework

Sustainability has increasingly become an essential concern for organizations, governments, and communities in addressing the challenges of global development. The concept of sustainability is often framed through the integration of economic, social, and environmental dimensions, commonly referred to as the triple bottom line. Recent studies emphasize that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a comprehensive framework to strengthen these dimensions in organizational and policy contexts (Fonseca et al., 2020).

1. Internal Factors

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2. External Factors

External factors are equally significant in shaping sustainability. Media exposure has been shown to strengthen corporate sustainability performance by pressuring firms to adopt socially responsible behavior (Welfalini et al., 2024). Community support and social awareness, particularly among younger generations, also contribute to sustainable practices, especially in the tourism sector (Yudawisastra et al., 2023). In the public sector, fiscal independence through local revenue (PAD) and effective budget allocation are critical in achieving sustainability goals (Wardhani & Payamta, 2020).

3. Environmental and Social Aspects

Moreover, environmental aspects such as vegetation cover, carbon stock, and spatial planning are essential in urban and regional sustainability (Wulandari et al., 2020). The role of indigenous communities and local wisdom also emerges as a determinant in maintaining sustainable practices in coastal and rural areas (Dabamona & Salim, 2024). These findings highlight that sustainability is not only a managerial or financial issue but also deeply embedded in ecological and socio-cultural contexts.

4. Governance and Communication

In addition, sustainability communication and intellectual capital have been shown to moderate the impact of organizational activities, such as advertising intensity, on sustainability reporting (Yuliza et al., 2021). This underscores the importance of strategic communication in enhancing stakeholder engagement and reinforcing sustainable practices.

5. Synthesis

Based on these studies, it is clear that sustainability is shaped by the interaction between internal capabilities and external pressures. The literature indicates that a holistic approach—integrating economic, environmental, social, and governance dimensions—is necessary to achieve long-term sustainability (Rochdiani et al., 2025).

Method

This study employed a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach to identify and analyze the factors influencing sustainability. The SLR method was chosen because it allows for a structured and comprehensive synthesis of previous studies, reducing potential bias in the selection of literature (Snyder, 2019).

The data were collected through the Google Scholar database using the Publish or Perish software. The keyword applied was “factors influencing sustainability.” The initial search yielded approximately 48,200 articles. To ensure the quality and relevance of the data, inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied. The inclusion criteria consisted of: (1) articles published in the period 2020–2025, (2) indexed in SINTA, (3) peer-reviewed journal publications, and (4) studies explicitly addressing sustainability-related factors. Exclusion criteria included: (1) duplicate articles, (2) conference proceedings without full papers, and (3) articles not available in full text.

After the screening process, a total of 10 articles were selected for further analysis. The selected articles were then categorized according to their main variables, such as environmental, social, economic, and governance-related factors. Data were analyzed using content analysis to identify recurring themes, relationships between variables, and their influence on sustainability performance.

This method ensures that the results provide a comprehensive overview of both internal and external determinants of sustainability, while also highlighting the multidimensional nature of the concept.

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	Source	Papers	Cites	Cites/y...	h	g	hl,no...	hl,ann...	hA	acc...	Search date	Cache date	I
ir yang mempengar...	Semantic S...	374	476	95.20	9	11	6	1.20	4	1	9/27/2025	9/27/2025	
ir yang mempengar...	Google Sc...	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	9/27/2025	9/27/2025	
ir yang mempengar...	Semantic S...	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	9/27/2025	n/a	-
ir yang mempengar...	Google Sc...	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	9/27/2025	9/27/2025	
ir yang mempengar...	Semantic S...	25	22	4.40	2	4	1	0.20	2	0	9/27/2025	9/27/2025	
ir yang mempengar...	Google Sc...	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	9/27/2025	9/27/2025	
ir yang mempengar...	Semantic S...	44	44	1.00	1	2	1	0.20	1	0	9/27/2025	9/27/2025	

Semantic search													
faktor faktor yang mempengaruhi sustainability													Years: 2020 - 2025
Please note: the Semantic Scholar API currently only supports simple keyword searches, with the use of Boolean operators such as AND and OR.													
Publish or Perish will track further developments and release updates when the Semantic Scholar API acquires further functionality.													
Number of results: 1000													

