



The Role of Green Accounting in Promoting Sustainable Business Practices in Kurdistan: A Qualitative Investigation Integrating a Systematic Literature Review and Semi-Structured Interviews

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ABSTRACT:

Green accounting integrates environmental costs and impacts into conventional financial reporting and has become an important mechanism for advancing sustainable business practices. This study examines the current state of green accounting adoption in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, with particular attention to its role in supporting corporate sustainability. A qualitative research design was employed, combining a systematic literature review with semi-structured interviews conducted with 16 key stakeholders, including executives from environmentally intensive industries, senior accountants, government policymakers, and sustainability consultants. The findings indicate that green accounting practices in Kurdistan remain largely voluntary and unevenly applied. Multinational enterprises demonstrate higher levels of compliance with international environmental reporting frameworks, while local firms face substantial barriers related to weak regulatory enforcement, limited financial capacity, and insufficient technical expertise. Despite these challenges, evidence suggests that green accounting contributes to improved resource efficiency, cost control, corporate reputation, and investor confidence. The study highlights the need for stronger regulatory frameworks, targeted capacity-building initiatives, and institutional support to promote wider adoption of green accounting and enhance sustainable business practices in the Kurdistan Region.

Keywords: Capacity building, Corporate sustainability, Environmental reporting, Green accounting, Kurdistan, Regulatory frameworks, Sustainable business practices.



1 INTRODUCTION

The increasing global trend toward sustainability has raised expectations for businesses to include environmental considerations in their financial reporting. A major area of environmental reporting is green accounting (or environmental accounting), which plays an important role in addressing how businesses measure and report environmental impact costs and sustainability performance [1]. Accounting for environmental costs in financial statements provides a pathway for businesses to enhance visibility and transparency regarding the implications of their operations, regulatory compliance, long-term sustainability, and accountability. It is therefore pertinent to ensure that businesses remain accountable to stakeholders and international sustainability initiatives [2], such as those outlined in the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) frameworks.

In developing economies such as the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), the adoption of green accounting remains limited, primarily due to weak regulatory enforcement, as well as financial and capacity constraints that restrict awareness and engagement [3].

The dominant sectors in the region are traditional industries, including oil, gas, and construction, which have substantial environmental footprints. Although green accounting is still an emerging area of accounting practice in this context, its effective implementation requires greater awareness, regulatory incentives, and business engagement [4].

For green accounting to have a meaningful impact on these industries, it is essential to recognize the growing environmental challenges faced globally. A clearer understanding of green accounting provides an opportunity to align business practices with corporate sustainability objectives, while also attracting foreign investment and strengthening governance over environmental conduct.

Despite the recognized importance of green accounting, several barriers hinder its implementation in the Kurdistan Region. First, many businesses lack sufficient understanding of green accounting principles, resulting in irregular and inconsistent environmental disclosures [5]. Second, the absence of enforceable regulatory mechanisms requiring sustainability reporting renders green accounting largely voluntary in Kurdistan. Finally, many firms prioritize short-term financial performance over long-term sustainability considerations, which further limits the adoption of green accounting practices [6]. Another major barrier to the implementation of green accounting in Kurdistan is the absence of established methodologies and clearly defined standards for measuring environmental costs. In the absence of authoritative guidance on acceptable practices, businesses often avoid measuring and reporting environmental costs altogether [7]. High-quality auditing also plays a critical role in improving financial performance by enhancing trust in financial reporting [8]. Studies indicate that auditing tools can significantly contribute to increased transparency and sustainability, particularly in complex supply chains [9]. High-quality audits provide independent assurance that compliance requirements are met, thereby reducing the risk of penalties, legal consequences, and reputational damage [10]. Furthermore, improved financial management skills enable organizations to maintain systematic records and make informed decisions, creating favorable conditions for the adoption of environmental cost reporting under green accounting [11]. Given these considerations, a closer examination of green accounting practices in the Kurdistan Region is warranted to systematically assess the current state of adoption, identify key barriers and opportunities, and explore practical implications for businesses operating in the region. Accordingly, this study examines the prevalence of green accounting practices among businesses in Kurdistan and seeks to answer the following research questions:

- 1- To what extent do businesses in Kurdistan incorporate green accounting practices?
- 2- What are the benefits and challenges of green accounting for businesses in Kurdistan?
- 3- How does green accounting influence sustainability and financial decision-making?

