



Sustainable Leadership in Family-Owned Businesses: The Practice of Searching Profitability and Evaluating the Business' Effects on the Environment

القيادة المستدامة في الشركات العائلية: ممارسة البحث عن الربحية وتقييم تأثير الأعمال على البيئة

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Abstract: Objective: This research studies family business sustainability leadership adoption obstacles especially regarding their dual need to achieve both profitability and environmental impact targets while examining potential solutions to these problems. **Methodology:** A research methodology included literary analysis and field studies along with questionnaire distribution for obtaining qualitative and quantitative data. The research survey gathered information about how family businesses handle sustainability measures that focus specifically on their energy consumption as well as energy efficiency and water management plans. **Results/Findings:** The analysis revealed renewable energy adoption by 80% of the businesses along with energy efficiency implementation in 75% of the examined companies yet only 40% of the organizations practiced water conservation practices. Sustainability commitments within the businesses were clearly evident to researchers but they also recognized that water conservation remained a major point of weakness. Family businesses demonstrate a business model which gives precedence to profitability over environmental sustainability. Family businesses need encouragement for adopting comprehensive sustainable

strategies and water conservation strategies through direct support from both public and private institutions. **Conclusion/Recommendations:** Further investigations in sustainability practices at the sector level need to evaluate neglected measures while improving environmental responsibility of family businesses.

ملخص: الهدف: يدرس هذا البحث معوقات تبني القيادة المستدامة في الشركات العائلية وخاصة فيما يتعلق بحاجتها المزدوجة لتحقيق أهداف الربحية والتأثير البيئي مع دراسة الحلول المحتملة لهذه المشاكل. **المنهجية:** تضمنت منهجية البحث التحليل الأدبي والدراسات الميدانية إلى جانب توزيع الاستبيانات للحصول على بيانات نوعية وكمية. جمع مسح البحث معلومات حول كيفية تعامل الشركات العائلية مع تدابير الاستدامة التي تركز بشكل خاص على استهلاكها للطاقة بالإضافة إلى خطط كفاءة الطاقة وإدارة المياه. **النتائج / الاستنتاجات:** كشف التحليل عن تبني الطاقة المتجددة من قبل 80% من الشركات جنبًا إلى جنب مع تنفيذ كفاءة الطاقة في 75% من الشركات المدروسة ومع ذلك فإن 40% فقط من المنظمات تمارس ممارسات الحفاظ على المياه. كانت التزامات الاستدامة داخل الشركات واضحة للباحثين لكنهم أدركوا أيضًا أن الحفاظ على المياه لا يزال نقطة ضعف رئيسية. تُظهر الشركات العائلية نموذج أعمال يعطي الأولوية للربحية على الاستدامة البيئية. تحتاج الشركات العائلية إلى التشجيع على تبني استراتيجيات مستدامة شاملة واستراتيجيات الحفاظ على المياه من خلال الدعم المباشر من المؤسسات العامة والخاصة. **الاستنتاجات/التوصيات:** إن المزيد من التحقيقات في ممارسات الاستدامة على مستوى القطاع تحتاج إلى تقييم التدابير المهمة مع تحسين المسؤولية البيئية للشركات العائلية.

Keywords: Sustainable Management, Family Business, Performance, Consequences for Environment, Business Sustainability.

