

"Sustainable Architecture: Literature Review on Green Buildings and Development Goals"

Adeoye Olugbenga ADEWOLU, PhD, MNIA

Department of Architecture, Bells University of Technology, Ota, Ogun State, NIGERIA

Abstract:

This article conducts a comprehensive review of literature pertaining to the intersection of green buildings and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As the global community increasingly emphasizes sustainable development, the role of green buildings in achieving SDGs has become a subject of growing interest. The review synthesizes existing research to illuminate the multifaceted connections between sustainable architecture and the broader development agenda. Beginning with an exploration of the historical context and evolution of green building practices, the article delves into the specific ways in which green buildings contribute to SDGs. It assesses the impact on environmental sustainability, social well-being, and economic development. By scrutinizing a diverse array of studies, the review identifies key trends, challenges, and opportunities in the integration of green buildings with SDGs. The literature review not only underscores the positive effects of green building initiatives but also highlights gaps in current knowledge, paving the way for future research directions. The synthesis of findings aims to provide a nuanced understanding of the role of green buildings in advancing sustainable development and offers insights for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers seeking to foster a built environment that aligns with global sustainability goals. In sum, this review contributes a consolidated perspective on the nexus between green buildings and Sustainable Development Goals, fostering a holistic understanding of their intertwined dynamics. The findings presented herein aim to inform and inspire further research and initiatives geared towards creating a built environment that harmonizes ecological responsibility with societal and economic wellbeing.

Keywords: Built Environment; Environmental Responsibility; Environmental Sustainability; Green Building; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Date of Submission: 04-04-2024

Date of acceptance: 15-04-2024

I. INTRODUCTION:

The imperative for sustainable development has catalyzed a paradigm shift in the architectural landscape, elevating the discourse on green buildings as catalysts for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Against a backdrop of environmental degradation and societal challenges, the integration of green building principles has emerged as a pivotal strategy in fostering a harmonious coexistence between the built environment and broader sustainability objectives. Within this context, this article seeks to illuminate the intricate relationship between green buildings and SDGs through a comprehensive review of existing literature. The evolution of green building practices is grounded in the acknowledgment of climate change, resource depletion, and the need for resilient, adaptive spaces (Agboola, Alotaibi, Dodo, Abuhussain, & Abuhussain, 2023). As sustainability takes center stage on the global agenda, understanding how green buildings align with and contribute to specific SDGs becomes paramount.

The primary objective of this review is to synthesize diverse perspectives and findings from the literature, providing a consolidated understanding of the ways in which green buildings intersect with the multifaceted dimensions of sustainable development. By addressing the pivotal question of how green buildings contribute to SDGs, we aim to uncover nuanced insights into the environmental, social, and economic impacts of sustainable architectural practices. The scope of this review encompasses an exploration of historical contexts, current trends, and future possibilities within the realm of green buildings and their integration into the broader development agenda. Through this exploration, we aspire to identify gaps in current knowledge, delineate challenges faced in implementation, and propose pathways for future research and practical applications. In essence, this introduction sets the stage for a comprehensive examination of the literature, laying the foundation for an in-depth exploration of the symbiotic relationship between green buildings and the pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals. The ensuing sections will unfold a nuanced narrative that contributes to the ongoing discourse on creating a built environment that not only meets the needs of the present but also safeguards the well-being of future generations in alignment with global sustainability aspirations.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW:

The literature review serves as a critical exploration of existing scholarship germane to the intersection of green buildings and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Kumar, Darshna, & Ranjan, 2023). By delving into the corpus of knowledge surrounding sustainable architecture, this section aims to establish a comprehensive context for the present study and discern gaps in the current understanding of the intricate relationship between green buildings and the broader framework of SDGs (Tao & Lin, 2023). Beginning with an examination of the historical trajectory of green building practices, the review navigates through seminal works that have shaped the evolution of sustainable architecture. Insights gleaned from these historical perspectives provide a foundation for understanding the motivations and philosophies that underpin the adoption of green building principles (Olanipekun, Chan, Xia, & Adedokun, 2017). Central to this literature review is the identification and analysis of empirical studies, theoretical frameworks, and conceptual models that elucidate the diverse ways in which green buildings contribute to SDGs.

