Emerging Issues in Management Accounting: Digital Technologies, Governance, and Sustainability

Farrukh Zafar1, Rabia Sabri2, Hafiz Muhammad Ahmed Siddiqui3, Iraj Masood4

Abstract
In the context of accounting management perspectives, corporate enterprises in the 21st century are facing issues determining whether their operational practices are genuinely profitable and environmentally sustainable. Accounting practice across organizations is influenced by various interconnected activities, including managerial behavior, technical advancements, competitive dynamics, and critical stakeholder concerns about enterprise accountability. Globalization has raised the demands for accounting management and used relevant and updated technological techniques to become ecologically friendly. This indicates the need for adopting the actions and practices by the companies that translate the operational processes into processes that do not raise the cost of processing or manufacturing rather have a sustainable impact on the environment and enhance profitability or revenue generation. The rising interest in environmental and social performance has made it a statutory requirement, just like accounting in the financial aspect. Management accountants must adhere to the recent changes where several problems must be identified and resolved. The impact of the organizations’ business activities can be detected by making efficient environmental management accounting. The present systematic review thus aims to study the emerging issues in management accounting while relating the debate with sustainability, governance, and digital technologies. The systematic review has chosen five research articles to explore the emerging issues and challenges in management accounting via analyzing modern era digital technologies, corporate policies, and governance as exercised by the organizations and sustainability practices. The study identifies ineffective regulatory practices, lack of knowledge and skills, and the ineffective implementation of environmental accounting as primary factors that hinder accounting sustainability.

Keywords: accounting management, sustainability, governance, digital technologies, environmental management accounting

1. Introduction
Management accounting in the present century has been completely revolutionized. Meanwhile, business practitioners have continuously criticized it because it doesn’t match the radical changes. To practice the relevancy with the current management accounting practices and better cater to the environmental accounting issues while practicing sustainability, it has become evident to consider digital technologies and governance practices (Hossain, 2019). Doorasamy (2015) debated those continual changes in the environment accounting practices have enhanced the challenges accountants and people practicing auditing as a profession while the governmental regulations, monitoring, and sanctions continue to drive the changes for the organizations.

1.1. Background
The recent changes in product design and processing due to globalization, implementation of information technology, increased competition among rivals, and continuously changing regulations have enhanced the roles and responsibilities of accountant managers (Moller et al., 2020; Karhan, 2017). Digitalization is upending corporate structures in every profession and region, paving new paths for cooperation and redefining customer experiences and expectations. Digital transformation and rapidly growing technologies represent substantial potential and threats for the accounting profession. However, the use of digital technologies for improving sustainability practices and resolving environmental accounting issues has become quite critical over time. Globalization has also raised investors’ concerns about looking for organizations with exceptional management accounting practices. Accountancy would become a distinctly new profession due to transaction transparency and built-in validation. In addition, it is refocusing the attention of accounting professionals in the business. Finally, digitalization will affect the preferences and expectations for accountants and what they do.

2. Literature Review
Moll & Yigitbasioglu (2019) refers to environmental accounting as green accounting. It enhances the level of sustainability for the organizations in context to the financial practices while their environmental accounting also meets the standards. The rising interest in social and ecological performance has made it a statutory requirement, just like accounting in the financial aspect. In context to this, the most common issues indicated in the environmental accounting that damage the integrity for sustainability includes lack of implementation of rules and regulations regarding ecological accounting, cost-involvement, inadequate standards of measurement for environmental accounting well as no specific set of principles being utilized by the companies (Gürdür et al., 2019; Saleen & Fatima, 2016). Apart from this, the lack of a skilled workforce remains one of the obvious reasons it cannot practice to the actual means. Stakeholder communication operational and leadership management are everyday tasks for professional accountants in various industries. Their involvement in actions and decisions that affect their organization’s potential to build and sustain value through time occurs in all these roles. The key to company sustainability is delivering ongoing value to the external financial hub and other users, requiring a wider variety of long-term thinking. Business stability and organizational sustainability are intertwined, and professional accountants must evaluate how their profession and positional role might contribute to this integration. Management accountants must adhere to the recent changes where several problems must be identified and resolved, including the environmental factors that accommodate globalization, rapid changes in technology alongside the responses by business in case of business to business, business to customers as well as reduced inventory costs and knowledge about management accounting tools (Liu et al., 2018). Environmental accounting thus enhances the sustainability practices and leads to high governance through the strict evaluation of resources through keeping a record while estimating their quantities and providing.