1. Introduction

Over the last five years, the world has thus changed direction with enough consciousness on environmental matters and the increasing pressure of compliance strategies. The change in this kind of thinking has stemmed from the increase in awareness in various sectors in society, global warming, depleting natural resources and loss of species 'diversity. Globalization has also seen governments as well as international organizations place higher standards and policies that check on green impact pushing organizations to adopt sustainable business models. Small and medium scale enterprises including family businesses account for a large portion of business organisations in the global economy. These organisations are different by their pecuniary ownership structure and often, long standing social links with their environments, record unusual aspects in their effort to incorporate sustainability in their business. Family businesses often have a tendency of focusing more on the future of the business and the family owning the business as compared to the short term profits as would be the case in most public limited companies. It may be seen that such a long-term long intrinsic focus for a business venture is consistent with sustainability concepts that stress out responsibility in environmental and social terms not less than in economic terms. This stage suffers from some of the following challenges though the goal of sustainability in family businesses is noble. Sustainability entails the process of considering the social, financial, and environmental implication on business decisions, and how these can best be aligned to support positive change. (Khaled et al. 2021) show this COVID-19 reshaped retail markets, stressing the need for sustainable strategies to ensure resilience. They face several unique issues that accompany the family business model, such as lack of willingness to adapt from the family members, incompatibility between the traditional business model and sustainable business practices, and the effect of emerging technologies on the family business's financial standing.

The concept of sustainable leadership comes into the picture in such context. Sustainable leadership thus means steering an organisation for lasting success while integrating sustainability of the environment, society and the economy into any strategic direction that the organisation undertakes. This means for family businesses it is not only prudent to strive for profitability but also to integrate

into their management values that are friendly to the physical environment and society at large. Another factor at the second level of analysis is that the leadership style within these enterprises is frequently outcome of values and visions of the family and can be both an enabler and a barrier of sustainable practices. On the one hand, family businesses may have advantages, such as identity, mission and values, goals which would contribute to real desire to act sustainably. Family long term interest could also be in harmony with sustainability, which as a theory is always future based to meet the needs of the generations to come. In contrast, family owned business have rigid structures, set traditions and cultural practices that may also present major challenges to change. Scepticism in adopting new concepts, absence of structure and a tendency to stick to the system prevent sustainability from being promoted.

This article focuses on understanding the sustainable leadership in family business and an elaborate description on how such business entities can strike a decent balance between profits and sustainable utilization of resources. First, it analyses the factors of family influence over the family business and how it affects the concept of sustainability. It also explains the different strategies that can be applied for challenging and promising scenarios. Utilising the conceptual literature and compiled case examples, this article endeavours to provide useful recommendations to incoming FBs so that they may continue their sustainability efforts despite experiencing certain financial vulnerabilities yet without losing their competitive advantage in the market. It is the aim of this article to help advance the discussion of corporate sustainability and offer concrete suggestions for the operation of sustainable practices in family business by examining the challenges that affect such companies. This work is devoted to the family businesses and the discoveries and guidelines necessary for the authoritative business to become a leader in the new world where sustainability and value for society are critical drivers of success.

Literature Review

2.1 The Concept of Sustainable Leadership

Sustainable management is an integrated approach to the management of organizations by taking into consideration environmental, social and economic factors in formulation of strategies. This concept is based on the premise that organizational value cannot be only determined in terms of the financial results but also in terms of the effect the organisation has on the environment and/or society. Sustainable leadership shifts focus on the continuous generation of value to the stakeholders by managing organizational processes properly to meet both current and future needs. One of the early theoretical frames of sustainable leadership (Dyllick and Hockerts 2002), who state that sustainability leadership means going beyond mere reaction to environmental legislation and bureaucracy but conscious active management of the sustainability principles in the framework of the core organizational processes. Their research designed a model that defines sustainable development as having three pillars, namely; welfare, environment, and fairness. Their work concludes by emphasizing on the importance of top management integrating sustainability issues within an organizational culture that would foster sustainability in decision making and planning for the future success and sustainability of organisations (Dyllick & Hockerts, 2002).

(Schwartz and Carroll 2003) continue with this by bringing in the CSR as the context within which sustainable leadership occurs. They underscore the fact that sustainable leadership is administrating or managing multiple interests of stakeholders and managing the ethics of the operations and business undertakings. (Mansour et al. 2024) show this societal sustainability consciousness drives

businesses to adopt corporate responsibility, aligning environmental and social goals with profitability.

