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GREEN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY IN THE FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY IN RIVERS STATE

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ABSTRACT:

This cross-sectional study examined how the Food and Beverage (F&B) businesses in Rivers State interacts with organisational sustainability (OS). A standardized questionnaire based on a 5-point Likert-type scale was used to collect information from 303 participants. The data were analyzed via descriptive statistics and Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM). The findings indicate a statistically significant beneficial correlation between GHRM practices and OS. These results suggest that implementing GHRM, even if minimal, can improve the performance and sustainability of F&B. The practical results suggest that Food and Beverage companies may improve operational efficiency and viability over time by incorporating sustainability projects into their HRM policies and practices. The professional implications highlight significance of aligning Human Resource Strategies with environmental and social goals in order to promote sustainability and competitiveness. Based on the findings above, the study recommends that GHRM be integrated into company policies, that environmentally friendly methods of employment be adopted, and that businesses promote a culture of social responsibility. The study also recommends that F&B companies do more research to investigate the many mechanisms by which GHRM influences the OS, allowing for the development of targeted implementation strategies to optimize effectiveness.

KEYWORDS:

Green Human Resource Management Practices (GHRMP), Organizational Sustainability, Human Organizational Sustainability, Green Recruitment and Selection



CONTEXT OF THE PROBLEM

Organizational sustainability is crucial for businesses in today's dynamic global environment. It involves integrating sustainable practices into human resources management, known as Green Human Resources Management (GHRM). This encompasses human sustainability, focusing on employee well-being and engagement to reduce turnover rates. Organizational sustainability stands as a cornerstone in navigating the complexities of today's global landscape, where businesses are increasingly tasked with balancing profitability with environmental and social responsibilities. At the heart of this endeavor lies Green Human Resources Management (GHRM), a multifaceted approach that integrates sustainable practices into human resources strategies. GHRM not only addresses environmental concerns but also emphasizes human sustainability, directing attention towards fostering employee well-being and engagement to mitigate turnover rates (Jackson et al., 2011). This holistic approach encompasses several dimensions, including environmental, economic, and social sustainability, each playing a pivotal role in ensuring the long-term viability of organizations.

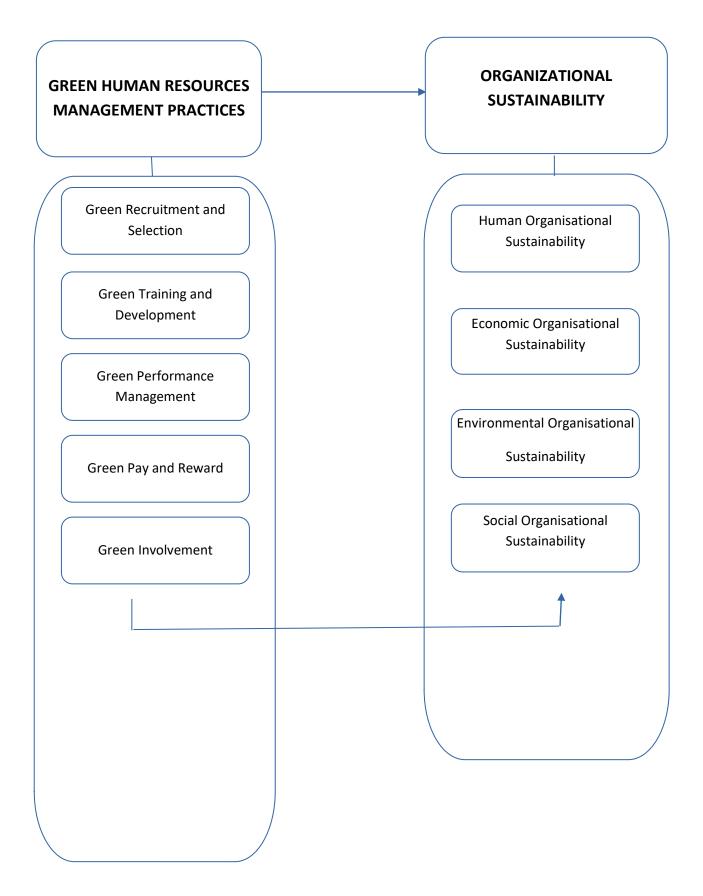
Environmental sustainability within the realm of GHRM encompasses efforts to minimize ecological footprints through the adoption of eco-friendly practices throughout the organization's operations (Jackson et al., 2011). This involves initiatives such as reducing energy consumption, waste generation, and carbon emissions, thereby contributing to overall environmental preservation. **Economic** sustainability, on the other hand, focuses on prudent financial management to ensure the organization's long-term viability and resilience in the face of economic uncertainties (Jackson et al., 2011). By allocating resources efficiently and investing in sustainable practices, organizations can safeguard their financial stability while pursuing growth and innovation.

