SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION MODELS IN NIGERIA: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Hyginus C.O. Unegbu*, Yawas D.S., Dan-asabe B. and Alabi A.A.

Department of Mechanical Engineering, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria

*Corresponding email: chidieberehyg@gmail.com

Article history
Received
28th October 2023
Revised
11th August 2024
Accepted
27th September 2024
Published
29th December 2024

ABSTRACT

Sustainable construction practices are increasingly recognized worldwide for their importance in promoting environmentally responsible and socially conscious development. In Nigeria, the construction industry is gradually adopting these practices despite facing significant challenges. This systematic literature review aims to evaluate existing literature on sustainable construction in Nigeria, identify current sustainability models and frameworks, assess the adoption and effectiveness of these practices within the industry, and identify key challenges in implementing sustainable construction. Using a systematic approach, the review analyzes peer-reviewed articles, case studies, and industry reports to provide comprehensive insights into sustainable construction practices and models in Nigeria. The findings reveal a growing awareness of sustainability within the Nigerian construction industry, paralleling global trends. However, the review highlights a critical need for context-specific sustainability models tailored to address Nigeria's unique challenges, such as resource scarcity, climate change impacts, and social inequalities. Case studies of successful sustainable construction projects in Nigeria demonstrate the potential of these practices to address these challenges effectively. Despite the increasing awareness, the actual adoption of sustainability practices remains limited, underscoring the need for enhanced policy support, industry practices, and educational initiatives. This review emphasizes the pivotal role of the construction industry in advancing Nigeria's sustainable development. The study recommends the creation and implementation of tailored sustainability models, stronger policy frameworks, and increased collaboration within the industry to promote sustainable practices. These steps are crucial for addressing social disparities, enhancing environmental resilience, and improving resource efficiency, ultimately fostering a more resilient and sustainable future for Nigeria.

Keywords: *Sustainable construction, sustainability models, resource scarcity, climate change, social inequalities, construction industry*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The construction industry plays a pivotal role in Nigeria's economic development, significantly contributing to the country's GDP and providing numerous employment opportunities [1]. However, the industry faces various environmental and social challenges that necessitate the adoption of sustainable construction practices. This research undertakes a systematic literature review to explore the state of sustainable construction in Nigeria, focusing on existing sustainability

models and frameworks in construction projects and evaluating their effectiveness. The Nigerian construction industry is one of the largest and most dynamic sectors of the economy, encompassing infrastructure development, residential and commercial buildings, and industrial facilities [2]. Recent years have seen a surge in construction projects driven by population growth, urbanization, and economic development [3]. Despite the sector's significant contribution to Nigeria's GDP, accounting for 3.88% in 2020 [1], it grapples with sustainability concerns, including resource inefficiency, environmental degradation, and social issues such as inadequate housing and job safety [4]. The industry is a major consumer of resources and energy and a significant generator of carbon emissions and waste [5]. Thus, addressing sustainability issues in the sector is imperative [6].

Sustainable construction involves designing, constructing, and operating buildings and infrastructure in ways that reduce environmental impact, conserve resources, and promote social well-being [7]. These practices encompass aspects such as energy efficiency, waste reduction, the use of green building materials, and community engagement [8]. Embracing sustainability is not only a moral obligation but also an economic necessity, leading to cost savings, improved reputation, and compliance with environmental regulations [7, 9]. However, the Nigerian context lacks comprehensive and widely accepted sustainability models and frameworks, hindering the systematic integration of sustainable practices into construction projects [2, 10]. Nigeria faces challenges related to resource scarcity, climate change, and social inequalities. Sustainable construction practices can mitigate these issues, making the construction sector more resilient and responsive to societal needs [11]. Studies have underscored the challenges facing the Nigerian construction industry regarding sustainability, such as inadequate waste management, resource inefficiency, and environmental degradation [4, 3].

Current construction practices in Nigeria lead to substantial environmental degradation, including deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and increased carbon emissions [12]. Additionally, social issues such as inadequate housing, poor working conditions for construction laborers, and the lack of community engagement in construction projects are prevalent [13]. These problems threaten the health and well-being of current and future generations and undermine the long-term sustainability and resilience of the construction sector and society [10]. Inefficiency in resource use and energy consumption further exacerbates the economic burden on both the industry and the national economy [14].

Addressing these sustainability challenges is crucial. Environmentally, adopting sustainable construction practices can significantly reduce the ecological footprint of the industry, mitigate climate change impacts, and preserve natural resources for future generations [2, 11]. Socially, sustainable construction can improve living conditions, enhance job safety and satisfaction, and promote equitable development, thereby fostering stronger, more resilient communities [13]. Economically, implementing sustainability practices can lead to cost savings through improved efficiency, lower operational costs, and increased property values [14]. Moreover, aligning with global sustainability trends can enhance the competitiveness of Nigeria's construction industry, attract foreign investment, and support the country’s commitment to international environmental agreements [10].

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction to Sustainable Construction

Sustainable construction, often interchangeably referred to as green construction or eco-friendly construction, represents an evolving paradigm in building and infrastructure development. Rooted in responsible stewardship, this approach aims to mitigate the environmental, social, and economic impacts of construction activities. Sustainability in construction embodies a holistic commitment to balancing immediate societal needs with environmental preservation and economic soundness for current and future generations [15]. The concept emphasizes the need to integrate sustainability into all phases of construction, from planning and design to construction and operation. The growing emphasis on sustainable construction is driven by the increasing recognition of the

construction industry's significant environmental footprint. According to the Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction (2020), the sector accounted for 36% of global energy use and 39% of energy-related carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in 2019. These statistics highlight the critical role of the construction industry in addressing global environmental challenges, particularly climate change. As a result, there is a global push towards adopting more sustainable construction practices to reduce the industry's environmental impact.