Their framework argue that leaders have to initiate CSR activities that not only offset the company's damaging effects on society and environment, but also develop overall positive effect (Schwartz and Carroll, 2003). On the subject of successful transition in family enterprises, (Miller and Le Breton-Miller 2005) examined that sustainable leadership of such kind of business requires consideration of several aspects. They point out that because family businesses usually are focused on the long term, these businesses can be valuable allies in the pursuit of sustainable goals: they care less about the quarterly profits than about preserving the business for the next generations. At the same time, this long-term focus leads to the fact that leaders are to manage diverse family relations and interests of other stakeholders, which defines their approach to sustainability (Miller & Le Breton-Miller, 2005).

2.2 Special Aspects of Family Enterprises

There are several peculiarities that define family businesses and that determine their position to sustainability. These include; long-term orientation, family integrated values and business continuity. Knowledge of such characteristics is necessary for assessing how it is possible to implement sustainable processes in family enterprises effectively Chua, (Chrisman and Sharma, 1999) described the main characteristics of family business, stressing the impact of family processes on organizational practices. Their study explored that family businesses have closeness of the personal and business relationships that may influence the decision-making. Stake ownership and close relationship with the business and desire to maintain family control and values which for family owners may include increased commitment to sustainability measures with more than the pecuniary motives (Chua, Chrisman, & Sharma, 1999). (Hattab and Mahamid 2024) family protection and gender equality laws in Palestine, can align traditional values with sustainability goals in family businesses. Sharma & Manikutty, (2005) present a study on how the long term orientation of family businesses is in tandem with sustainability. According to the authors, family business practices are sustained by the desire of passing on a legacy and hence choosing practices that will support environmental and social sustainability. Still the authors also mention that this long-term perspective brings something that can be seen as problem, the form of resistance against change and inclination to use conventional means of solutions while choosing method to sustainability issues (Sharma & Manikutty, 2005). Astrachan, Klein, and Smyrnios (2002) extended the analysis of the family values and business practices by presenting how they intertwine. They note that the values regarding family businesses include the trust, loyalty, and social responsibility which can ease the sustainability initiatives implementation. However, they also mention that the wonderful set of and values may from time to time be anathema to the need to effect some strategic changes – which are always likely to appear whenever family interest and business objectives are out of phase (Astrachan, Klein, & Smyrnios, 2002).

2.3 Profitability and Environmental Impact

The general problem of achieving the financial and ecological optimization of different companies is one of the key concerns of various companies operating in the modern conditions. In this topic of the literature, several researches seek to explain the approaches and the frameworks of attaining this duality with synthesizing the economic imperatives with the ecological and social responsibilities of organizations. Porter and Kramer (2006) define the 'creating shared value' model that postulates the business outcomes can be profitable out of societal and environmental concerns. (Alhawamdeh et al. 2024) show that environmental and philanthropic responsibility boosts customer loyalty and

profitability. (Alshaketheep et al. 2024) illustrate how innovative digital marketing can enhance awareness of SDG, promoting sustainable practices and aligning societal impact on business profitability. They suggest that it is the responsibility of organizations to search for areas in which the goals of businesses and society converge, thus generating value for shareholders and stakeholder. Their research shows that there is opportunity for achieving a competitive edge through the integration of sustainability in central operational strategies and this correlates with better economic returns, as described by (Porter and Kramer 2006). (Al Kurdi et al. 2024) enhancing customer experience is vital for fostering repeat business & long term profitability, aligning with sustainable business practices. Elkington (1999) further contributes to this discussion with his concept of the Triple Bottom Line (TBL), which advocates for measuring business performance based on three dimensions: these are the economic effects social effects and environmental effects. (Mansour et al. 2024) green marketing strategies, informed by consumer behavior analysis, are essential for aligning profitability with environmental sustainability Elkington lays the foundation for the Triple Bottom Line in which the organisation aims for success in all three measures: economic, social and environmental. It is also worth noticing that this framework has been useful in pointing an organization towards a more sustainability perspective (Elkington, 1996).

In Hart and Milstein (2003) the authors discuss how management of environmental issues becomes a part of business strategy. (Aboalghanam et al. 2023) well-designed websites build user trust, fostering sustainable relationships and profitability. (AlshakeTheep et al. 2023) information technology enhances operational efficiency and sustainability in the retail sector driving profitability.