Moreover, social sustainability underpins GHRM by fostering inclusivity, diversity, and community engagement within the organizational framework (Jackson et al., 2011). This involves creating a work environment that values and respects individuals from diverse backgrounds, promoting equal opportunities for all employees, and actively engaging with local communities to address social issues. Failure to address these dimensions of sustainability can manifest in various symptoms, including high turnover rates, increased absenteeism, environmental degradation, financial instability, and workplace conflicts (Jackson et al., 2011). Thus, understanding the impact of GHRM practices on organizational sustainability across these dimensions is paramount for guiding strategic decision-making and paving the way for a more sustainable organizational paradigm.

From the discussion above, it is obvious that despite recognition of GHRM's importance, research gaps persist in understanding its impact. This study aims to bridge this gap by exploring how GHRM practices influence organizational sustainability across various dimensions, informing strategic decision-making for a more sustainable organizational paradigm. Through empirical investigation, this study endeavors to fill existing research gaps, offering insights that can inform the development and implementation of effective GHRM strategies tailored to promote organizational sustainability in today's dynamic business environment.

Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework for this study is indicated in the figure below.



Source: Conceptualized by theResearcher

Figure: Conceptual Framework Showing the Hypothesized Relationship between Green Human Resource Management Practices and Organizational Sustainability.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

GREEN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Green HRM incorporates environmental sustainability concepts into HR initiatives, resulting in advantages such as increased environmental performance, employee morale, and organizational reputation (Renwick et al., 2013). Eco-friendly training, green recruiting, and performance management are all examples of practices (Jackson et al. 2011). Adoption of GHRM reduces environmental impact while increasing employee engagement and happiness (Jabbour et al., 2013; Delmas and Toffel, 2008). Employee reluctance, a lack of top management support, and the absence of a measuring instrument are all challenges (Ramus & Steger, 2000). The success of GHRM is also influenced by contextual factors like as organizational size and country culture (Aguilera-Caracuel et al., 2012).

Green Recruitment and Selection

Green recruitment and selection practices have garnered attention in response to environmental sustainability and corporate social responsibility (CSR) concerns. Research underscores benefits such as enhancing organizational reputation, attracting environmentally conscious talent, and fostering sustainability culture (Jackson & Ruderman, 2019). Integrating environmental criteria into HR processes aligns with broader sustainability goals (Robertson et al., 2020). Scholars advocate holistic approaches, considering social and economic dimensions alongside environmental factors (Peters et al., 2021). Initiatives promoting diversity and inclusion complement green recruitment, fostering innovation (Jackson et al., 2022). Incorporating environmental training into onboarding processes aids in achieving sustainability objectives. Overall, green recruitment and selection offer strategic alignment with sustainability goals while attracting top talent.

Green Training and Development

Green training and development are pivotal strategies for promoting sustainability within organizations. Scholars emphasize the significance of enhancing employees' environmental awareness and competencies through initiatives like eco-awareness programs and sustainability workshops (Chen & Huang, 2019; López-Gamero et al., 2018). Integrating green training into employee development programs not only minimizes environmental impact but also fosters a culture of sustainability, enhancing organizational effectiveness and competitiveness (Molthan-Hill et al., 2020). Leadership commitment, organizational culture, and stakeholder engagement are crucial for the successful implementation of green training initiatives (Lozano et al., 2017; Zutshi et al., 2020). Collaboration with external stakeholders enriches green training programs by providing expertise and resources (Fernandez & Figueroa, 2020).

Green Performance Management

Green performance management evaluates environmental and social impacts, integrating environmental concerns into traditional performance management systems (Henriques &Sadorsky, 1999). Methodologies like Environmental Management Accounting (EMA) and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) quantify and assess green performance (Burritt et al., 2002; Finkbeiner, 2014). Aligning with organizational goals and strategies enables effective monitoring and management of

environmental performance (Elkington, 1997; Kaplan & Norton, 1996). Standardized metrics and reporting mechanisms enhance comparability and transparency (Wagner et al., 2012), reflecting a growing recognition of the interconnectedness between organizational activities and environmental outcomes.

Green Pay and Reward

Green pay and reward integrate environmental sustainability principles into compensation structures to incentivize environmentally responsible behavior among employees (Guest et al., 2020; Jones & Comfort, 2019). While promising, empirical evidence regarding its effectiveness and impact necessitates further research and practical implementation efforts.

Green Involvement

Green involvement denotes individuals' active participation and commitment to environmentally friendly behaviors and initiatives (Steg &Vlek, 2009). It is positively associated with well-being and influenced by social norms, peer influence, and organizational practices and policies (Gatersleben& O'Brien, 2011; Ramus & Steger, 2000).

ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Organizational sustainability integrates economic viability with environmental stewardship and social responsibility (Dyllick&Hockerts, 2002). Leadership, organizational culture, and alignment with sustainable development goals are crucial for enduring profitability and societal well-being (Jabbour et al., 2020; Waddock& Lozano, 2013).