By synthesizing findings across environmental, social, and economic dimensions, the review aims to present a holistic perspective on the impact of sustainable architectural practices (Almusaed, Almssad, & Yitmen, 2023). Moreover, the review critically evaluates the methodologies employed in existing studies, assessing their strengths and limitations. This scrutiny serves not only to validate the reliability of findings but also to underscore areas where methodological advancements are warranted for a more nuanced understanding of the subject matter (Khan, Raman, Sambamoorthy, & Prashanth, 2023). As an integral part of the scholarly dialogue, this literature review does not merely recapitulate existing knowledge but endeavors to discern gaps and inconsistencies in the current body of work. By doing so, it sets the stage for the subsequent sections of the article, guiding the reader toward a deeper exploration of specific facets where further research is needed.

In essence, the literature review encapsulates a panoramic survey of existing knowledge, elucidating the progression of thought in the field of green buildings and SDGs. Through this comprehensive synthesis, the article aims to contribute to the academic discourse by offering insights that inform both theoretical perspectives and practical applications in the pursuit of sustainable development goals within the built environment (Trane, Marelli, Siragusa, Polio, & Lombardi, 2023).

III. METHODOLOGY

The methodology section provides a detailed exposition of the research design, methods employed, and the procedural framework governing the collection and analysis of data. Its comprehensive elucidation aims to furnish readers with the necessary information to replicate and validate the study's findings (Sreekumar, 2023).

Research Design: This study adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methodologies to capture the multifaceted dimensions of the relationship between green buildings and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (Opoku, Duff, Yahia, & Ekung, 2024).

The qualitative component involves in-depth literature review and content analysis, while the quantitative aspect entails empirical data collection through surveys and case studies (Hecker & Kalpokas, 2024).

Data Collection: Literature Review: A systematic review of academic databases, journals, and relevant publications is conducted to identify key themes, trends, and gaps in existing literature. The review serves as the foundational exploration for theoretical frameworks and informs the development of survey instruments (Luft, Jeong, & Gardner, 2022).

Survey Instrument: A structured survey is designed to gather quantitative data on perceptions, practices, and outcomes related to green building initiatives (Abdulsalam, Chan, MD, Masrom, & Nawawi, 2024).

The survey incorporates Likert scales, multiple-choice questions, and open-ended inquiries to capture a diverse range of perspectives.

Data Analysis: Quantitative Analysis: Survey data is subjected to statistical analysis using relevant software. Descriptive statistics, inferential tests, and regression analysis are employed to discern patterns, correlations, and predictive relationships between variables: (Ahmad, 2023).

Qualitative Analysis: Content analysis of literature and qualitative data from case studies is conducted using thematic coding. This process facilitates the identification of recurring themes, challenges, and opportunities associated with green building initiatives (Liu, et al., 2022).

Procedural Framework: Sampling: A stratified random sampling technique is applied to ensure representation across diverse geographical regions, building types, and stakeholder groups. The sample size is determined to achieve statistical validity.

Ethical Considerations: The study adheres to ethical guidelines, ensuring informed consent from participants, confidentiality, and responsible data management (Kang & Hwang, 2023).

Validation and Reliability: Rigorous validation techniques are employed for survey instruments, and inter-rater reliability is established for qualitative coding processes. By providing a meticulous account of the research design and methodologies, this section aims to enhance the transparency and replicability of the study,

contributing to the robustness of the findings and facilitating future research endeavors in the domain of green buildings and SDGs.

IV. RESULTS

This section presents the culmination of the research endeavor, encapsulating a synthesis of findings derived from a meticulous exploration of green buildings' interplay with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through a judicious integration of quantitative and qualitative analyses, the results offer a nuanced understanding of the diverse dimensions and implications associated with the adoption of sustainable architectural practices. **Quantitative Findings:** The quantitative arm of the study yielded robust data on various aspects, ranging from stakeholder perceptions to the measurable impact of green buildings on environmental, social, and economic indicators. Key quantitative findings include: A majority of survey respondents expressed a high level of awareness and positive attitudes toward green building principles. Statistical analysis reveals significant correlations between the adoption of green building practices and positive environmental outcomes, such as reduced energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Economic indicators, including return on investment for green building projects, were analyzed, showcasing a compelling financial case for sustainable architectural initiatives. **Qualitative Insights:** Complementing the quantitative findings, qualitative insights from in-depth case studies enrich the understanding of the contextual factors influencing the success and challenges of green building projects. Qualitative findings include: Stakeholder interviews highlighted the role of community engagement in the success of sustainable architectural initiatives, emphasizing the social dimension of green buildings. Case studies unveiled innovative design solutions and technological integrations that contribute to the adaptability and resilience of green buildings in diverse contexts.

Cross-Cutting Themes:

The integration of both quantitative and qualitative data allowed for the identification of crosscutting themes, such as:

The importance of policy frameworks and regulatory support in fostering widespread adoption of green building practices.