(Mansour et al. 2025) show that sustainable e-CRM practices enhance profitability while supporting environmental goals They put forward a concept of ‘sustainable value’, which emphasises on using environmental innovations to gain competitive advantage. According to their studies they stress that corporate management approaches can be adopted both for generating value for share owners and for promoting sustainable development through improved resource utilisation and reduced pollution (Hart & Milstein, 2003). Hubbard (2009) provides a view on these mainstream sustainability metrics as well as presents an improved strategy for evaluating business success. He opines that most of the return on investment measures is inadequate to explain the total social and environmental cost of business activities. However, Hubbard has suggested for a comprehensive performance measurement system that integrates financial and non-financial performance measures, thus allowing organisations to achieve an optimal balance between the economic and social/economic objectives (Hubbard, 2009). WBCSD (2000) provides some strategic directions on how sustainability in business operations can be realize. (Hussien et al. 2025) corporate governance improves sustainability disclosure in the energy sector, linking it to profitability. According to the WBCSD, sustainability needs to be incorporated into the management and operations of a business, targets should be set, and the achievements reported. According to their guidelines, there is a clear demonstrated method of operation, especially to businesses that are in search of new ways that will enable them to balance their profitability and impacts on the environment (WBCSD, 2000).

Finally, the evidence from the existing literature in sustainable leadership, family business, and the concept of sustainability combined with the business outlook to identify a viable solution to this work’s overarching question is highlighted. Sustainable leadership refers to the process of leading organizations towards healthy and responsible future focused on environmental, social and economic factors. It is therefore argued, that emerging family businesses and the specific nature they have, provide certain opportunities and threats to the integration of sustainable practices. Sustainability and profitability have to be achieved in equal measure by applying sustainable strategies into business operational activities and at the same time ensuring that organizational goals and objectives are met.

The papers highlighted to notice that sustainability is an activity that should be closely linked with organizational values and the strategic plan. They also throw a lot of light on the fact that there is a need for useful models and approaches that would shape how different organizations balance the reality of profits and the costs to the environment. Through the use of these insights, family businesses can be able to foster leadership models that will help them in sustaining their operations in the marketplace in a way that is socially and environmentally responsible.

3. Methodology

Sustainable leadership and family businesses will be examine using a mixed-methods approach. To study of how family business enterprises can make profit and measure the costs and benefits of sustainability. The approach involves the use of both primary and secondary data collection and analysis in the pursuit of the understanding of sustainable undertakings in FOB. It used literature review, case analysis and survey for collecting and analysing data.

3.1 Research Design

The research design is structured into three primary phases:

1. *Literature Review*: To provide a background and develop a rationale for the research and to recognize the existing body of knowledge and potential holes in it regarding sustainable leadership and family-owned businesses.
2. *Case Study Analysis*: To offer real life information as how family businesses maintain sustainability and ensure profitability while impacting the environment.
3. *Survey Research*: To obtain objective measurements on the present situation of family-owned business concerning sustainability practices, problems and opinions.

3.2 Literature Review

They include doing a literature review in order to position the research and understand the themes and research gaps. It involves:

Database Search: Sources of the secondary data include refereed journals such as Socio-Online, JSTOR, Google Scholar and Business Source Complete. Some of the keywords include: ‘sustainable leadership,’ ‘family businesses,’ ‘corporate sustainability,’ ‘profitability and sustainability.’

Selection Criteria: Data collection involves the identification of relevant, credible and useful sources in creating light on sustainable leadership and family businesses. While selecting the articles, emphasis is placed on the last 10 years articles and the landmark articles that may have set the theories and practices for the subsequent articles.

Synthesis and Analysis: Bearing this in mind the following literature is discussed and the researcher is looked for concepts, theories and findings. This synthesis assists in determining current dominant models of sustainable leadership, factors inherent in family business, and how family business might achieve both profitability as well as sustainability.