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the depreciation on them (Burritt et al., 2019). The development of such policies and practices supports the use of digital technologies.

Dalenogare et al. (2018) studied that there are several reasons due to which they need for digital technological practices and looking sustainability has become crucial for management accounting where environmental regulations are being imposed on the companies, including the site clean-ups and others that lead to increased ecological cost that needs to be significantly reduced or controlled by the accountants. Meanwhile, the monetary consequences of the environmental impacts have also become higher. To improve the income or revenues, education on the cost by reducing the penalties and non-compliance behaviors needs to be catered (Tilt, 2018). This can be supported by using digital technologies to practice safer and clean energy practices.

Management accountants must consider the challenges and issues faced by technological advances. Their analytical and problem-solving knowledge can influence and provide the financial insights necessary to guide any impacted tactical and strategic business decisions.

Is the firm maximizing value by utilizing the fewest resources possible? Accounting's function in this regard is unlikely to change significantly soon for most businesses. Even businesses that make considerable use of digital technologies must face the problems raised above. However, the rapid speed of technology advancement is causing critical challenges in business practices, and as a result, specific accounting information criteria are changing.

According to (Bhimani 2017; Bugliin and Catlin 2017; McKendrick 2017), Digitally advanced businesses adopt various digital technologies, including cloud, online platforms, data science, the Internet of Things, peer-to-peer models, blockchain systems, deep learning, and machine learning. They spread them throughout their organizational structure to support project processes and applications.

Continuing the debate, the promotion of governance for management accounting is strictly considered by international, national, and local authorities to enhance the awareness regarding Environmental Management Accounting (EMA) (Mata et al., 2018). Burritt (2005) mentioned that EMA has become an essential part of management accounting and is promoted by United Nations Division for Sustainable Development (UN DSD) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Today the management account practices demand the use of such technologies that are environmentally friendly, whereas all the operating decisions made must cover the environmental cost of any investment made or decision taken (Ng, 2018). Thus, it can be said that the companies' ecological and financial performance must be provided with the same level of attention so that actions to improvise both can be taken to assure the sustainable success of the organization.

Moreover, environmental changes are a significant threat for the company as it continues to raise the graph high for generating higher costs for the company. The management accounting needs to be aware of all the expenses while assessing how strategically these costs will be covered as companies fail to determine the magnitude of these costs. The sustainability associated with the EMA helps in greater transparency that benefits both environmental and economic perspectives (Muñoz-Villamizar et al., 2018). Meanwhile, it also enhances the level of financial reporting such that the allocation of funds is better evaluated and assessed. Mata et al. (2018) argue that the most significant challenges faced for sustainability in accounting are the managers’ lack of knowledge and experience regarding adopting tools and technologies that support sustainability and governance.

Companies are still lagging out interest to invest vast sums of money, illustrating the need for high awareness among the accountants about the amount of saving companies can enjoy by adopting cleaner production techniques and technologies (Wyness & Dalton, 2018). Tiwari & Khan (2020) discussed that sustainable accounting practices enhance the efficacy of financial reporting while defining the variables based on the Triple Bottom Line Model (TBLM) reports the variables’ actual status. The data collection in context to environmental accounting has different purposes. The collection of such data supports the organization to witness the detailed view of the financial operations, social practices, and accounting systems to conduct the environmental operations.