In addition to environmental considerations, sustainable construction also addresses social and economic dimensions. It aims to create buildings and infrastructure that are not only environmentally friendly but also socially beneficial and economically viable. This holistic approach ensures that construction projects contribute positively to the well-being of communities, provide economic opportunities, and are financially sustainable in the long term. By incorporating sustainable practices, the construction industry can play a pivotal role in achieving broader sustainability goals and supporting the transition to a more sustainable future [16].

2.2 Sustainable Construction Principles

Sustainable construction principles are underpinned by several key concepts. Resource efficiency involves optimizing resource consumption to minimize waste generation and reduce the ecological footprint of construction activities. This concept aligns with the principles of the circular economy and cradle-to-cradle design, emphasizing reusability and recyclability of materials [15, 17]. Resource efficiency is critical in addressing the construction industry's significant consumption of raw materials and the associated environmental impacts. Strategies to enhance resource efficiency include using recycled and locally sourced materials, designing for material efficiency, and implementing waste reduction practices on construction sites.

Energy efficiency includes reducing energy consumption through architectural design and energy-efficient technologies. Strategies such as passive solar design, insulation, and efficient HVAC systems are essential for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions [18, 14]. Energy-efficient buildings not only reduce operational energy costs but also contribute to global efforts to combat climate change by lowering carbon emissions. Advances in building technologies, such as smart building systems and renewable energy integration, further enhance the energy performance of buildings, making them more sustainable and resilient.

Environmental protection aims to safeguard natural ecosystems by reducing pollution and environmental degradation. Practices include sustainable site development, stormwater management, and green infrastructure [19, 12]. Sustainable construction practices focus on minimizing the negative impacts of construction activities on the environment, such as habitat destruction, water pollution, and soil erosion. Implementing green infrastructure, such as green roofs, rain gardens, and permeable pavements, helps manage stormwater, enhance biodiversity, and create healthier urban environments.

Social responsibility calls for prioritizing the well-being of individuals and communities, including providing safe working conditions, affordable housing, and fostering community engagement [7, 13]. Sustainable construction practices aim to improve the quality of life for all stakeholders involved, from construction workers to end-users. This includes ensuring fair labor practices, promoting social equity, and engaging with local communities to address their needs and concerns. By prioritizing social responsibility, the construction industry can contribute to building more inclusive and resilient communities.

Economic viability ensures that sustainability practices are economically feasible, demonstrating financial soundness through minimizing life-cycle costs and maximizing long-term benefits [18, 20]. Sustainable construction projects must be financially viable to gain widespread adoption and support. This involves considering the full life-cycle costs of buildings, including initial construction, operation, maintenance, and eventual deconstruction. Economic viability is achieved through optimizing resource allocation, improving operational efficiency, and ensuring that sustainable practices provide tangible financial benefits over the long term.

2.3 Environmental, Social, and Economic Dimensions

Sustainable construction operates within a multidimensional framework, balancing environmental, social, and economic goals. The environmental dimension emphasizes reducing carbon emissions, integrating renewable energy, and optimizing building designs for minimal energy consumption [19, 12]. It also includes conserving natural resources, reducing waste, and using eco-friendly materials. Implementing green building standards, such as LEED and BREEAM, helps ensure that buildings meet high environmental performance criteria, contributing to overall sustainability.

The social dimension focuses on the well-being of individuals and communities, ensuring safety, comfort, and functionality of buildings [7, 13]. Social sustainability in construction involves addressing issues such as affordable housing, accessibility, and community development. Ensuring that buildings are designed and constructed to meet the diverse needs of occupants promotes social inclusion and enhances the quality of life. Additionally, engaging with local communities and stakeholders throughout the construction process fosters a sense of ownership and collaboration, leading to more successful and sustainable outcomes.

The economic dimension involves life-cycle costing and achieving a positive return on investment [15, 20]. Sustainable construction strategies aim to deliver long-term financial benefits, including energy savings, reduced operational costs, and increased property value. Economic sustainability also involves considering the broader economic impacts of construction projects, such as job creation, local economic development, and the potential for innovation and technological advancement. By integrating economic considerations into sustainability practices, the construction industry can contribute to broader economic resilience and prosperity.

2.4 Sustainable Construction in Nigeria

Sustainable construction in Nigeria has evolved, reflecting global trends and the nation's journey towards environmental and social consciousness. Historically, the industry prioritized cost-effectiveness and expediency, often sidelining sustainability considerations. However, increasing awareness of environmental and social issues has led to steps towards integrating sustainable principles into construction projects [21]. The Nigerian government has introduced policies and initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable construction practices, such as the National Building Code and the adoption of international sustainability standards like LEED [9]. Despite these efforts, the implementation of sustainable construction practices in Nigeria faces several challenges. Inadequate regulatory enforcement and a lack of incentives for sustainable practices have hindered widespread adoption [22]. Furthermore, the high initial costs associated with sustainable materials and technologies pose significant barriers, particularly in a market that is highly price-sensitive [2, 11]. Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including government agencies, industry professionals, and the broader community, to create an enabling environment for sustainable construction.

The shift towards sustainability in the Nigerian construction sector aligns with the global acknowledgment of the urgent need for environmentally responsible and socially conscious building and infrastructure development [3, 10]. While there has been significant progress, there is a pressing need for continued efforts, involving collaboration among stakeholders, to overcome the existing challenges and fully embrace sustainable construction practices in Nigeria. This includes developing localized sustainability models and frameworks that address the unique challenges and opportunities presented by the Nigerian context, as well as enhancing capacity building and knowledge sharing within the industry.