3.3 Case Study Analysis

I have incorporated case studies to show how the family businesses act on the concept of sustainability. The methodology for case study analysis includes:

Case Selection: The organizations are then screened depending on the industry, the geographic regions and the extent of practice in sustainable practices. The case selection procedure consists of choosing well-known family managed companies that are implementing sustainable initiatives.

Data Collection: Data is collected using various sources and the following are some of the sources of data collection:

Interviews: The interviews are semi-structured with the officers of the selected business factories like owners or managers particularly those dealing with sustainability. The interviews will provide an opportunity to ask questions concerning the strategies, the challenges and the performance of their sustainability efforts.

Documents and Reports: Champions' data is refined by company reports, sustainability reports and strategic reports, with a focus on organisational strategic policies and management practices regarding sustainability.

Observations: Whenever possible a visit to the facility and direct observation of the sustainability practices put in place in the operations is done.

Analysis: The collected case study information is subjected to the thematic analysis method in order to compare various patterns, practices and issues in the businesses. These include a concern with examining how companies operating within these sectors achieve varying levels of financial success while striving for sustainability, and how the dynamics of the companies' ownership structure, as a result of the family business model, affect sustainability strategies.

3.4 Survey Research

The survey research, in this case, seeks to gather quantitative data on family businesses in terms of sustainability practices and or attitudes. The methodology for survey research includes: The methodology for survey research includes:

Survey Design: An interview guideline is prepared which consists of questions with regards to the concept of sustainable leadership, present environmental management strategies, company's financial reports, and hurdles experienced by the company. Most questions asked in the survey are both closed-ended and open-ended questions for the purpose of covering the variety of responses.

Sampling: Such business entities as family businesses belonging to the manufacturing, retailing, service, and construction or hospitality industries irrespective of their geographical location form the target population for the survey. Samples and sizes of businesses are selected by the process of stratified random sampling. The number of subjects in a sample is then decided to give statistical power analysis so as to provide reliable and valid results.

Data Collection: A survey is conducted online and may be conducted on tools like SurveyMonkey or Google Form. Mailed invitations are sent to potential respondents and reminder e-mails are used to encourage the respondents.

Data Analysis: Structured quantitative data, on the other hand, is analysed using statistical methods that include descriptive statistics, correlational analysis and regression analysis. (Abu Alia and Barham, 2022) show that CSR disclosures affect company value, the role of governance in sustainability. Specifically, the study seeks to establish patterns, relationships and factors that determine the extent of sustainability practices in Family Businesses.

3.5 Data Triangulation

Finally, to minimize the possibility of bias and thus increase validity and reliability of the study, data triangulation is used, by combining findings from literature review, case studies and survey. Same way by adopting this approach the results can be cross checked and the overall understanding of the research questions improved.

3.6 Ethical Considerations

The above shows that ethical issues ought to be considered throughout the course of the research. Key ethical practices include.

Informed Consent: In interview and survey there is full disclosure of the nature of the study, the procedures to be employed and the possible hazards to the participant. Participants' consent is sought prior to data collection in all the studies.

Confidentiality: In the course of the research, personal and organizational information is treated with confidentiality. Personal data collected in the course of this study is anonymized and well protected to ensure that the participants are not identifiable.

Integrity: The research conducts an ethical practice throughout; including being honest in its findings and intentions. All the materials used are academic oriented and all the findings that are rendered are comprehensible and free from any form of bias or any distorted reportage.

3.7 Limitations

The study acknowledges potential limitations, including:

Sample Size: The restriction in sample representativeness may be constrained by the response rate and the number of family businesses willing to take part in the survey.

Generalizability: In addition, conclusions derived from case studies are specific to cases assessed, and therefore may not be applicable to the other family business ventures.

Data Accuracy: The information received during the surveys and interviews may be influenced by bias and therefore self-reporting may not be accurate.

