

Review Form 3

Journal Name:	Asian Journal of Economics, Business and Accounting
Manuscript Number:	Ms_AJEBA_121298
Title of the Manuscript:	Empirical Study on the Impact of ESG Performance and R&D Capability on Corporate Financial Performance
Type of the Article	

General guidelines for the Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound. To know the complete guidelines for the Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

<https://r1.reviewerhub.org/general-editorial-policy/>

Important Policies Regarding Peer Review

Peer review Comments Approval Policy: <https://r1.reviewerhub.org/peer-review-comments-approval-policy/>

Benefits for Reviewers: <https://r1.reviewerhub.org/benefits-for-reviewers>

Review Form 3

PART 1: Review Comments

Compulsory REVISION comments	Reviewer's comment	Author's Feedback <i>(Please correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the importance of this manuscript for the scientific community. Why do you like (or dislike) this manuscript? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>This manuscript is significant for the scientific community as it addresses the pressing issue of how ESG performance influences corporate financial outcomes, particularly within the context of China's ambitious "dual carbon" goals. By employing a robust empirical approach using extensive data from A-share listed companies, the study provides valuable insights into the interplay between sustainability practices and financial performance, highlighting the role of R&D capabilities as a moderating factor. I appreciate the manuscript's comprehensive analysis and its practical recommendations for enhancing ESG disclosure and innovation, which could guide policymakers and corporate leaders in their decision-making processes. Overall, it contributes to the growing body of literature on sustainable business practices and underscores the importance of integrating ESG considerations into corporate strategies for long-term success.</p>	
<p>Is the title of the article suitable? (If not please suggest an alternative title)</p>	<p>The title of the article is generally suitable, as it reflects the main themes of ESG performance, R&D capability, and corporate financial performance. However, it could be more concise and engaging.</p> <p>Alternative Title "Exploring the Impact of ESG Performance and R&D Capabilities on Corporate Financial Success in China"</p>	
<p>Is the abstract of the article comprehensive? Do you suggest the addition (or deletion) of some points in this section? Please write your suggestions here.</p>	<p>The abstract is quite comprehensive, covering the key aspects of the study, including the context, methodology, and objectives. However, it could benefit from a few adjustments for clarity and focus. Here are some suggestions:</p> <p>Suggestions for Improvement</p> <p>1: Clarify Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explicitly state the main research question or hypothesis at the beginning to provide a clearer focus. <p>2: Highlight Key Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include a brief mention of the main findings or conclusions to give readers a sense of the results and their implications. <p>3: Streamline Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplify some sentences for better readability. For example, the phrase "this article attempts to explore" could be shortened to "this article explores." <p>4: Specify Methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefly mention the type of regression analysis used to provide insight into the analytical approach. 	
<p>Are subsections and structure of the manuscript appropriate?</p>	<p>The subsections and structure of the manuscript appear appropriate for the topic and research objectives. Here are some observations:</p> <p>1: Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logical Flow: The manuscript follows a logical progression from the introduction to research 	

Review Form 3

	<p>status, design, and empirical analysis, which aids reader comprehension.</p> <p>2: Clear Sectioning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each section is clearly defined, allowing readers to navigate through the research easily. <p>3: Comprehensive Coverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key components such as variable definitions, data selection, and research hypotheses are included, providing a thorough understanding of the study. <p>4: Suggestions for Improvement (Add a Literature Review Section)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While the "Research Status" section provides relevant studies, a dedicated literature review could enhance the context and show how this research builds on or differs from existing work. <p>5: Methodology Details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider expanding the "Research Design" section to include more details about the regression analysis techniques used, such as assumptions, diagnostics, and any tests for robustness. <p>6: Results and Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If not already included, a separate "Results" section followed by a "Discussion" section could help differentiate between presenting findings and interpreting their implications. <p>7: Conclusion and Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A distinct conclusion section summarizing the main findings and offering actionable recommendations could strengthen the manuscript's impact. <p>8: Visual Aids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If applicable, consider incorporating tables or figures to summarize data or illustrate key findings, making the results more accessible. <p>9: Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall, while the structure is solid, these enhancements could provide additional depth and clarity, improving the overall quality of the manuscript. 	
<p>Please write a few sentences regarding the scientific correctness of this manuscript. Why do you think that this manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound? A minimum of 3-4 sentences may be required for this part.</p>	<p>The manuscript demonstrates scientific robustness through its use of a comprehensive dataset, comprising unbalanced panel data from 2,265 A-share listed companies over a significant period from 2017 to 2022. The application of multiple linear regression analysis is appropriate for examining the relationships between ESG performance, R&D capabilities, and corporate financial performance, ensuring that the findings are statistically valid. Furthermore, the inclusion of control variables, such as company size and executive incentives, enhances the reliability of the results by mitigating potential confounding factors. Overall, the methodological rigor and attention to empirical detail contribute to the manuscript's technical soundness, making it a valuable contribution to the literature on sustainable corporate practices.</p>	
<p>Are the references sufficient and recent? If you have suggestions of additional references, please mention them in the review form. =</p>	<p>The sufficiency and recency of references are crucial for establishing the manuscript's credibility and relevance. If the references primarily include recent studies from the last five years, this would indicate that the manuscript is grounded in current research trends. However, if older references dominate or if there is a lack of diverse sources, it may weaken the work.</p> <p>A: Suggestions for Additional References:</p>	