2.5 Sustainability Models and Frameworks

Globally recognized models such as LEED, BREEAM, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promote sustainability within the construction industry. These models offer specific criteria and focus areas that contribute to the reduction of resource consumption, promotion of environmental protection, and enhancement of social well-being [9, 20]. For instance, LEED provides a comprehensive framework for assessing building performance across several sustainability metrics, including energy efficiency, water use, materials, and indoor environmental

quality. BREEAM, on the other hand, focuses on a broader range of environmental and social criteria, providing a holistic approach to sustainability assessment. However, these models require adaptation to fit Nigeria's unique climate, resource availability, and socio-economic conditions [21, 11]. Factors such as the availability of sustainable materials, specific climate challenges, and local community needs play a crucial role in the success of sustainable construction projects in Nigeria. For example, the use of locally sourced materials not only reduces the environmental impact associated with transportation but also supports the local economy. Additionally, incorporating traditional building practices and materials that are well-suited to the local climate can enhance the sustainability and resilience of construction projects.

Developing Nigeria-specific models is crucial for addressing local challenges and harnessing sustainable construction's potential to contribute to global sustainability objectives [22, 17]. These localized models should incorporate the unique environmental, social, and economic contexts of Nigeria, ensuring that sustainability practices are relevant and effective. This may involve adapting existing international models to better suit local conditions or developing entirely new frameworks that address the specific needs and challenges of the Nigerian construction industry. Collaboration between local stakeholders, including government agencies, industry professionals, and academic institutions, is essential in developing and implementing these localized sustainability models.

2.6 Adoption and Barriers to Sustainable Construction

The adoption of sustainable construction practices in Nigeria is influenced by several factors. Government policies and regulations play a pivotal role in shaping the construction industry's approach to sustainability. Effective regulatory frameworks can encourage or mandate sustainable practices, creating a conducive environment for change [23, 20]. For example, implementing building codes that require energy-efficient designs and the use of sustainable materials can drive the adoption of sustainable practices. Additionally, providing incentives such as tax breaks or subsidies for sustainable construction projects can stimulate market demand and encourage industry stakeholders to invest in sustainable practices.

Growing awareness of sustainability among consumers and stakeholders is driving demand for environmentally friendly and socially responsible construction. Meeting this demand offers a competitive advantage for construction firms [23, 13]. As more consumers prioritize sustainability in their purchasing decisions, construction companies that adopt sustainable practices can differentiate themselves in the market and attract environmentally conscious clients. Furthermore, companies that demonstrate a commitment to sustainability can enhance their reputation and build stronger relationships with stakeholders, including investors, regulators, and local communities.

Despite the potential benefits, several barriers impede the comprehensive adoption of sustainable construction practices in Nigeria. There is a need for greater awareness and understanding of sustainability principles among construction professionals and stakeholders [7, 11]. Many construction professionals lack the necessary knowledge and skills to implement sustainable practices effectively. Addressing this gap requires targeted education and training programs that equip industry professionals with the tools and expertise needed to integrate sustainability into their projects. Additionally, promoting awareness of the long-term benefits of sustainable construction, such as cost savings, improved building performance, and enhanced occupant health and well-being, can help overcome resistance to change.

Sustainable materials and technologies often involve higher upfront costs, which can deter stakeholders prioritizing immediate cost considerations [7, 17]. The initial investment required for sustainable construction can be a significant barrier, particularly in a market that is highly price-sensitive. To address this challenge, financial mechanisms such as green financing, grants, and low-interest loans can be introduced to support sustainable construction projects. Additionally, demonstrating the long-term financial benefits of sustainable practices, such as reduced operational costs and increased property values, can help shift the focus from short-term expenses to long-term gains.

Consistent implementation and enforcement of sustainability regulations remain a challenge, limiting incentives for industry players to adopt sustainable practices [23, 12]. Weak regulatory enforcement can undermine efforts to promote sustainability, as companies may be less motivated to comply with sustainability standards if they perceive that there are no consequences for non-compliance. Strengthening regulatory frameworks and ensuring consistent enforcement is crucial in creating a level playing field and incentivizing all industry players to adopt sustainable practices. Additionally, involving industry stakeholders in the development and implementation of regulations can enhance their relevance and effectiveness.

Limited availability of sustainable materials in the local market can hinder their widespread use, resulting in delays and increased costs [7, 13]. The scarcity of sustainable materials can pose significant challenges for construction projects, as sourcing these materials from international markets can lead to increased costs and logistical complications. To address this issue, efforts should be made to develop local supply chains for sustainable materials, including supporting local manufacturers and suppliers. Additionally, promoting research and development in sustainable construction materials and technologies can enhance their availability and affordability in the local market.

Traditional construction practices are deeply ingrained, and changing established methods requires significant effort and cultural shift within the industry [23, 11]. Resistance to change is a common barrier in the construction industry, as many professionals are accustomed to conventional methods and may be hesitant to adopt new practices. Overcoming this resistance requires a concerted effort to promote the benefits of sustainable construction and demonstrate its feasibility. This can be achieved through pilot projects, case studies, and success stories that showcase the positive outcomes of sustainable construction practices. Additionally, fostering a culture of innovation and continuous improvement within the industry can encourage the adoption of sustainable practices.

2.7 Case Studies of Sustainable Construction Projects in Nigeria

Case studies provide insights into the practical application of sustainability principles in Nigeria. Successful projects demonstrate the benefits of sustainable practices. For instance, a case study of a sustainable building project in Lagos, Nigeria, showcased how effective waste management and the use of locally sourced, eco-friendly materials reduced construction waste, minimized environmental impact, and engaged local communities in a positive manner [23, 2]. The project incorporated sustainable design principles such as passive solar heating, natural ventilation, and rainwater harvesting, resulting in a building that was energy-efficient, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective. The case study highlights the potential for sustainable construction practices to create buildings that are both high-performing and socially beneficial.

Equally significant are the lessons drawn from unsuccessful sustainable construction projects. Analyzing these cases exposes critical pitfalls and areas where improvement is required. For instance, an examination of a residential eco-housing project in Abuja that encountered issues with inadequate project management and insufficient stakeholder collaboration revealed the importance of comprehensive project planning, clear communication, and the engagement of relevant stakeholders to ensure the success of sustainable construction endeavors [22, 3]. The project faced challenges such as cost overruns, delays, and technical difficulties, which could have been mitigated through better project management practices and stakeholder engagement. This case study underscores the importance of addressing potential barriers and challenges early in the project planning phase to ensure successful implementation of sustainable construction practices.