This study addresses a notable gap in the literature by examining green accounting practices in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, an emerging economy where empirical research on this topic remains limited. The regional focus offers valuable insights into how sustainability frameworks are adapted within unique economic, regulatory, and environmental contexts. By integrating established theoretical perspectives, including legitimacy theory, stakeholder theory, and institutional theory, with empirical evidence, the study enhances understanding of the motivations and mechanisms underlying green accounting adoption. The qualitative research design, which combines a systematic literature review with semi-structured interviews, provides a comprehensive understanding of both global best practices and local realities. Through methodological triangulation, the study also offers policy-relevant recommendations aimed at strengthening regulatory frameworks, incentivizing green accounting adoption, and enhancing education and capacity-building initiatives, thereby contributing to improved environmental governance and corporate accountability in Kurdistan.

This paper is organized as follows: Section 2 provides a comprehensive review of the existing literature covering the key concepts of green accounting, its relevance to sustainable business practices, and global best practices. Section 3 outlines the research methodology, including the systematic literature review and data collection through interviews. Section 4 presents the findings and analyses the adoption of green accounting in Kurdistan and its relationship with sustainability. Section 5 discusses the policy implications and offers recommendations. Finally, Section 6 concludes the paper by summarizing the key insights and outlining directions for future research.

2 LITERATURE REVIEW

This subsection focuses on the conceptual foundations, theoretical underpinnings and global evolution of green accounting. It also proceeds to examine the context-specific challenges and adoption patterns in developing and emerging economies.

2.1 THE CONCEPT AND EVOLUTION OF GREEN ACCOUNTING

Green accounting, also known as environmental accounting, is an approach to financial reporting that integrates environmental costs into corporate accounting systems. It aims to measure the financial impact of environmental activities, enabling businesses to assess their ecological footprint and make sustainable decisions [1]. As noted by [12], green accounting captures resource depletion, carbon emissions, environmental liabilities and sustainability-related expenditures compared to traditional accounting, which focuses specifically on financial transactions.

Disclosure of green accounting is indispensable because it assists in providing transparency to stakeholders, achieving regulatory compliance, and corporate sustainability activities. In the analysis and study conducted by [2], he conveyed that the adoption of green accounting assists in the compliance of businesses with legal norms, elevates the ecological review and improves the evaluation made by investors. [3] also analyzed that green accounting enables companies to fulfill the international sustainability obligations and frameworks required by the task force on climate-related financial disclosures, GRI and SASB.

As with virtually all aspects of accounting, the methodology vitally depends on theory. [13] for instance, used the legitimacy theory framework to showcase the reason firms engage in environmental accounting is to avoid societal derision and to 'legitimize' their activities. Or to put it differently, the legitimacy theory assumes that firms greatly rely on the information on the environmental impacts of their operations to gain favorable policies and goodwill from the public. This means that these companies will try their best to ensure that they present the public with accurate information about their environmental activities, which also include maintaining sustainability, in order to avoid negative stakeholder engagement and to be seen as active participants in 'green' activities by the public and policy makers.

The stakeholder theory particularly advanced by [14] states that companies have ethical responsibilities extending to many stakeholders: employees, suppliers, consumers, funders, advocacy, and even the environment and its regulators. Companies that practice green accounting are able to show their ethical and sustainable practices, and green accounting helps in fulfilling the obligations to fulfill multiple stakeholders. The institutional theory is used to show how companies are adopting green accounting based on pressure derived from professional and governmental institutions, in addition to international bodies [15]. That is, the pressure from professional bodies, governments, and international bodies in the form of regulations, industry best practices, and social norms related to the environment in the world pushes companies to adopt green accounting. The above theories in this study are used to explain the phenomena of adopting green accounting practices. They also seek to explain the motivations behind such adoption, which are, the pursuit of legitimacy, stakeholder fulfillment, and acceptance of drives of external pressure. So, employing these theories helps scholars construe the approach taken with green accounting practices.

More recent years have shown an increased impression regarding the implementation of green accounting and its relevance. This is due to investor demands on the need for sustainability disclosures as well as climate change and regulatory pressures [16]. Notable trends such as the integration of company data in financial reports to align with the net-zero goals and the Paris goals [17]. Additionally, green accounting is increasingly being integrated into environmental, social and governance frameworks to guide investment decisions [18]. Some companies in Japan and Europe are adopting circular economy accounting to measure waste reduction and resource efficiency [19]. [1] highlighted that numerous MNCs like nestle, tesla and Unilever successfully implemented green accounting, resulting in cost saving, better investor relations and improved better relations.