The cost over the operations was described to be reduced by Bebbington & Unerman (2018). All the internal processes are made through optimized actions while designing the objectives based on sustainability like maintenance, re-use, re-manufacturing, and re-manufacturing as recycling. The impact of the organizations’ business activities can be detected by making efficient environmental management accounting.

Zainuddin & Sulaiman (2016) debated the concept of accounting management with digital technologies and sustainability while bringing in the practices of Industry 4.0. As the new industrialization approach has set high remarks for sustainable practices, the intersection between sustainability and digitalization must be studied in management accounting. The use of technologies has been illustrated as supporting the sustainability practices while improving the resource efficiency and increased manufacturing performance through initially evaluating the cost for the operations and the environmental impact it might render (Nkundabanyanga et al., 2018). The use of digital technologies is found to create iterative and vital systems. Digitalization has made it easier to make informed decisions and enabled more sustainable business processes and practices.

However, the studies indicating the use of digital technologies and sustainability to combat the environmental accounting issues are still minimal, meaning the need to minimize the research gap. Thus, it can be said that coupling digital technology to sustainability principles supports management accounting practices as it continues to provide accurate information for operations (Alam & Hossain, 2021). At the same time, various elements impact the accounting management practices concerning its governance and appropriate implementation. The institutional constraints were found to affect the environmental accounting adoption adversely. Meanwhile, the insufficient information about the EMA makes it challenging to measure the issues faced during the product processing and operational journey. It was also diagnosed that organizations continue to use the traditional methods for measuring the environmental cost where the evaluations for the organizational environmental performance were also not considered enhances the challenges faced. (Munafredi et al., 2021). Thus, indicating the need for abiding by the practices of Environmental Accounting Management to increase the rules related to sustainability.

### 2.1. Research Objectives

The current systematic research objectives

- To discuss the issues faced by the accountant in management accounting
• To analyze the environmental accounting issues in context to sustainability
• To study the role of digital technologies in governance and sustainability while reducing environmental accounting issues.

2.2. Purpose of systematic review
Systematic reviews are performed to present the critical analysis while catering to the primary objective of identifying, analyzing, and interpreting the significant findings presented by the scholars and researchers. The systematic reviews assist future researchers in identifying the research gaps to conduct future research and minimize the study gap indicated. In context to the present scenario, the current systematic review considers the management accounting issues while discussing the environmental accounting issues while studying sustainability. Meanwhile, it also mentions the role of digital technologies in supporting sustainability while accommodating the various identified environmental accounting issues discussed.

3. Conceptual Framework
The schematic diagram below presents the issues or challenges faced in management accounting positively impacted by digital technologies. The industry 4.0 approach brings real-time analysis regarding the operational activities' increased cost and environmental impact. The enhanced sustainability practices thus result in decreased issues in environmental management accounting.

4. Research Methodology
The present part presents the chosen research methodological approach utilized for conducting the systematic review. The research philosophy forms the structural framework of the studies where the philosophical underpinnings depict the researcher's beliefs, ideas, and thoughts while making it convenient to use reliable knowledge and information. It is also discussed that research philosophy helps determine the positive relationship between the proposed assumptions and reasoning (Mohajan, 2018). In context to the current systematic review, the researcher has used interpretivism and pragmatism to understand the emerging issues in management accounting while considering its relationship with sustainability where the researcher diagnosed the environmental accounting issues (Žukauskas et al., 2018). The study also includes digital technologies and governance practices that support sustainability through accounting management to enhance companies' efficacy of accounting operations.

4.1. A systematic review and secondary data analysis
Yan et al. (2018) determine that systematic reviews support delivering the comprehensive, reliable, and validated overview of the available evidence regarding the chosen topic. Meanwhile, acting as a significant determinant to identify areas that require more research and highlight the areas of concern to developing new research ideas while gaining the enhanced amount of critical analysis while synthesizing the existing scholarly work that has already been presented.