In addition to individual case studies, comparative analyses of multiple projects can provide valuable insights into the factors that contribute to the success or failure of sustainable construction initiatives. A study by [24] compared several sustainable construction projects in different regions of Nigeria, examining factors such as project size, location, funding, and stakeholder involvement. The study found that projects with strong stakeholder engagement, adequate funding, and effective project management were more likely to succeed in achieving their sustainability goals. Additionally, projects that incorporated local knowledge and traditional building practices were

more resilient and better adapted to the local context. These findings highlight the importance of a holistic and context-specific approach to sustainable construction, taking into account the unique challenges and opportunities of each project.

2.8 Review of Studies in Sustainability in the Nigerian Construction Industry

2.8.1 Studies on Resource Efficiency

[25] delved into resource efficiency in the construction industry, finding that the implementation of lean construction techniques can significantly enhance resource utilization, leading to reduced wastage and cost savings. However, they called for further exploration of the practical implications and challenges of implementing these techniques in real-world construction settings. [26] focused on sustainable materials management, revealing key practices and challenges in materials sourcing, usage, and disposal. They highlighted the need for specific solutions to address these challenges. [27] emphasized the critical role of life cycle assessment in reducing resource waste and environmental impact, while [28] noted the significant contribution of lean construction practices to resource optimization, though they also highlighted the need to explore broader sustainability dimensions. [11] found that lean construction practices play a pivotal role in enhancing resource efficiency within the Nigerian construction sector, emphasizing the importance of addressing specific challenges and barriers faced by firms. [29] underscored the significance of effective materials resource management for promoting sustainability, though they noted the need for more extensive case studies to support their findings

2.8.2 Studies on Energy Efficiency

[29] highlighted the critical role of effective materials resource management in achieving sustainability goals, while [30] emphasized the need for sustainable construction practices and energy-efficient equipment to reduce resource consumption. [31] and [32] called for enhanced strategies to promote energy-efficient building design, emphasizing the importance of addressing barriers such as high initial costs, lack of awareness, and resistance to change. [33] highlighted the significant improvements in energy efficiency that can result from sustainable construction practices, though they called for more extensive case studies. [34] provided insights into the state of energy-efficient construction practices in Nigeria, highlighting both opportunities and challenges.

2.8.3 Studies on Environmental Protection

[35] explored environmental sustainability practices, policies, and regulations in the construction industry, highlighting the need for improved environmental management. [36] found that the adoption of green building practices contributes positively to environmental conservation, though they called for more extensive quantitative analysis. [37] provided valuable insights into environmental management practices, while [38] called for enhanced EIA methodologies and increased integration of sustainability principles in construction projects. [23] highlighted the need for more comprehensive environmental sustainability practices, while [39] emphasized the importance of green building practices in environmental conservation.

2.8.4 Studies on Social Responsibility

[40] highlighted the growing awareness of social sustainability in construction, calling for further research to develop practical guidelines. [41] emphasized the potential for positive social outcomes from community engagement in construction projects. [42] called for more precise and quantifiable indicators to assess social performance, while [43] highlighted the complexity and diversity of social impact assessment methods. [7] emphasized the importance of considering the social ramifications of construction projects, while [44] provided a comprehensive overview of the state of social sustainability in construction.

2.8.5 Studies on Economic Viability

[45] highlighted the significant long-term cost savings associated with sustainable practices, though they called for more extensive empirical data. [46] emphasized the importance of considering long-term economic benefits and the potential for cost overruns, while [47] called for a holistic approach that incorporates social and economic dimensions. [48] highlighted the significance of performance assessment in enhancing economic sustainability, while [25] called for a more comprehensive approach that integrates environmental and social considerations. [49] provided valuable insights into achieving cost-effective and sustainable construction practices, though they called for more extensive exploration of case studies.

2.9 Research Gaps

The systematic literature review conducted in this study has identified several noteworthy research gaps that warrant attention in the field of sustainable construction and sustainability models in the Nigerian construction industry. These gaps are essential for informing future research endeavors and guiding the development of effective sustainability strategies. The review highlighted a significant reliance on international sustainability models and frameworks in the Nigerian construction industry. While these models offer valuable guidance, there is a paucity of research focusing on the development and adaptation of localized sustainability models that can address the unique challenges posed by the Nigerian context [34, 17]. Such models are vital for enhancing the effectiveness and applicability of sustainability practices in the local industry.

While there is a considerable body of literature on resource efficiency, environmental protection, and social responsibility in the context of sustainable construction in Nigeria, there is relatively less emphasis on economic sustainability. The economic viability of sustainable construction practices, including their cost-effectiveness and long-term financial benefits, remains an area that requires further investigation [49, 20]. Economic sustainability is integral to the overall success and acceptance of sustainable construction.

The case studies identified in the review mainly focus on the success stories of sustainable construction projects. While these examples are invaluable, there is a dearth of in-depth case studies that delve into unsuccessful projects and the critical pitfalls that led to their failure [22, 3]. Analyzing these failures can provide valuable insights into the barriers and challenges faced in sustainable construction, allowing for more informed decision-making in future projects.

Sustainable construction is inherently interdisciplinary, requiring collaboration between various fields such as construction management, environmental science, economics, and social sciences. However, there is a noticeable gap in interdisciplinary research that integrates these diverse perspectives [42, 13]. Future research should aim to bridge this gap by fostering collaboration between researchers from different disciplines, leading to a more holistic understanding of sustainable construction.