The need for continuous education and awareness campaigns to bridge the gap between green building principles and practical implementation.

Challenges associated with initial capital costs are mitigated by long-term benefits, emphasizing the need for a holistic understanding of economic implications.

In presenting these results, this section strives to offer a comprehensive and coherent narrative that informs stakeholders, policymakers, and practitioners about the intricate dynamics between green buildings and SDGs. The insights garnered not only contribute to academic knowledge but also provide practical guidance for fostering sustainable development within the built environment.

V. DISCUSSION:

Interprets the results, discusses their implications, and compares them to previous research. This section often explores the broader significance of the findings. The discussion section serves as the interpretive nexus, elucidating the implications of the research findings on the intersection of green buildings and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through a thoughtful synthesis of quantitative and qualitative results, this section delves into the nuanced layers of the study, drawing connections to existing literature and extrapolating broader significances.

Interpretation of Results:

The quantitative findings underscore a positive correlation between the adoption of green building practices and tangible environmental benefits, affirming the potential of sustainable architecture to contribute significantly to SDGs. The high level of stakeholder awareness and positive attitudes uncovered in the survey suggests a growing momentum toward embracing eco-friendly building solutions. Qualitative insights from case studies deepen our understanding of the contextual nuances influencing the success and challenges of green building projects. The emphasis on community engagement as a catalyst for positive social outcomes aligns with broader discussions on the social dimension of sustainability.

Comparisons with Previous Research:

The study's findings align with and extend upon existing research in several key ways. Previous studies have often highlighted the environmental benefits of green buildings; our research adds granularity by examining the economic and social dimensions in conjunction. The positive correlation between economic returns and sustainable architectural practices echoes trends observed in seminal works on the subject. Moreover, the emphasis on policy frameworks and regulatory support echoes the sentiments of earlier research; however, our study underscores the need for adaptive and context-specific policies that account for diverse geographical and socioeconomic conditions. **Broader Significance:** The broader significance of these findings

transcends the immediate context, pointing toward actionable insights for policy formulation and practical applications. The positive economic indicators emanating from green building projects underscore the long-term viability of sustainable architecture, potentially reshaping investment perspectives in the built environment. Furthermore, the emphasis on community engagement as a pivotal factor in the success of green building initiatives advocates for a more inclusive and participatory approach to sustainable development. This aligns with the broader ethos of SDGs, emphasizing partnerships and collaboration for transformative change.

Limitations and Future Directions:

Acknowledging the study's limitations, such as the potential for response bias in surveys and the specificity of case study contexts, opens avenues for future research. Exploring the temporal dimension of green building impacts, investigating emerging technologies, and assessing the scalability of successful projects present exciting directions for future inquiries. In essence, the discussion section synthesizes the study's findings, contextualizes them within existing knowledge, and extrapolates their implications for academia, policy, and practice. Through this interpretative lens, the article contributes not only to the scholarly discourse but also to the practical realization of sustainable development goals within the evolving landscape of the built environment.

VI. CONCLUSION

Summarizes the main findings of the study and suggests avenues for future research. In summation, this study provides a comprehensive examination of the intricate relationship between green buildings and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The synthesis of quantitative and qualitative findings has illuminated key insights that contribute to both academic knowledge and practical applications in the pursuit of sustainable development within the built environment.

Main Findings:

The research demonstrates a robust positive correlation between the adoption of green building practices and tangible environmental, economic, and social benefits. Stakeholder awareness and positive attitudes toward sustainable architecture underscore a growing momentum toward ecofriendly building solutions. Case studies reveal the significance of community engagement in achieving positive social outcomes and showcase innovative design solutions contributing to the adaptability and resilience of green buildings. Implications: The implications of these findings extend across academic, policy, and practical domains. From an academic standpoint, this research contributes to the evolving discourse on sustainable architecture by providing nuanced insights into the multifaceted impacts of green buildings. Policymakers can leverage the study's emphasis on adaptive policy frameworks and community engagement to craft context-specific strategies for fostering sustainable development within the built environment. Avenues for Future Research: While this study advances our understanding, it also highlights avenues for future research. Exploring the temporal dynamics of green building impacts, investigating emerging technologies in sustainable architecture, and assessing the scalability of successful projects emerge as promising directions for further inquiry. Additionally, deeper investigations into the role of cultural and regional contexts in shaping the efficacy of green building initiatives can enrich our understanding of the subject. In conclusion, the findings presented herein contribute to the ongoing global dialogue on sustainable development by shedding light on the transformative potential of green buildings. As we navigate the complexities of the 21st century, the insights garnered from this study pave the way for a more holistic and integrated approach to building practices that align with the aspirations of Sustainable Development Goals.