The present research has also chosen the secondary data analysis through considering the advantages mentioned above and to inquire the scientific problem through a reliable method.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keyword 1</th>
<th>Keyword 2</th>
<th>Keyword 3</th>
<th>Keyword 4</th>
<th>Keyword 5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Accounting”</td>
<td>“Environment”</td>
<td>“Sustainability”</td>
<td>“Digital technologies”</td>
<td>“Profitability”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Accountant”</td>
<td>“Environmental accounting”</td>
<td>“Sustainable Accounting”</td>
<td>“Industry 4.0”</td>
<td>“Material flow cost”</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Accountant manager”</td>
<td>“Environmental performance”</td>
<td>“sustainability”</td>
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<td>“Lack of knowledge”</td>
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</table>
4.2. Search terms
Table 1 shows the keywords used. It is necessary to use effective, suitable, and appropriate search terms or keywords to maximally maintain the reliability and quality of the systematic review being conducted. Thus, to use proper search terms, the researcher assured the relevance of the keywords while considering the aims and objectives of the systematic review.

4.3. Search Strategy
The researcher will use the databases where the relevant keyword will be searched for the study purpose. The phenomena of interest will be studied through searching the keyword from Google Scholar followed by the keyword and title of the research study analysis. Following this, the search practice will make use of the possible keywords that fit best with the proposed issues will be used.

4.4. Inclusion/exclusion criteria
Da Silveira et al. (2021) debates that applying the exclusion/inclusion criteria is necessary for systematic review. Its purpose is to decrease vagueness or reduce the possibility of poor reproducibility. Hence, involving the inclusion/exclusion criteria reduces the chances of adding biasness to the final review or if the researcher has not thoughtfully organized the research practices. Therefore, it is identified that common inclusion/exclusion research practices include the data, exposure of interest, geographic location of the study to language, and participants of the study. It is also based on the settings and type of study among them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inclusion criteria</th>
<th>Exclusion criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date (208-present)</td>
<td>Dated ≤ 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management Accounting practices</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Sustainability</td>
<td>Sustainability issues other than the accounting context</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental accounting issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualitative and quantitative studies both</td>
<td>No systematic reviews or meta-analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>All the studies published in the English</td>
<td>No other native language</td>
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Figure 2

PRISMA 2009 Flow Diagram (based on PRISMA guidelines by Moher et al., 2009)
Table 2 shows the scope of research. The paper which are analyzed are 2018 and after wards. The papers that are published in English language are analyzed and no other than that. These include both qualitative and quantitative papers.

4.5. Data Extraction and Synthesis
The data extraction or synthesis mentions the basic details like the author names, year of publication, key findings as well as the implication for the future research so that a critical analysis will be presented while studying the methodological approach utilized by the chosen studies as well as the outcomes of the studies to indicate the research gaps while discussing the elements of similarity as well as dissimilarity too. To illustrate the number of papers included/excluded.

Figure 2 shows the summary of papers that 2400 were collected and analysed from different sources but 1000 papers were removed due to duplication. 825 paper were included after reviewing their abstract and among them 395 were also discarded after reviewing full text.

5. Findings
The current study has investigated the emerging issues and challenges through modern digital technologies, corporate and company governance, and sustainability practices. The paper’s findings are based on matters arising in firms, and they’re corporate due to different internal and external procedures by the financing and accounting practices. However, to manage accounting and financing activities in a respective organization, the study has considered a key factor affecting accounting progress and practices while integrating new modern era digital technologies. Corporate governance decisions and strategies play a fundamental role in managing company goals and financial accounts. Despite this, managing accounting and finance is a vital business practice that requires crucial development activities and methods for sustainable development to eliminate risk potential from its growth. The current paper has studied five articles on managing accounting issues in digital technologies, governing activities, and sustainability practices. The present study is a constructed periodic review table based on the following particular: the name of the author, year of paper publications, research aims and objectives, methodology, research method, results, key findings, and concluding remarks.