2.2 GREEN ACCOUNTING AND ITS ADOPTION CHALLENGES IN DEVELOPING ECONOMIES AND EMERGING MARKETS

Notwithstanding its advantages, green accounting adoption in developing countries confronts major challenges. Several developing nations lack required environmental disclosure legislation, resulting in inadequate implementation [3]. According to [6], companies frequently regard green accounting as an expensive option because of increased reporting and compliance requirements. Several companies lack trained environmental accountants [7]. To address these issues, government engagement is critical. Policymakers can impose mandatory sustainability reporting for large organisations, provide tax breaks to companies that successfully embrace green accounting techniques, and promote corporate governance improvements incorporating sustainability into business strategies. Countries such as India, South Africa and Brazil effectively introduced green tax incentives and corporate sustainability disclosure rules, which elevated green accounting's adoption [19]. Kurdistan may benefit from international best practices by adopting environmental accounting principles in accordance with the GRI and SASB frameworks and fostering collaboration among enterprises, politicians, and academia to raise green accounting knowledge. Kurdistan may additionally offer financial incentives to organizations that apply sustainable accounting methods. Using sustainable accounting reduces environmental damage by creating control mechanisms for resource use and consumption, and also has the potential to attract foreign investment in Kurdistan where investments would come with true added value to environmental sustainability and the community they serve. The implications of green accounting highlighted through the literature review is that green accounting strategies need to be developed in recouping operating costs and in developing corporate sustainable reporting systems, which would not only improve business sustainability and performance, but make it easier to develop green products. Developed nations have developed green accounting methods while developing economies have not had that luxury due to limited regulatory environments, unavailability of financing and a lack of experience. By adopting international models and practices, Kurdistan can enhance sustainability reporting practices that lead to an increased awareness of sustainability, attract environmental-based investment, and enhance corporate governance practices.

Despite the benefits of green accounting, it faces challenges in developing countries. Many developing countries do not have regulatory laws regarding environmental disclosures. Without regulatory compulsory environmental disclosures, green accounting does not get adequate implementation [3]. Businesses will often look at green accounting as too costly because of the extra reporting and compliance [6]. Furthermore, many businesses lack environmental accounting professionals with the necessary training [7]. Government action is essential to overcoming these obstacles. Policymakers can enact laws requiring big businesses to report on sustainability, provide tax breaks to companies that use green accounting, and support corporate governance changes that incorporate sustainability into business plans. Green accounting has become more popular as a result of the successful implementation of green tax incentives and corporate sustainability disclosure laws in nations like Brazil, South Africa, and India [19]. Kurdistan can learn from international best practices by developing environmental accounting guidelines in line with GRI and SASB frameworks; encouraging collaboration between businesses, policymakers, and academia to enhance green accounting awareness; and providing financial incentives for companies that implement sustainable accounting practices. Green accounting practices' integration can help reduce environmental degradation challenges and attract foreign investments, which further helps to position the country as a leader in sustainable business practices. This follows the country's significance reliance on oil and construction industries, which significantly damage the environment.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

This study adopted a qualitative multi-method research design, combining a systematic literature review with semi-structured interviews to examine the adoption of green accounting in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. This approach enabled an in-depth exploration of both theoretical perspectives and practical experiences related to green accounting within a context where empirical research remains limited. The systematic literature review provided a structured understanding of international frameworks, best practices and challenges in developing economies, while the semi-structured interviews offered contextual insights into stakeholder perceptions, implementation barriers and perceived benefits of green accounting. The use of qualitative thematic analysis facilitated the identification of recurring patterns and themes, allowing the study to generate evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and business practitioners.

Since studies exploring green accounting's adoption in Kurdistan are limited, this study's applied qualitative analysis helped to ensure that the study captures the contextual insights from industry professionals and policymakers, which are not evident in quantitative studies. A systematic literature review was conducted to analyze existing research on green accounting frameworks, international best practices, and challenges in developing economies. This was complemented by semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders, providing firsthand insights into practical experiences, regulatory gaps and industry-specific challenges in adopting green accounting in Kurdistan.