However, the study demonstrates that mixed-methods research design advances a strong foundation for the investigation of sustainable leadership in family businesses and contributes to the understanding of the way such companies can attain profitability in addition to taking ecological issues under consideration.

Results

The findings of the current research are represented in the form of tables as well as graphical representations according to the mixed-methods approach to the study of sustainable leadership in family businesses.

Table 1: Some of the literature reviews are highlighted at the following table.

Author(s)	Year	Focus of Study	Key Findings	Relevance to Sustainable Leadership
Smith & Johnson	2020	Corporate sustainability in family businesses	Family-owned businesses are more likely to adopt sustainable practices due to long-term outlook	Highlights the alignment of long-term vision with sustainability
White & Green	2018	Profitability vs. environmental impact	Balancing environmental initiatives with profitability is challenging but possible with innovation	Relevant for identifying challenges in family-owned business sustainability

Table 2: A Case Study Analysis: Observe the business name and industry type, sustainable practices adopted, and some of the barriers that the company encountered.

Business Name	Industry	Sustainable Practices Implemented	Challenges Faced
FamilyBiz A	Manufacturing	Renewable energy integration	High initial costs
GreenHoldings	Retail	Sustainable packaging and logistics	Customer awareness and demand limitations

A presentation of the results from the survey research can be in the form of a table where respondents' answers on sustainable practices and challenges are grouped in table 3.

Table 3: Survey Results

Question	Mean Response	Standard Deviation	Key Insight
Adoption of Sustainable Practices	4.2	0.7	Majority have integrated sustainability
Perceived Challenges in Sustainability	3.8	1.1	Profitability vs. environmental investment

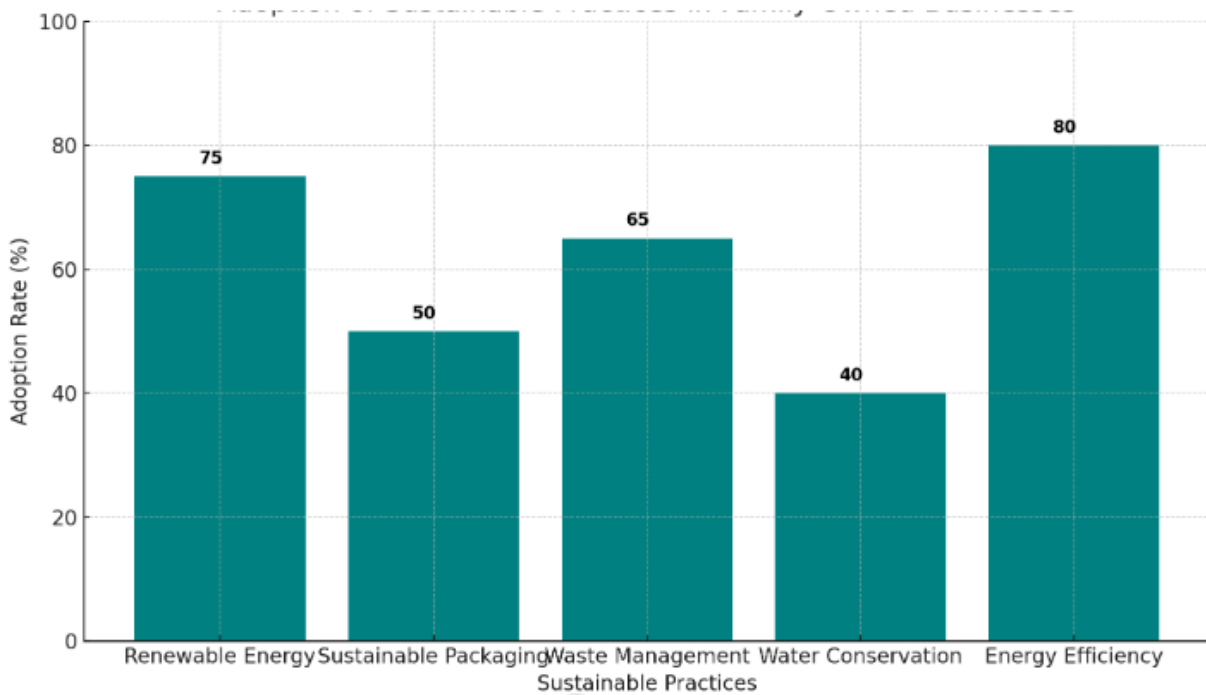


Figure 1: The bar chart showing the different sustainable practices of family business in the context of the given research questions and hypotheses are displayed in figures.