5.1. Discussion
This part of the research study has demonstrated the critical discussion of comparative research that has examined the emerging issues of management accounting by key variables; digital technologies, governing, and sustainability. Therefore, this section has included the previous studies’ findings and results and discussed systematic review literature/theories in the context of management accounting issues through modern era digital technologies, company corporate governing practices, and decisions, and sustainability practices in an organization to mitigate the financial risk from its growth potential. This study chapter critically discusses and analyzes the critical findings of the relative selected articles.

The current paper studies emerging issues and challenges of management accounting in the practical context of digital technologies, company corporate governing practices, decisions, and sustainability practices in an organization. Managing financing and accounting management functions and operations to mitigate or eliminate risk factors is challenging and complex. In contrast, operating accounting practices and procedures strategically and effectively provide immense benefits in terms of financial growth. Globally the firms have dealt with a considerable number of challenges in an account of unable to manage financial risks and operations related to it, and apart from this, it engages with multiple financial risks included as market risk, credit risk, financial risk, asset risks, profitability risks and many more included. To mitigate that risk, the firm's corporate governance and strategic management play a fundamental role in critically analyzing its financial performance from the previous years and comparing it to the industry average; this activity enabled the company to analyze its current financial position in a relative market. Even efficient organizations succumbed to the pressures of financial performance-driven and tendency to act for short-term benefits. Many recent corporate failures are due to low standards of corporate governance in terms of the structure of boards, specified duties, and remuneration concerns. The company needs to establish suitable corporate governance mechanisms and compliance, where assurance and audit engagements verify adherence to what is desirable for the company's and stakeholders' well-being. If a company is not following the Corporate Governance code, it can lead to earnings manipulation from senior business executives. In addition, Mal following corporate governance can lead to extreme distortion in managing earnings in many cases of outright fraud. Examples include Tesco, Enron, AIG, Lehman Brothers, Satyam, and Panasonic. The article by Seal, W. (2006) discusses the role of managerial accounting in corporate governance. The suggested institutional theory of agency establishes a connection between the segments and sub within the company that is informed by management accounting procedures and the organization's external participants and stakeholders. Additionally, it highlights emerging narratives in which the managerial Accontancy profession has acknowledged a distinct set of post-Enron attitudes. Although strategic principles can be applied to help entrench improved corporate governance framework.

Managerial accounting can provide critical information to non-executive directors regarding the firm's strategic vision. Therefore, the article specifically examined the function of strategic management in building a more robust and formalized type of strategy that is more holistic and incorporates the participation of non-executive directors and other stakeholders seeking to hold senior executives responsible.