3.2 DATA COLLECTION

The literature review was conducted using a structured approach, ensuring the inclusion of high-quality academic papers, policy reports, and industry case studies related to green accounting. Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, ScienceDirect for peer-reviewed journal articles, OECD, UNDP and World Bank reports on sustainability accounting. GRI and IFRS Sustainability Standards for policy guidelines following databases are searched. The selection criteria for literature include relevance to green accounting in corporate sustainability, publication within the last 10 years (unless a seminal work) and studies focusing on Kurdistan, the Middle East and other developing economies for comparative analysis.

To gain practical insights into green accounting adoption in Kurdistan, semi-structured interviews were conducted with business executives, accountants, environmental policymakers, and sustainability experts. The sample included 5 business executives from industries with high environmental impact (oil & gas, construction and manufacturing), 5 senior accountants involved in financial reporting, 3 government policymakers responsible for environmental and financial regulations, and 3 sustainability consultants and NGOs working on environmental policies. The interview guide covered:

- 1- Understanding of green accounting (awareness and perceptions of environmental accounting),
- 2- Current practices (whether and how green accounting is integrated into financial reporting).
- 3- Regulatory challenges (barriers in implementing sustainability reporting in Kurdistan).
- 4- Financial and operational impacts (how green accounting affects decision-making and performance).
- 5- Recommendations (strategies for improving green accounting adoption).

Each interview lasts 30–45 minutes and is conducted either in-person. Interviews were not audio-recorded as the participants did not consent to such a data collection act.

3.3 DATA ANALYSIS

A thematic analysis approach was applied to identify key themes and patterns in the collected data. The analysis follows these steps; reviewing transcripts from interviews and coding key responses, and identifying recurring regulatory barriers, financial implications and the benefits of promoting sustainability. The codes were then grouped into broader themes such as policy challenges, corporate attitudes and financial incentives. While the interview findings were cross referenced with the systematic literature review to enhance validity, the implications of adopting green accounting practices in Kurdistan were analysed, leading to the suggestion of probable recommendations.

3.4 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Acceptable research practices were carried out so as to safeguard participant rights, confidentiality and transparency. In particular, a written consent letter was issued highlighting that the study's purpose and that participation is voluntary. Furthermore, the participants' information was withheld with utmost confidentiality and no details nor identifying information were made public.

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section intentionally integrates empirical findings from the semi-structured interviews with relevant literature in order to interpret the results contextually and analytically, an approach commonly adopted in qualitative research to strengthen explanatory depth and theoretical alignment.

4.1 CURRENT STATE OF GREEN ACCOUNTING IN KURDISTAN

4.1.1 EXTENT OF ADOPTION IN DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES

According to [3], the adoption of green accounting standards is uneven across industries with Multinational Corporations (MNCs), especially in the oil and petroleum sector being a prominent implementor of environmental accounting to meet foreign investments requirements. On the other hand, [6] indicated that the construction industry lags behind in terms of implementing environmental accounting because of the perception that sustainability practices' implementation increases operational costs. Apart from this, the three oil and gas executives confirmed that only MNCs in Kurdistan are complying with the required international reporting standards compared to other companies. Besides, local companies often ignore such practices because of weak regulatory enforcement. In support of this, the two construction executives also indicated that voluntary adoption is highly unlikely in Kurdistan because of the lack of direct financial incentives. Four out of five accountants stated that environmental costs are not integrated into financial statements due to the lack of mandatory regulations. One accountant working for an internationally funded project noted that some firms include sustainability disclosures only when required by investors. All three policymakers admitted that there are no current legal mandates for sustainability reporting, confirming the literature's finding that green accounting remains voluntary in Kurdistan [5]. Two sustainability experts stated that most businesses in Kurdistan are unaware of green accounting principles, aligning with the literature review finding that awareness levels remain low. Both literature and interviews confirm that green accounting adoption is limited and largely voluntary. Executives and policymakers emphasize the absence of financial incentives and regulations, reinforcing existing research findings. Accountants confirm the literature's claim that green accounting is not integrated into mainstream financial reporting.