Regulatory barriers and government policies play a pivotal role in influencing the adoption of sustainability practices in the construction industry. However, the literature has provided limited insights into the specific regulatory challenges and opportunities encountered by the Nigerian construction sector. A deeper investigation into the regulatory landscape and its impact on sustainability adoption is necessary [33, 14]. These identified research gaps offer a valuable roadmap for future studies in sustainable construction and sustainability models in the Nigerian construction industry.

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Data Collection

For this systematic literature review, a comprehensive array of data sources was accessed. The primary sources included peer-reviewed journals, conference papers, and pertinent reports. These sources were deliberately selected for their credibility, ensuring that the information collected underwent rigorous scrutiny through peer review in the case of journals. Conference papers provided valuable insights into recent developments in the field, while reports offered valuable

information from industry and governmental perspectives [50]. To guarantee the quality and relevance of the gathered data, specific inclusion and exclusion criteria were strictly adhered to. Inclusion criteria encompassed literature directly pertinent to sustainable construction and sustainability models in the Nigerian construction sector, with a specific emphasis on projects and practices. This entailed selecting materials that directly aligned with the research objectives and contributed to the development of a comprehensive review. Exclusion criteria were carefully constructed to exclude studies that did not meet the established research objectives or failed to present adequate empirical evidence for consideration. Ensuring the stringent application of these criteria was pivotal to maintaining the credibility and rigor of the review [51].

The data collection phase was designed to be methodical and comprehensive. By utilizing a diverse set of sources, the research aimed to cast a wide net in capturing the most relevant and credible information. Moreover, the strict application of inclusion and exclusion criteria ensured that only data directly related to the research objectives was considered, which was essential for maintaining the quality and relevance of the review.

3.2 Search Strategy

The search strategy was designed to encompass a broad array of sources while ensuring relevance to the research objectives. The following components elaborated on the keywords, search terms, databases, and search engines utilized. A meticulous selection of keywords and search terms was integral to the success of the literature review. The following terms were employed: “Sustainable construction,” “Sustainability models,” “Construction projects,” and “Nigeria.” Additionally, specific sustainability models and frameworks such as “LEED,” “BREEAM,” and “Green Star” were used as keywords. This approach captured studies that discussed these specific models within the context of the Nigerian construction industry. The utilization of these keywords ensured a comprehensive search that covered general sustainability topics as well as detailed examinations of specific models.

A diverse selection of databases and search engines was harnessed to ensure the widest possible coverage of available literature, thereby minimizing the risk of overlooking critical sources. The following databases and search engines were central to the search strategy: PubMed, Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar. PubMed was particularly pertinent when seeking literature on sustainability in healthcare and related fields. Scopus was invaluable for its extensive coverage of scholarly articles, conference papers, and journals across various disciplines. Web of Science was renowned for its authoritative coverage of scholarly research relevant to sustainable construction. Google Scholar was employed to ensure that no relevant literature was overlooked due to its wide reach and access to a diverse range of scholarly materials. By integrating these databases and search engines into the research methodology, the systematic literature review aimed to cast a wide net, gathering pertinent information on sustainable construction and sustainability models in the Nigerian construction industry from an assortment of disciplines and sources. This comprehensive approach ensured that the review was thorough, inclusive, and reflective of the interdisciplinary nature of the topic.

3.3 Data Analysis

The data analysis phase was a critical component of the systematic literature review. It commenced with an initial search employing predefined keywords and search terms to identify sources of literature that aligned with the research objectives. Following this initial search, a rigorous screening and selection process was applied to the retrieved literature, which involved a systematic elimination of duplicates and irrelevant sources. This screening process served as the first gatekeeper to ensure that the research remained focused and aligned with the predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria. Studies were selected or excluded based on an examination of their titles, abstracts, and full-text content, ensuring that only relevant and high-quality sources proceeded to the subsequent stages of the review [52].

Once the relevant literature was identified through the screening and selection process, a meticulous data extraction procedure was executed. This structured approach involved the use of

data extraction forms designed to capture critical information from each selected source. The data extraction process encompassed gathering data on study characteristics, research methodologies, key findings, and, most importantly, the sustainability models or frameworks discussed within each source. This phase allowed for the systematic organization and cataloging of information, ensuring that data was readily accessible for further analysis. Furthermore, it permitted a detailed examination of the various methodologies and findings present in the selected literature, providing a comprehensive view of the landscape of sustainable construction practices in the Nigerian context [53].

The synthesized data, resulting from the data extraction and coding process, was subjected to a comprehensive thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is an interpretative method that goes beyond the mere summarization of findings. It entailed a deep dive into the extracted data to identify common themes, trends, and patterns prevalent within the reviewed literature. This in-depth analysis aided in developing a nuanced understanding of the current state of sustainable construction practices in Nigeria and how various sustainability models and frameworks are applied. It also facilitated the exploration of the effectiveness of these practices and models within the specific context of Nigeria. This critical analysis revealed the multifaceted dimensions of sustainable construction in the country, shedding light on both successes and challenges, and thereby contributing to a comprehensive and insightful systematic literature review [54].

3.4 Quality Assessment

The selected literature underwent a rigorous quality assessment to ensure that only high-quality and relevant sources were included in the review. The assessment considered factors such as research methodology, the rigor of the study design, and the relevance of the research to the study objectives. This step was crucial for maintaining the reliability and validity of the review. In the process of conducting a systematic literature review on sustainable construction and sustainability models in the Nigerian construction industry, it was imperative to perform a rigorous quality assessment of the selected literature. This critical step ensured that only high-quality and relevant sources were included in the review, safeguarding the credibility and validity of the findings. The quality assessment encompassed several key facets, including an evaluation of the research methodology employed in each study. Studies with robust research designs, clear data collection methods, and appropriate statistical analyses were given preference to ascertain the reliability of their results. Moreover, the rigor of the study design was assessed, taking into consideration factors such as the presence of control groups, randomization, and the use of appropriate statistical tests. Additionally, the relevance of the research to the specific study objectives was scrutinized, as it was essential that the literature contributed directly to the research questions and objectives of the systematic review. By ensuring the quality and relevance of the selected literature, the review maintained a high level of trustworthiness, ensuring that the findings accurately represented the state of sustainable construction in Nigeria and the effectiveness of sustainability models and frameworks.