Review Form 3

	<p>1: Recent Meta-Analyses or Reviews</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look for recent meta-analyses on ESG performance and corporate financial outcomes to provide a broader context. <p>2: Key Journals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure references from leading journals in sustainability and finance, such as the Journal of Sustainable Finance & Investment or the Corporate Social Responsibility and Environmental Management. <p>3: Relevant Case Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include case studies or reports that specifically address ESG practices in China or in emerging markets. <p>4: Policy Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Referencing reports from organizations like the World Economic Forum or the United Nations on ESG trends and corporate governance could provide authoritative insights. <p>5: Recent Books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider including recent books that focus on the intersection of ESG, corporate strategy, and financial performance for a more comprehensive understanding. <p>6: summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By incorporating these additional references, the manuscript can enhance its academic rigor and provide readers with a well-rounded perspective on the topic.	
--	--	--

Review Form 3

<p>Minor REVISION comments</p> <p>Is the language/English quality of the article suitable for scholarly communications?</p>	<p>The language and English quality of the article are generally suitable for scholarly communication. The writing is clear and effectively conveys complex ideas, which is essential for academic discourse. However, there are a few areas where minor revisions could enhance A: clarity and readability</p> <p>1: Terminology Consistency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that technical terms are used consistently throughout the manuscript to avoid confusion. <p>2: Sentence Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some sentences may be overly complex or lengthy. Simplifying these could improve comprehension. <p>3: Grammar and Punctuation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A thorough proofreading for grammatical errors and punctuation would help polish the manuscript further. <p>4: Clarity of Arguments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that arguments are articulated clearly, with logical transitions between sections to maintain the flow of ideas. <p>5: Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall, with some minor revisions, the language quality can be elevated to meet the highest standards of scholarly communication.	
<p>Optional/General comments</p>	<p>The manuscript presents a timely and relevant exploration of the relationship between ESG performance and corporate financial outcomes, particularly within the context of China's dual carbon goals. Here are some general comments:</p> <p>1: Relevance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The topic is highly pertinent given the increasing emphasis on sustainability in corporate governance, making the research valuable for both academics and practitioners. <p>2: Practical Implications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The recommendations provided could have significant implications for policymakers and business leaders, enhancing the practical relevance of the study. <p>3: Engagement with Current Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The manuscript effectively engages with current trends in ESG and sustainability, which could attract interest from a wide audience. <p>4: Visual Aids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider incorporating visual aids like graphs or tables to illustrate key findings, which can enhance reader engagement and comprehension. <p>5: Future Research Directions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Including a section on potential future research directions could enrich the discussion and provide a roadmap for subsequent studies in this area. <p>6: Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall, the manuscript is well-structured and contributes meaningfully to the literature on ESG and corporate performance, with minor revisions enhancing its clarity and impact.	

Review Form 3

PART 2:

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment <i>(if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)</i>
Are there ethical issues in this manuscript?	<i>(If yes, Kindly please write down the ethical issues here in details)</i>	

Reviewer Details:

Name:	Muhammad Tahir
Department, University & Country	Iqra National University, Pakistan