4.1.2 AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE OF GREEN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

Interviews revealed that awareness of green accounting is low among business executives and accountants. 73% of interviewees acknowledged they had heard of green accounting, but only 26% actively applied any form of environmental accounting in their financial reporting. Government regulators admitted that green accounting is not yet a regulatory priority, and many businesses view it as an additional cost rather than a strategic investment. Accountants and financial managers highlighted a lack of training programs on environmental accounting, making it difficult to implement sustainability reporting.

4.1.3 REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS AND COMPLIANCE LEVELS

Currently, Kurdistan lacks formal laws mandating green accounting or environmental disclosure. Findings suggest that developing economies often lack clear environmental disclosure laws, reducing compliance incentives [17]. In support of this, studies show that some firms voluntarily publish Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) reports, but methodologies vary [2]. Interviews findings from executives and accountants showed that businesses only report environmental costs when required by foreign investors or international sustainability initiatives. Government policymakers confirmed that Kurdistan lacks standardized sustainability reporting frameworks. Both sources confirm that voluntary reporting lacks consistency and enforcement. Overall, the absence of regulatory enforcement and low awareness levels have hindered widespread adoption of green accounting in Kurdistan. Therefore, there is no standardized framework for reporting sustainability-related financial impacts.

4.2 BENEFITS OF GREEN ACCOUNTING FOR BUSINESSES

4.2.1 COST SAVINGS AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

Studies highlight that green accounting can reduce long-term operational costs by promoting energy efficiency and waste reduction [12]. Companies that integrate environmental costs into financial decisions often experience cost savings and increased productivity [20]. One oil and gas executive acknowledged that carbon reduction initiatives have lowered operational costs in MNCs following international guidelines. Two manufacturing executives stated that energy efficiency initiatives helped reduce costs but admitted they do not formally account for these savings. Four accountants stated that there are no formal green accounting records, but they agree that tracking environmental costs could help businesses optimize resource use. One policymaker mentioned that government subsidies for renewable energy adoption could further incentivize sustainability investments. Overall, literature and interviews align on the cost-saving potential of green accounting, though businesses in Kurdistan do not formally track these benefits. Executives recognize efficiency gains but confirm there is no structured accounting for sustainability costs.

4.2.2 IMPROVED CORPORATE REPUTATION AND INVESTOR CONFIDENCE

Research shows that businesses with strong environmental disclosures attract investors and experience higher stock valuations [21]. Green accounting enhances consumer trust, particularly in industries where sustainability is a competitive advantage [2]. Three executives (oil, gas, and construction) noted that international investors ask about environmental reporting, but local investors do not prioritize sustainability metrics. Two accountants confirmed that companies with international funding include green accounting in their reports to meet investor requirements. All three sustainability experts agreed that businesses would improve their reputation by implementing transparent green accounting but lack the expertise to do so. Overall, literature and interview findings confirm that green accounting boosts investor confidence, though local companies do not recognize its value. Executives acknowledge investor interest but do not see it as a strong driver for change.

4.2.3 CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

Green accounting supports CSR initiatives and ensures businesses align with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [2]. Firms that disclose environmental impacts improve stakeholder trust [15]. The executives and policymakers acknowledged that green accounting helps companies align with international sustainability frameworks. This confirms that though companies recognize the benefits of sustainability reporting, they still hesitate to adopt it because of financial concerns. Regardless of the clear benefits attributed to green accounting's adoption, Kurdistan companies are reluctant to fully embrace green accounting because of regulatory uncertainty and the perceived financial burdens.

4.3 BARRIERS TO GREEN ACCOUNTING IMPLEMENTATION

4.3.1 LACK OF CLEAR POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

[15] explained that low rates of sustainability reporting can happen when developing countries do not have similar legal frameworks to support sustainability accounting and reporting. On the other hand, the [19] noted that countries that require environmental disclosures, have higher rates of corporate adoption and engagement. In the meantime, three policy makers that were interviewed claimed that Kurdistan does not have any formal reporting laws; which affirms the theories presented in the literature review. Thus, the data collected from the interviews and the literature review are consistent in demonstrating that regulatory gaps are effectively stymying sustainability reporting and the adoption of green accounting.

4.3.2 FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS AND RESISTANCE TO CHANGE

As noted by [21], enterprises must invest in products, compliance and training for green accounting initiatives. Nonetheless, interviewed executives indicated perceived complexity and implementation issues diminish such initiatives. The interviewed executives also disclosed that SMEs have less commitment to implementing green accounting practices because they are more focused on and concerned about the immediate financial benefit, rather than spending on long-term sustainability. Thus, it is clear that green accounting is being hampered by costs and resistance to change.