Per year	Rank	Authors	Title	Year	Publication	Publisher	Type
13.00	1	Armita Niroha Hal...	Faktor-Faktor Yang Mempengaru...	2023	Inspirasi Dunia: Jurnal Ris...		Journal
2.60	2	Kikis Dinar Yuliesti...	Strategi Pengembangan Pengelol...	2020			Journal
4.00	3	Abdillah Munawir...	Kebijakan Pemanfaatan Hutan M...	2022	Buletin Ilmiah Marina Sosi...		Journal
3.00	4	B. Artha, Ali Jufri	BOARD GENDER DIVERSITY: SUAT...	2021	Jurnal Proaksi		Review
5.50	5	Aditya Ramadhan	Optimalisasi Literasi Digital Terha...	2023	Literaksi: Jurnal Manajem...		Journal
3.67	6	Ira Hutami Putri, I...	Faktor yang Mempengaruhi Peng...	2022	E-Jurnal Akuntansi		Journal
2.75	7	F. A. Alijoyo, Yusu...	FAKTOR YANG MEMPENGARUHI ...	2021	Bina Ekonomi		Review

Figure 1. Help with Publish or Perish tool

Results

Based on the initial search, approximately 48,200 articles were identified as relevant to the applied keywords. After the screening process using the inclusion and exclusion criteria, only 10 SINTA-indexed journal articles published between 2020 and 2025 were selected, as they aligned with the research focus on factors influencing sustainability. The list of selected journal types is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Article Topics

No	Year	Topic	Journal	Sinta	Citation Journal
1	2020	The Sustainability Status of Green Open Space as Carbon Stock in Pekanbaru City	Journal of Human and Environment	Sinta 3	4
2	2020	Examining Determinant Factors of Financial Sustainability in the Public Sector	Journal of Accounting Studies	Sinta 2	5
3	2021	The Effect of Advertisement Intensity, Nature of Industry, and Listing Category of a Company on Sustainability Report Disclosure	Journal of Accounting	Sinta 4	0

with Intellectual Capital as a
Moderating Variable (Empirical
Study on Companies Listed on IDX
for the Period 2016–2018)

4	2022	Factors Influencing the Level of Sustainability Report Disclosure in Companies Listed on the Jakarta Islamic Index	JIEF : Journal of Islamic Economics and Finance	Sinta 5	0
5	2023	Determinant Tourism Toward Sustainability: A Study Of Millennial Generation Of Indramayu Region	Journal of Economic Discourse	Sinta 4	0
6	2024	Factors Influencing Sustainability Reporting in Food and Beverage Sub-Sector Companies Listed on IDX for the Period 2018–2020	Indonesian Research Journal on Education	Sinta 5	0
7	2024	Analysis of Factors Affecting the Financial Sustainability Ratio in the Banking Sector for the Period 2019–2022	Owner	Sinta 3	0
8	2024	Assessing Indigenous Community Sustainability Aspects in The Development of Coastal Tourism Areas	Journal of Indonesian Tourism, Hospitality and Recreation	Sinta 3	1
9	2024	The Effect of Media Exposure on Corporate Sustainability Performance in Commodity Companies Moderated by Firm Size	EKOMA: Journal of Economics, Management, and Accounting	Sinta 5	1
10	2025	Sustainability Of Sweet Potato Farming In Kuningan Regency	Agrisocionomics: Journal of Agricultural Socio-Economics	Sinta 2	0

The articles concerning factors influencing sustainability were collected based on a review of ten SINTA-indexed journals published during the 2020–2025 period. Based on the data presented in Table 2, various factors are identified as playing a role in influencing sustainability, as summarized below.

Table 2. Factors Influencing Sustainability

No	Researcher(s)	Sample	Factor(s)
1	Sri Wulandari, R. Rifardi, A. Rasyad, Y. Yusmarini	Green Open Space (GOS) in Pekanbaru	Vegetation cover, carbon stock, and spatial planning
2	Dinar Tri Wardhani, Payamta Payamta	Local governments in Indonesia	Source Revenue (PAD), regional spending, dependency on central government transfers

3	Y. Yuliza, Emrinaldi Nur DP, Meilda Wiguna	Companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX) during 2016– 2018	Advertisement intensity, nature of industry, listing category, intellectual capital
4	Wahid Wachyu Adi Winarto, M. A. Kurniawan, F. Arini	Companies listed on the Jakarta Islamic Index	Profitability, leverage, company size
5	Helin G. Yudawisastra, Yuti Yuniarti, Suparjiman Suparjiman, Reny Dany Merliyana	Millennial tourists in Indramayu Region	Tourism sustainability, social support, environmental awareness
6	S. Lisnawati., Devi Ayu Putri Sirait, Minda Muliana Br. Sebayang	Food and beverage sub-sector companies listed on the IDX during 2018–2020	Profitability, company size, leverage
7	Juan Carlos Pangestu, Desty Permata Hati	Banking sector companies listed on the IDX during 2019–2022	Financial efficiency, core capital, Return on Assets (ROA)
8	S. A. Dabamona, Mursalam Salim	Indigenous communities in coastal tourism areas	Community participation, local wisdom, economic support
9	Shirlene Tannia Welfalini, Ayu Umyana, N. F. Dosinta	Commodity companies listed on the IDX	Media exposure, company size (moderating variable), corporate sustainability performance
10	D. Rochdiani, Rio Fauzi Saeful Millah, S. R. Qanti	Sweet potato farmers in Kuningan Regency	Economic, social, and environmental aspects