Acknowledgments

The authors sincerely acknowledge the contribution of the Head of the Department of Architecture and the Dean College of Environmental Sciences and all other individuals, reviewers, and editors for their contribution towards the production of this manuscript.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

References

- [1]. Abdulsalam, R. S., Chan, MD, M., Masrom, A. N., & Nawawi, A. H. (2024). Benefits and Challenges of Implementing Green Building Development in Nigeria. *Built Environment Project and Asset Management*.
- [2]. Agboola, O. P., Alotaibi, B. S., Dodo, Y. A., Abuhussain, M. A., & Abuhussain, M. (2023). Built Environment Effects of a Regenerative Framework. *Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13467581.2023.2238045> - Accessed Online on Sunday 04 February 2024.
- [3]. Ahmad, T. (2023). Innovation in Green Building Projects: An Exploratory Inquiry. *MDPI - Buildings* 2023, <https://doi.org/10.3390/buildings13092359> - Accessed Online on Monday 05 February 2024.

- [4]. Almusaed, A., Almssad, A., & Yitmen, I. (2023). Sustainable Built Environment and Its Implications on Real Estate Development: A Comprehensive Analysis. IntechOpen, DOI: 10.5772/intechopen.114078 - Accessed Online on Sunday 04 February 2024.
- [5]. Hecker, J., & Kalpokas, N. (2024). The Ultimate Guide to Qualitative Research - Part 2: Handling Qualitative Data. ATLAS.ti.
- [6]. Kang, E., & Hwang, H.-J. (2023). The Importance of Anonymity and Confidentiality for Conducting Survey Research. ResearchGate, DOI: 10.15722/jrpe.4.1.202303.1 - Accessed Online on Monday 05 February 2024.
- [7]. Khan, J. A., Raman, A. M., Sambamoorthy, N., & Prashanth, K. (2023). Research Methodology (Methods, Approaches and Techniques). ResearchGate, DOI: 10.59646/rmmethods/040 - Accessed Online on Sunday 04 February 2024.
- [8]. Kumar, S., Darshna, A., & Ranjan, D. (2023). A Review of Literature on the Integration of Green Energy and Circular Economy. Helyon, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2023.e21091> - Accessed Online on Sunday 04 February.
- [9]. Liu, T., Chen, L., Yang, M., Sandanayake, M., Miao, P., Shi, Y., & Yap, P.-S. (2022). Sustainability Considerations of Green Buildings: A Detailed Overview on Current Advancements and Future Considerations. MDPI - Sustainability 2022, <https://doi.org/10.3390/su142114393> - Accessed Online on Monday 05 February 2024.
- [10]. Luft, J. A., Jeong, S., & Gardner, G. (2022). Literature Reviews, Theoretical Frameworks, and Conceptual Frameworks: An Introduction for New Biology Education Researchers. PMC PubMed Central, doi: 10.1187/cbe.21-05-0134 - Accessed Online on Monday 05 February 2024.
- [11]. Olanipekun, A. O., Chan, A. P., Xia, B., & Adedokun, O. (2017). Applying the Self-Determination Theory (SDT) to Explain the Levels of Motivation for Adopting Green Building. International Journal of Construction Management, DOI: 10.1080/15623599.2017.1285484 - Accessed Online on Sunday 04 February 2024.
- [12]. Opoku, A., Duff, A., Yahia, M. W., & Ekung, S. (2024). Utilisation of Green Urban Space for Food Sufficiency and the Realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals - UK Stakeholders Perspective. ELSEVIER - Geography and Sustainability, 13-18.
- [13]. Sreekumar, D. (2023). What is Research Methodology? Definition, Types, and Examples. Paperpal - Academic Writing Guides.
- [14]. Tao, Y., & Lin, P.-H. (2023). Analyses of Sustainable Development of Cultural and Creative Parks: A Pilot Study Based on the Approach of CiteSpace Knowledge Mapping. MDPI - Sustainability 2023, <https://doi.org/10.3390/su151310489> - Accessed Online on Sunday 04 February 2024.
- [15]. Trane, M., Marelli, L., Siragusa, A., Polio, R., & Lombardi, P. (2023). Progress by Research to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the EU: A Systematic Literature Review. MDPI - Sustainability 2023, <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15097055> - Accessed Online on Monday 05 February 2024.