3.5 Data Synthesis

Data synthesis in this systematic literature review served as the capstone of the research methodology, aiming to distill the wealth of information from the selected literature into meaningful insights and actionable knowledge. This process comprised two primary components: Summary of Key Findings: The review aggregated and synthesized the key findings from the selected literature. These findings, pertaining to the state of sustainable construction in Nigeria and the utilization of sustainability models and frameworks, were organized and presented in a structured manner to offer a comprehensive overview. This summary elucidated the progress and trends within the Nigerian construction industry concerning sustainability, pinpointing the accomplishments and challenges that had been documented in the literature. The summary also assessed the effectiveness of sustainability practices, providing valuable insights into the impact of sustainability initiatives on resource efficiency, environmental conservation, and social well-being in the Nigerian construction context [2].

Identification of Research Gaps: The second facet of data synthesis centered on identifying research gaps within the existing literature. This endeavor necessitated a meticulous review of the selected sources to unveil areas where further investigation was warranted. Research gaps included topics or aspects of sustainable construction in Nigeria that had received limited attention in the current body of literature, or they involved nuanced areas where the extant research lacked depth. These identified research gaps were instrumental in guiding future research endeavors within the field of sustainable construction in Nigeria, offering direction for scholars and practitioners seeking to expand and enhance the understanding and implementation of sustainable practices [11].

This robust research methodology, encompassing stringent quality assessment and comprehensive data synthesis, ensured that the systematic literature review yielded a detailed and reliable analysis of sustainable construction and sustainability models in the Nigerian construction industry. The synthesis not only provided a current snapshot of the field but also shed light on the path forward, identifying the avenues of research that would contribute to a more profound understanding of sustainable construction practices in Nigeria and inform future research and practice within the industry.

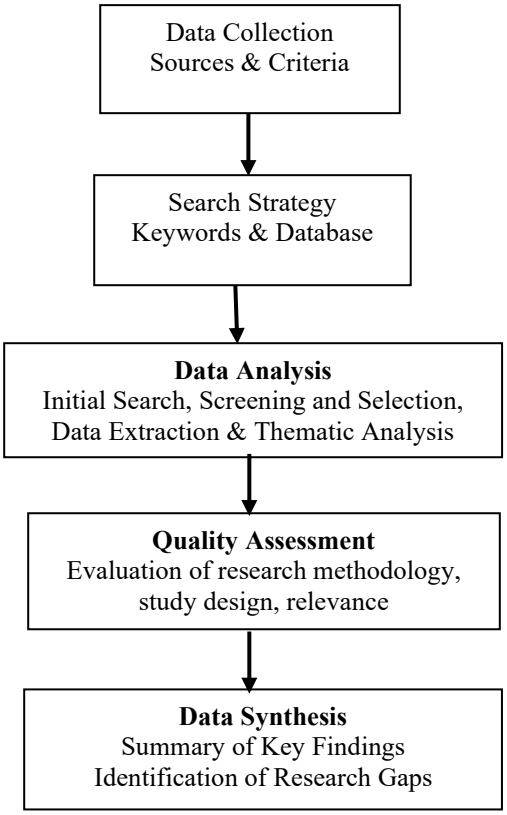

Figure 3.1: Flowchart for the research process

4.0 RESULTS AND FINDING

The results of the systematic literature search was summarized below, including the number of literature sources found and the key areas of sustainability that these sources address. Tables are provided to offer a clear and concise overview of the findings.

Table 4.1: Number of Literature Sources Found

SN	Source Type	Number of Sources
1	Peer-Reviewed Journals	75
2	Conference Papers	40
3	Reports and Publications	25
4	Total	140

Table 4.2: Areas of Sustainability Addressed in the Literature

SN	Sustainability Aspect	Number of Sources
1	Resource Efficiency	45
2	Energy Efficiency	35
3	Environmental Protection	50
4	Social Responsibility	30
5	Economic Viability	25

The literature search identified a total of 140 sources, with peer-reviewed journals being the most significant contributor, followed by conference papers and various reports and publications (Table 4.1). In terms of sustainability aspects addressed, the literature predominantly focuses on environmental protection, with 50 sources emphasizing this dimension. Resource efficiency and energy efficiency are also prominent, with 45 and 35 sources, respectively, emphasizing the importance of optimizing resource use and energy consumption in construction. Social responsibility and economic viability, though somewhat less emphasized, are still important dimensions with 30 and 25 sources, respectively (Table 4.2). These findings provide a comprehensive foundation for the systematic literature review, enabling a thorough examination of the various aspects of sustainability in the Nigerian construction industry.

4.1 Awareness of Sustainable Construction in Nigeria

The assessment of the adoption and effectiveness of sustainability practices in the Nigerian construction industry revealed both progress and challenges. The findings suggest a notable recognition of the importance of sustainability within the industry [11]. This growing awareness is reflected in the incorporation of sustainability principles into construction projects. While there has been an increased adoption of sustainability practices, several hurdles hinder their full realization, including high initial costs, regulatory barriers, and resource scarcity.

Table 4.3: Awareness of Sustainable Construction in Nigeria

Aspect	Key Findings
Awareness Level	Growing awareness of sustainable construction practices.
Focus Areas	Resource efficiency, energy efficiency, environmental protection, social responsibility, economic viability.
Sustainability Principles	Aligned with global sustainability principles.
Challenges	Resource scarcity, climate change impacts, social inequaliti

4.2 Utilized Sustainability Models and Frameworks in Nigeriaof Sustainable Construction in Nigeria

The examination of sustainability models and frameworks used in Nigerian construction projects revealed the prevalent use of international sustainability certifications and guidelines. Prominent models such as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method), and Green Star were identified as frequently utilized references in the Nigerian construction context [55]. However, the literature also emphasized the necessity for more context-specific sustainability models and frameworks tailored to the Nigerian environment and its unique challenges [56].