4.3.3 LIMITED EXPERTISE AND TRAINING ON ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING

Another instrumental finding made from this study is that Kurdistan training institutions and universities do not provide specialized environmental courses. Studies also echoed the same sentiments and contend that universities in developing economies lack specialized courses on green accounting [6]. Some studies assert that most accountants are not trained in sustainability reporting frameworks like GRI or IFRS Sustainability Standards [20]. The accountants and financial managers confirmed that there are no specialized training programs in Kurdistan. Only a few accountants in Kurdistan have formal training in sustainability reporting frameworks such as GRI or IFRS Sustainability Standards. Both sources confirm that a lack of formal training limits green accounting adoption. These barriers indicate that a multi-stakeholder effort is required to integrate green accounting into Kurdistan's business environment.

4.4 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTEGRATING GREEN ACCOUNTING INTO BUSINESS PRACTICES

Countries that offer tax incentives and subsidies for green accounting adoption see higher compliance rates [17]. Two policymakers suggested that introducing tax benefits for green accounting adoption could improve compliance. Hence, offering tax incentives and financial grants to businesses that adopt green accounting would encourage compliance. Government-mandated sustainability reporting improves corporate accountability [18]. Three accountants agreed that mandatory environmental disclosures would drive adoption but emphasized the need for training and resources. Therefore, KRG should introduce mandatory environmental reporting laws, aligned with global best practices. Literature and interview findings strongly support policy reforms to encourage green accounting adoption. Developing a standardized reporting framework would ensure consistency and comparability in sustainability disclosures. Government institutions should establish a Sustainability Accounting Standards Committee to develop localized green accounting guidelines while accounting professional bodies should integrate green accounting into CPA and financial training programs. Universities in Kurdistan should introduce green accounting courses in business and finance curricula.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study investigated the adoption and practical implications of green accounting in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, with a focus on its contribution to sustainable business practices. The findings demonstrate that green accounting remains unevenly implemented and predominantly voluntary across the region. Multinational corporations, particularly within the oil and gas sector, show greater alignment with international environmental reporting standards due to external regulatory pressures and investor requirements. In contrast, local firms, especially in construction and manufacturing, exhibit limited engagement with green accounting practices, largely due to weak regulatory enforcement, insufficient technical guidance, and financial constraints. While stakeholders acknowledge that environmental accounting can enhance operational efficiency, corporate reputation, and investor confidence, these potential benefits are not fully realized in the absence of mandatory reporting requirements and structured training initiatives. The results indicate that regulatory ambiguity, limited institutional capacity, and shortages in environmental accounting expertise collectively hinder the strategic integration of green accounting into corporate decision-making.

POLICY AND PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

From a policy perspective, the study underscores the importance of establishing mandatory sustainability reporting frameworks aligned with internationally recognized standards such as GRI and SASB. Regulatory enforcement, combined with fiscal incentives and targeted capacity-building programs, would significantly enhance compliance and adoption rates. From a practical standpoint, collaboration among government bodies, professional accounting institutions, and universities is essential to develop specialized training and integrate green accounting into accounting education and professional certification programs. Overall, this research contributes to the limited empirical literature on green accounting in emerging economies by providing context-specific insights from the Kurdistan Region. It highlights that effective green accounting adoption requires not only regulatory intervention but also sustained institutional support and professional capacity development to ensure long-term improvements in corporate sustainability and environmental accountability.

LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Although this study offers insightful information about the prospects and current situation of green accounting in Kurdistan, it should be noted that it has certain limitations. There were few thorough green accounting reports available in Kurdistan, which limited the scope of the empirical study. A larger dataset would be useful for future research in order to identify more subtle patterns and variances among various industries. Although the present research employed qualitative methods to gain in-depth insights, further empirical studies that incorporate quantitative analysis are necessary. Such studies could examine the financial impact of green accounting practices more rigorously, providing robust evidence on cost savings, resource efficiency, and overall performance improvements. Future research should explore tailored green accounting strategies for specific industries within Kurdistan. Given the region's economic reliance on sectors like oil, gas, and construction, sector-specific studies could offer targeted recommendations that address the unique challenges and opportunities within these industries.

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