Therefore, many earlier types of research have studied enhancing issues and challenges in a firm’s management accounting practices and operations in a different context. Wanderley et al. (2020) studied management accounting through corporate political activity in focal companies of Brazil. The findings of a comparative study have illustrated that corporate governing strategies are mainly interlinked with regulators. Focal companies in an industry are stated as a company engaging in ruling and governing supply chain operations and providing goods and services according to customer demand.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Aims &amp; objectives</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>Research method</th>
<th>Results</th>
<th>Key findings</th>
<th>Conclusion</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wanderley et al</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>The comparative study focuses on corporate political activities to rescue penalties and other management enforcement activities. The second aim is to establish an environment of respective company or organization which through effective governing methods, adopt demands of the regulator.</td>
<td>A systematic methodology has included: pre-evaluation of respective available data, training stakeholders, develop regulator report.</td>
<td>Qualitative</td>
<td>Identification of four roles management accounting roles in firms that initiate corporate political activities</td>
<td>Key research findings dichotomized external pressures of active and passive responses in management accounting.</td>
<td>The study has examined practices of management accounting that impacted corporate and strategic management activities. Management accounting has been explored in a survey through focal company CPA.</td>
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<td>Ndemewah &amp; Hiebl</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>The study’s aims and objectives are highly focused on systematic review to find practices of management and accounting and its relative systems in the premises of Africa.</td>
<td>The comparative study consists of a systematic review method that mainly considers planning, conducting, and review. The single country sample size is included in the research as 18 African countries out of 54.</td>
<td>Mixed method</td>
<td>The study had drawn the results that underline significant differences in management accounting practice between developing and developed countries of Africa.</td>
<td>The study’s finding is based on seven major themes that highlighted vital management accounting issues present in developing and developed countries of Africa.</td>
<td>The study’s concluding remarks illustrated that firms and organizations of Africa are suggested to adopt and implement management accounting practices in operations. Still, due to many critical challenges, many firms cannot adopt MA in day-to-day operations.</td>
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<td>Olubukola et al</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>A study has to conduct a practical objective included; to develop creative factors that are difficult for mining companies to adopt environmental management accounting practices, determine environmental accounting work that enables strategic sustainable managing accounting, determine government role. Implication patterns of firms to adopt accounting practices.</td>
<td>The study used a descriptive research design, and the sampling technique used in the research was purposive. Data has been gathered from 16 companies that are engaging in mining activities.</td>
<td>Mixed method</td>
<td>The result of the comparative study revolves around the critical factors of knowledge and environmental accounting, mining firms’ reluctance, organization accounting issues, the ineffectiveness of regulatory</td>
<td>The study finding demonstrates unstable policies in mining activities in Zimbabwe, which resulted in issues and challenges created by laws and policies.</td>
<td>Concluding remarks of the study illustrate that the government of Zimbabwe is not supporting and controlling environmental accounting practices, though there should be an extensive need to develop accounting ecosystems.</td>
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<td>Klymenko, Halse &amp; Jaeger</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Norwegian</td>
<td>The comparative study examines accounting sustainability digital technologies-based manufacturing companies in Norwegian.</td>
<td>The study has used a qualitative method to collect data from four digital manufacturing companies that have to operate in Norwegian through interviews.</td>
<td>Qualitative</td>
<td>Practical results of four major digital technological manufacturing companies revolve around manufacturers, sustainability accounting and reporting practice, and the critical role of digital technologies in manufacturing companies. A finding of the comparative research study illustrates that four selected companies are using digital technology in operational and manufacturing processes effectively.</td>
<td>The study has concluded that the examination of digital technology and accounting sustainability in the operations of manufacturing companies are significantly impacted on its growth. The relative companies are activity capture public demand for appropriate sustainable development and operational practices in managing to account.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bhimani</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>The study aims and objectives have to explore digital data and accounting management while including conventional methodologies to investigate accounting operations in a firm.</td>
<td>Current research has used qualitative and quantitative methods. Moreover, a study has conducted descriptive, explanatory research methodologies to collect and analyze data.</td>
<td>Mixed method</td>
<td>The result of the related study demonstrates that digitalization has a significant impact in managing accounting practice while though it has been growing, it has increased available data. A study finding represents that digitalization has immense growth of data included from both perspectives no forming and MIS as to producing structured and unstructured data.</td>
<td>The paper has to research to study and investigate digital data and practices of management accounting to rethink or restructure research methods to grow the internet, digital technologies, and digital economy tools.</td>
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The comparative study focuses on corporate political activities to rescue penalties and other management enforcement activities. The second aim is to establish an environment of the respective company or organization that adopts regulator demands through effective governing methods. The study has examined that four different actors in firm corporate management provide immense benefits to sustain management accounting practices. In the research paper of Ndewa & Hiebl (2021), the study relatively systematically conducted a mixed method to examine managing accounting principles and practices in single countries of Africa. With including 18 African countries, the study’s findings illustrate that accounting management in firms is significantly acquiring strategic planning, conducting and reviewing financial statements to analyze the company’s current progress compared to last year. Companies in Africa use accounting principles and critical financial analysis through ratios to determine a company’s internal and external position in a competitive market. Despite this, studies examine that firms and organizations of Africa are suggested to adopt and implement management accounting practices in operations. Still, due to many critical challenges, many firms cannot adopt management accounting in daily operations.