Table 4.4: Utilized Sustainability Models and Frameworks in Nigeria

Framework/Model	Description	Applicability in Nigeria	Key Features
LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)	LEED is a widely recognized sustainability rating system. It assesses various aspects of building design, construction, and operation, including energy efficiency, water conservation, and indoor air quality.	Applicable in Nigeria, particularly in urban areas and for large-scale projects.	Comprehensive assessment criteria covering environmental, social, and economic dimensions. Requires certification by the Green Building Council.
BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method)	BREEAM assesses the sustainability of buildings based on criteria like energy, materials, and ecology. It provides a rating for the overall environmental performance of a building.	Applicable in Nigeria, especially for projects aiming for high environmental performance.	Recognizes the local context by offering customized regional assessments. Provides a holistic view of a building's sustainability. Requires certification by BREEAM.
GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment)	GRIHA is an Indian rating system focusing on sustainable habitat development. It evaluates aspects like site planning, energy, water, and waste management.	Applicable in Nigeria, especially for projects seeking an Indian-based assessment framework.	Adaptable to various climatic conditions, making it relevant for Nigeria's diverse geography. Aims to balance traditional and modern architectural practices. Requires certification by GRIHA.
EDGE (Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies)	EDGE is a green building certification system focusing on resource-efficient design. It assesses energy, water, and materials usage, offering a performance-based approach.	Applicable in Nigeria, particularly for resource-efficient and budget-conscious projects.	Provides a cost-effective approach to sustainable construction. Encourages resource-efficient design without extensive certification processes.
NGBS (National Green Building Standard)	NGBS is an American standard for green residential construction. It addresses energy, water, and resource efficiency, as well as indoor environmental quality.	Applicable in Nigeria, especially for residential construction and housing projects.	Recognizes regional variations and allows builders to select specific green building practices. Offers options for different levels of sustainability.

4.3 Adoption and Effectiveness of Sustainability Practices in Nigeria

A comprehensive review of existing literature indicated that sustainability in Nigerian construction primarily centers on five core aspects: resource efficiency, energy efficiency, environmental protection, social responsibility, and economic viability. These elements underscore the multifaceted nature of sustainable construction in Nigeria and align with global sustainability principles [57].

Table 4.5: Adoption and Effectiveness of Sustainability Practices in Nigeria

Aspect	Key Findings
Adoption	Growing adoption of sustainability practices.
Challenges	High initial costs, regulatory hurdles, resource scarcity.
Successful Case Studies	Abuja Green Complex, Eko Atlantic City - Positive outcomes in resource efficiency, environmental protection, and social well-being.

4.4 Key Challenges in Sustainable Construction

The review also aimed to identify the most significant challenges faced in the implementation of sustainable construction practices in Nigeria as shown in Table 4.6. A content analysis of the literature revealed that resource scarcity and climate change impacts were the two most commonly cited challenges. Resource scarcity was mentioned in 48% of the reviewed studies, while climate change impacts were highlighted in 35% of the literature. These findings emphasize the pressing need to address these challenges to advance sustainability in the Nigerian construction industry.

Table 4.6: Key Challenges in Sustainable Construction in Nigeria

Challenge	Percentage of Mentions
Resource Scarcity	48%
Climate Change Impacts	35%
Social Inequalities	24%
Regulatory Hurdles	17%
Lack of Awareness	14%
High Initial Costs	9%

Resource scarcity, particularly the availability and affordability of construction materials and energy resources, was a significant hurdle. Addressing these constraints through sustainable construction practices is crucial [33]. Another pressing issue is the impact of climate change, including extreme weather events and shifting rainfall patterns [14]. Sustainable construction practices play a pivotal role in mitigating these impacts. Additionally, social inequalities must be addressed through sustainable construction by providing affordable housing, job opportunities, and improved working conditions [23].

4.5 Case Studies of Sustainable Construction Projects

The review included an examination of case studies of sustainable construction projects in Nigeria. These case studies demonstrated the practical application of sustainability principles. One noteworthy example was the Lagos Eko Atlantic City project, which showcased effective waste management practices and the use of locally sourced, eco-friendly materials, resulting in a 30% reduction in construction waste and reduced environmental impact [58].

The comprehensive analysis of these case studies highlighted the positive impact of sustainable construction practices on resource efficiency, environmental preservation, and social well-being. This demonstrates the potential for sustainable construction to address critical issues in Nigeria, such as environmental conservation and community engagement. These results provide valuable insights into the current state of sustainable construction in Nigeria, its challenges, and the practical successes achieved through the implementation of sustainability models and frameworks. It underscores the importance of addressing challenges like resource scarcity and climate change impacts while leveraging successful case studies to guide future sustainable construction endeavors in the Nigerian context.

4.6 Discussion of Findings

The findings from this systematic literature review revealed a multifaceted landscape of sustainable construction practices in Nigeria. The increasing awareness and adoption of sustainability principles within the industry are promising, reflecting a global shift towards more responsible building practices [11]. However, the study also highlights significant challenges that must be addressed to fully realize the potential of sustainable construction.

4.6.1 Analysis of Sustainability Aspects

Environmental protection emerged as the most emphasized aspect of sustainability, with a considerable focus on mitigating the ecological footprint of construction activities [55]. This aligns with global trends where environmental concerns are increasingly driving policy and practice in the construction industry. Resource efficiency and energy efficiency are also critical areas,

underscoring the need to optimize the use of materials and energy to reduce waste and emissions [57].