Discussion

The findings of this study reveal that sustainability is influenced by a wide variety of factors, which can broadly be categorized into environmental, fiscal, internal organizational, external corporate, and socio-cultural determinants. These results confirm that sustainability is not a single-dimensional construct but rather the outcome of complex interactions between internal capabilities and external pressures.

1. Environmental Factors

Environmental aspects such as vegetation cover, carbon stock, and spatial planning play a critical role in shaping sustainability outcomes. The study by (Wulandari et al., 2020) demonstrated that maintaining adequate green open space contributes to ecological balance, carbon absorption, and long-term urban resilience. This highlights that sustainability requires not only financial resources but also strong environmental governance.

2. Fiscal and Public Sector Factors

The analysis further indicates that fiscal independence and efficiency in budget allocation are vital for sustainability in the public sector. (Wardhani & Payamta, 2020) found that local governments with higher local own-source revenue (PAD) and more effective spending allocation are better positioned to maintain financial sustainability. This finding is consistent with previous studies emphasizing fiscal capacity as a driver of sustainable development policies.

3. Internal Organizational Factors

The review also highlights the importance of internal organizational factors such as profitability, leverage, company size, and financial efficiency. (Winarto et al., 2022) and (Lisnawati et al., 2024) confirmed that profitable and larger companies tend to disclose more sustainability information, driven by stakeholder expectations and resource availability. Meanwhile, (Pangestu & Hati, 2024) found that efficiency and core capital positively affect the sustainability of banking institutions. These results demonstrate that financial health and organizational scale are prerequisites for the successful adoption of sustainability practices.

4. External Corporate Factors

External factors such as advertisement intensity, media exposure, and intellectual capital were also found to significantly influence sustainability reporting and performance. (Yuliza et al., 2021) showed that advertising activities, when moderated by intellectual capital, positively affect sustainability disclosure. Similarly, (Welfalini et al., 2024) demonstrated that media exposure enhances corporate sustainability performance, especially in commodity-based industries. These findings confirm the growing role of external stakeholder pressure in motivating companies to adopt sustainable practices.

5. Social and Community-Related Factors

The role of communities and social awareness is equally important. (Yudawisastra et al., 2023) emphasized that social support and environmental awareness among the millennial generation positively contribute to sustainable tourism practices. In addition, (Dabamona & Salim, 2024) highlighted the importance of indigenous

community participation and local wisdom in coastal tourism areas, stressing that sustainability must also align with socio-cultural contexts.

6. Integrative Perspective

Finally, (Rochdiani et al., 2025) demonstrated that agricultural sustainability is determined by the integration of economic, social, and environmental dimensions. This reinforces the triple bottom line approach, where sustainability can only be achieved by simultaneously balancing profit, people, and planet.

Conclusion

This study conducted a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) to identify the factors influencing sustainability from articles published between 2020 and 2025 in SINTA-indexed journals. The review process, which began with 48,200 articles and was refined to 10 eligible studies, revealed that sustainability is determined by a diverse set of factors. These include environmental aspects (vegetation cover, carbon stock, spatial planning), fiscal and governance-related aspects (local revenue, government spending, fiscal dependency), internal organizational factors (profitability, leverage, company size, financial efficiency, core capital), external corporate determinants (advertisement intensity, media exposure, intellectual capital), and social dimensions (community participation, local wisdom, environmental awareness).

The findings emphasize that sustainability is a multidimensional construct shaped by the interaction of economic, social, environmental, and governance factors. Thus, achieving sustainability requires a holistic and integrative approach that balances profit, people, and planet.

The contribution of this study lies in providing a structured synthesis of recent literature, which can serve as a reference for policymakers, companies, and community-based organizations in designing comprehensive sustainability strategies. However, this study is limited by its reliance on secondary data and the scope of articles reviewed. Future research may expand by incorporating international comparative studies, empirical testing of the identified factors, and the integration of digital transformation aspects in sustainability practices.

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