In contrast, another study has effectively used descriptive research design and sampling technique for to research as a purposive. Management and accounting practices have been investigated by Olubukola et al. (2020) that examine approximately 16 companies that are engaging in mining activities. The mining activities are included as gold mining, silver mining, iron mining, and many other practical natural elements. Supply and provide mined aspects in a different geographical area to maximize sales and profitability ratio but managing financial operations effectively and efficiently is critical. The companies deal with such issues as managing stakeholders, shareholders, partners, investors, suppliers, and distributors, affecting direct and indirect material and labor costs. Furthermore, the comparative study shows a negative impact of management accounting practices and the support of governing bodies. It is illustrated that the government of Zimbabwe is not supporting and controlling environmental accounting practices, though there should be an extensive need to develop accounting ecosystems. In contrast to adopting ecological management accounting practices, the study has determined environmental accounting work that enables strategic sustainable managing accounting; determines government role and implication patterns to adopt accounting practices. The survey conducted in Norwegian has been investigating digital technology relationships or connections with manufacturing companies in managing accounting and financial practices. Klymenko, Halse, and Jaeger (2021) have critically evaluated the manufacturing company’s operations and its economic challenges that have been dealt with to achieve desired goals and objectives. The accounting and financial issues companies are dealing with are commonly stated as cost-related activities. Managing and recording accounting particulars in a critical business requires excessive workforce and skills related to calculative and statistical. The skills needed from financial stakeholders revolve around accurate records of assets, liabilities, and expenses incorrect accounts. Moreover, it also requires human resources to command financial tools to maintain annual reports, while errors in that accounts will cause a significant loss.

The debate of managing to account differs according to the nature of enterprise or business is still in the business world. Bhimani’s (2020) study paper has to investigate digital data and practices of management accounting to rethink or restructure research methods to grow internet, digital technologies, and digital economy tools. The current study has investigated the accounting practice’s relationship with digital technologies that help increase firms' productivity and profitability ratio in many regions. While though companies that are adopting digital technologies in a country are initiated sustainable accounting practices to use practical tools and methods to mitigate the accounting risks.

6. Conclusion

The systematic review discusses the accounting management practices and addresses the role of accounting management in the 21st century, where globalization has revolutionized business practices. The idea of sustainability is not new in business practices; however, companies, due to using the conventional mediums of calculating the cost, cannot practice accounting sustainability in a true sense. The literature and the chosen research studies both indicate the crucial need for the development of creative practices via assistance from digital technologies to adopt the environmental management accounting practices to maintain the competitiveness among the business rivals strategically. The studies included were either qualitative or adopted the mixed-method design, where they continue to signify the optimistic impact of digitalization. However, one of the significant research gaps evaluated was the need to restructure the operational systems and integrate EMA elements so that cost-effectiveness and the carbon footprint are decreased. Clean and green technological practices are advocated. Several systems like MIS were found to align the operational practices across the companies apart from this where the sensitive nature of the organizations due to practicing environmental accounting focuses on legitimizing all those activities that are environmentally sensitive.

The research practices also illustrated that several parts of the developing nations are still not used to the environmental accounting management systems. They have to face several problems like increased cost of resources, total quality management issues, and process reengineering. In addition to this, the systematic review also extended the research over the government practices regarding the implementation of the accounting management systems while indicating the role of government in determining the organizations about management accounting ideas and incorporation of the political and corporate activities. Thus, the present systematic review presents implications for future research that practical environmental management accounting has a significant impact on the organizations where challenges of environmental accounting must be managed adequately and appropriately. The role of government and administrative bodies is highly crucial in determining the necessary steps for the EMA implementation and assurance of sustainability.

References