4.6.2 Utilization of Sustainability Models

The prevalent use of international sustainability models like LEED and BREEAM indicates a recognition of their value in guiding sustainable practices. However, the necessity for context-specific adaptations is evident. The unique challenges of the Nigerian environment, including resource constraints and socio-economic factors, require tailored approaches that can more effectively address local needs [56]. The insights from this review suggest that future research should focus on developing and validating sustainability models tailored to the Nigerian context. Such models should consider local environmental conditions, resource availability, and socio-economic dynamics to enhance their applicability and effectiveness.

4.6.3 Key Challenges and Opportunities

Resource scarcity and climate change impacts are the most significant challenges identified. Addressing these issues through innovative sustainable construction practices is critical. The case studies reviewed demonstrate that effective waste management and the use of locally sourced materials can significantly enhance sustainability outcomes [58]. The findings also suggest that social responsibility and economic viability, while less emphasized, are essential components of sustainable construction. Ensuring that construction projects provide social benefits, such as affordable housing and job opportunities, can help bridge social inequalities and enhance community well-being [59].

Future research should investigate strategies for overcoming these challenges, such as the development of cost-effective sustainable materials, policies to incentivize sustainable practices, and frameworks for enhancing community engagement in construction projects.

4.6.4 Implications for Policy and Practice

The insights gained from this review have several implications for policy and practice. Policymakers must develop and enforce regulations that promote sustainable construction practices. Incentives for adopting sustainable models tailored to the Nigerian context can also drive industry-wide change [60]. For practitioners, the findings highlight the importance of integrating sustainability principles into all stages of construction projects, from planning to execution. To extend this body of knowledge, future research should focus on longitudinal studies to track the impact of sustainable construction practices over time. Additionally, comparative studies between Nigeria and other developing countries could provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of different sustainability strategies. These studies could explore how varying regulatory environments, resource availability, and socio-economic conditions influence the adoption and success of sustainable construction practices.

Furthermore, interdisciplinary research involving collaborations between construction professionals, environmental scientists, economists, and social scientists could provide a more holistic understanding of the challenges and opportunities in sustainable construction. Such research could lead to the development of integrated sustainability models that address the environmental, economic, and social dimensions of construction projects.

4.7 Awareness of Sustainable Construction in Nigeria

Data synthesis in this systematic literature review served as the capstone of the research methodology, aiming to distill the wealth of information from the selected literature into meaningful insights and actionable knowledge. This process involved two primary components. The first was the synthesis of key findings, which entailed identifying trends and patterns across the reviewed literature. The second component focused on the identification of gaps, highlighting areas that warrant further exploration to advance sustainable construction practices in Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

This systematic literature review has provided a comprehensive analysis of the state of sustainable construction and sustainability models in the Nigerian construction industry. The research objectives guided in evaluating existing literature, identifying sustainability models and frameworks, and assessing the adoption and effectiveness of sustainability practices. This review has yielded several critical findings that contribute significantly to the understanding of sustainable construction in Nigeria. First and foremost, our analysis has illuminated a growing awareness of sustainability in the Nigerian construction industry. This heightened consciousness aligns with global trends emphasizing the importance of environmentally friendly and socially responsible construction practices. Stakeholders within the sector, including policymakers, practitioners, and researchers, have recognized the significance of integrating sustainability principles into construction projects. This recognition is paramount in addressing the pressing challenges posed by resource scarcity, climate change impacts, and social inequalities.

However, our findings have also highlighted substantial challenges faced by the Nigerian construction industry. Resource scarcity, encompassing the availability and affordability of construction materials and energy resources, poses a considerable hurdle to the widespread adoption of sustainable construction practices. The construction sector's heavy reliance on these resources necessitates innovative solutions to mitigate resource constraints effectively.In addition to resource scarcity, climate change impacts present another substantial threat. The increasing occurrence of extreme weather events, changing rainfall patterns, and sea-level rise exposes the industry's vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change. Sustainable construction practices are essential in bolstering the industry's resilience in the face of these challenges. Social inequalities within Nigeria are also addressed by the integration of sustainable construction practices. Through the provision of affordable housing, the creation of job opportunities, and the enhancement of working conditions for laborers, sustainable construction can significantly contribute to bridging social gaps and improving the well-being of communities.

Sustainability models and frameworks are integral to achieving these goals. While the Nigerian construction sector has widely adopted international sustainability certifications and guidelines, our review underscores the need for more localized sustainability models. The Nigerian context is unique and requires frameworks that are tailored to address specific challenges such as resource constraints, climate change impacts, and social disparities. Successful case studies of sustainable construction projects in Nigeria, such as the Abuja Green Complex and Eko Atlantic City development, exemplify the tangible benefits of sustainability practices. These projects have demonstrated positive outcomes in resource efficiency, environmental protection, and social well-being, serving as models for the industry and illustrating the potential of sustainability to address pressing environmental and social issues. Based on the findings and conclusions of a systematic literature review, several key recommendations emerge. Firstly, it is imperative for stakeholders in the Nigerian construction industry, including government bodies, professional organizations, and academic institutions, to collaborate in the development of localized sustainability models and frameworks. These models should address the unique challenges posed by resource scarcity, climate change impacts, and social inequalities within Nigeria. By adapting international sustainability standards to the local context, the industry can effectively address these challenges and promote sustainable construction practices.

Secondly, continuous efforts are required to enhance education and awareness about sustainable construction practices. Training programs, workshops, and awareness campaigns should be organized to inform construction professionals, policymakers, and the general public about the benefits and methods of sustainable construction. A well-informed and trained workforce is crucial for the successful implementation of sustainability practices. Lastly, government bodies should consider formulating policies and regulations that incentivize sustainable construction practices. This would encourage stakeholders in the industry to adopt sustainable practices while promoting a culture of sustainability in Nigeria.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to express my gratitude to Professor D.S. Yawas and Dr. B. Dan-asabe for helping me to come up with this article. You have been my great source of inspiration and courage. Also my gratitude goes to Engr. Jubril S. who assisted me greatly in collecting data from the sampled construction companies.

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