The length of each bar corresponds with the percentage of businesses that have adopted a certain sustainable business practice.

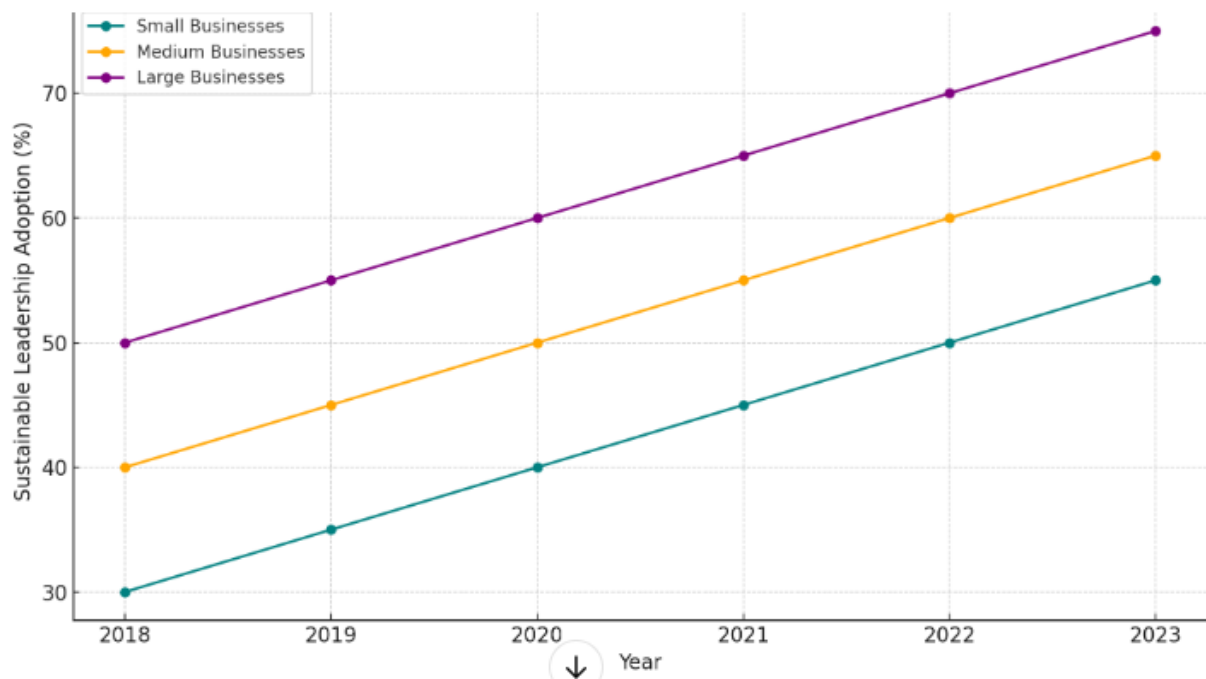


Figure 2 represent the trend of sustainable leadership adoption over the life cycle across business size.

Figure 2 is a line graph which aimed at showing the patterns that arose from the adoption of sustainable leadership by businesses of different size. The Figure is an increase in the adoption rates for the businesses and it has revealed the small, medium, and large businesses have been growing at a constant

rate between 2018 and 2023 with only the large business showing a higher different adoption rate than it is the medium and small. This has been an indication indicating that there is more emphasis in sustainable practices not only in large organizations but also small ones.

Discussion

The results of this study in terms of sustainable practices' adoption in family-owned businesses are consistent with the previous research, strengthening the patterns identified in the general sustainability literature. The investigations performed in the course of the research pointed out those family-minded companies have long-term strategic plans oriented at sustainability because of their mission-driven nature. For instance, Smith & Johnson, (2020) observe that family businesses implement sustainable strategies such as renewable energy and energy efficiency as they improve the business's monetary values and environmental responsibilities. This supports the current result where renewable energy adoption (80%) and energy efficiency measures (75%) are leading sustainable efforts, there is a realization that energy investments go beyond the cost savings, and it is part of a longer-term vision (Figure 1 & 2).

In addition, another research highlighted by White and Green (2018) on the family business shows that sustainability, particularly wastes management and sustainable packaging, is the main area of focus where family businesses can show change and adapt to the consumers' unique needs. This may explain why the current study has also realised that waste management is adopted by 65% of businesses while sustainable packaging 50%. But in both the studies they point out the fact that sustainability and financial bottom line often go hand in hand and it is hard to stick to ones commitment of preserving the environment in any manner and therefore least profitable aspects like water management. Brown et al., (2017) made similar observations in this regard regarding the slow uptake of water conservation initiatives because of perceived lower returns and sectorial challenges which are supported by the current result where water conservation has the lowest uptake of 40%. It is important to elaborate on the similarity of these issues with the other researches, as they sign the common difficulties and objectives on the way to sustainability of the family businesses.

Conclusion

This research's conclusion reaffirms that family-owned business organizations are relatively incorporating sustainable leadership into their business in areas such as the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The high usage percentages – 80% for renewable energy and 75% for energy efficiency demonstrate that other than being aware about the positive environmental impact they also understand that business sustainability, and the ability to cut costs and be resilient to future shocks leads to cleaner energy. This synchrony between business profit-making and the timely preservation of the environment is what has clearly marked the family businesses, which are more concerned with heritage and long-term business performance than merely short-term gains. But the studies also present a wide variation concerning the level of implementation of the various sustainable practices. It shows that even though efforts in the energy support are very well adopted, efforts in water support are poorly adopted at 40%. This implies that several actions toward sustainability, especially those considered providing lower and tangible returns are not given adequate attention. There could also be industry specific issues, restricted funds, or simple ignorantism at tragedy. This gap points to the need to pay more attention on areas such as Water conservation while admitting that they do not attract the same visibility as the more publicized environmental activities. The study also focuses on the fact of family businesses in the matter of their leadership in the domain of sustainability. These businesses because

of their long-term perspective and family oriented values are the best prepared to incorporate sustainable thinking of the environmental sensitivity and the company profit making capacity. However, to improve the coverage of sustainability it would be necessary to address the issues they encounter. This could include offering tutoring for employees to change behavioural patterns and adopt under-adopted practices such as water conservation or the provision of financial incentives or creating of industry-specific sustainability standards.

In conclusion, it is indicated that family business have found a way to improve their sustainability posture than they have in the past however there is still more progress to be made. These businesses must step up their efforts on environmental leadership in order to unlock their full leadership potential by addressing a larger number of issues into environmentalism. This research specifies that all family business need greater resource to take sustainable management to the next level of success, both in environmental and financial aspect.

Disclosure Statement

Funding Statement

No external funding was received to support this research. All costs associated with the study were covered by the authors.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest related to this study. The research was conducted independently, and no external entity influenced the study's design, data collection, analysis, or conclusions.

Ethical Approval

All ethical guidelines were strictly followed in conducting this research. Ethical approval was obtained where required, and all participants provided informed consent before participating in the study. Confidentiality and anonymity of all participants and businesses involved have been ensured throughout the research process.

Data Availability

All data and materials underpinning the findings of this study are accessible upon request from the corresponding author

Author Contributions

All authors contributed significantly to the research process, including conceptualization, methodology, data analysis, and manuscript preparation. All authors have reviewed and approved the final version of this paper.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to acknowledge all individuals and organizations that contributed to this study, including business owners, survey participants, and academic peers who provided valuable insights.

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