Human Organizational Sustainability

Human organizational sustainability emphasizes the link between economic success, environmental preservation, and social responsibility within the triple bottom line framework (Elkington, 1997). Stakeholder involvement is crucial for supporting sustainability and increasing organizational resilience (Sharma & Henriques, 2005), contributing to a sustainable future.

Economic Sustainability

Elkington (1997) introduced the notion of economic sustainability of businesses through the triple bottom line framework, emphasising the integration of economic, environmental, and social factors to ensure long-term viability. Dyllick and Hockerts' (2002) research looks at strategies such as resource efficiency and stakeholder involvement in achieving economic sustainability. Porter and Kramer (2011) extend this concept to a shared value, aligning commercial goals with social needs for mutual improvement. Management and regulatory frameworks have an important role in promoting transparency and responsible management (Aguinis and Glavas, 2012). Overall, this debate provides guidance for making decisions to build resilient and ethical businesses.

Environmental Sustainability

In recent years, there has been an increase in interest in the environmental sustainability of businesses due to concerns about climate change and environmental degradation. According to Bansal and Roth (2000), it is critical to include environmental concerns into fundamental strategies. Schaltegger and Wagner (2011) discuss strategies such as eco-design and waste reduction to improve ecological performance. According to Sharma and Henriques (2005), the necessity of stakeholder interaction in effective sustainability projects is highlighted. This finding highlights the necessity of global approaches that include strategic, operational, and stakeholder perspectives.

Social Sustainability

Social sustainability refers to the incorporation of social, environmental, and economic factors into organisational strategies and methods (Bansal & Roth, 2000; Sharma & Henriques, 2005). It goes beyond simple philanthropy and requires the incorporation of social considerations into critical operations and decision-making processes (Bansal & Roth, 2000). To achieve social sustainability, it is critical to actively involve the relevant actors, promote diverse work environments, and contribute to communities (Sharma and Henriques, 2005). It is critical to adjust continuously as social expectations evolve (Waddock, 2008).

Efforts for social organisational sustainability overlap with wider discussions about corporate sustainability and sustainable development (Dyllick&Hockerts, 2002). Recognising the link between social challenges, environmental stewardship, and economic success has resulted in novel initiatives such as social entrepreneurship and shared value creation (Porter and Kramer, 2011). Navigating social dynamics, negotiating trade-offs, and balancing short-term objectives against long-term society repercussions are all challenges (Margolis & Walsh, 2003). Despite the hurdles, investing in social sustainability can result in improved reputation, stakeholder trust, and resilience to social disturbances (Margolis et al. 2009).

EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Gupta and Sharma examined the relationship between green HRM practices and organisational sustainability in a variety of Indian sectors in their 2015 paper, "Green Human Resource Management Practices and Organisational Sustainability: A Meta-Analysis." The authors used a meta-analysis approach to combine the findings of twenty primary research. The research design included a quantitative analysis of existing literature. They used random sampling to analyse data from 5000 workers in various organisational contexts. The findings of their meta-analysis revealed a significant positive relationship between human resource management practices and organisational sustainability. Adopting practices for managing human and environmental resources can lead to sustainable business outcomes.

Agwu eta (2017) investigated the relationship between GHRM practices and organisational sustainability in the Nigerian telecommunications industry. This empirical study used a quantitative approach, using data collected from 150 employees at several Nigerian telecommunications companies. Because of its accessibility to participants, the sampling method used was one of facilitation. The data analyses included descriptive statistics and regression analysis. The study revealed a statistically significant positive correlation between the application of GHRM practices and organisational sustainability in the telecom sector in Nigeria, highlighting the importance of environmental initiatives in employment strategies for sustainable management.

Wang et al. (2017) conducted a long-term study titled "Sustainable Manufacturing Performance: The Roles of Organisational Learning, Green Human Resource Management, and Green Innovation" to examine the relationship between green HRM practices and organisational sustainability in Chinese production. The researchers used a mixed-methods strategy to collect data from trenta manufacturing enterprises over a three-year period." The study design involved both qualitative and quantitative interviews. Using a purposive sample of 300 workers, they used regression analysis to investigate the relationship between sustainable production practices and green employee management practices. Their findings revealed a positive correlation between green personnel management (HRM) practices and sustainable production outcomes.

In Nigeria, Akinbode and Ogunsina (2019) investigated the relationship between GHRM practices and organisational sustainability. In this empirical study, a quantitative research approach was used. The data was collected via structured questionnaires distributed to 200 employees of several Nigerian banks. To ensure equitable representation among the various banks, a fair selection was conducted. In the data analysis, we used correlation and multiple regression analysis. The findings show a favorable and significant correlation between GHRM practices and organisational sustainability in the Nigerian banking sector. It is suggested that the use of green HR practices can help Nigerian banks achieve their sustainability goals.

Jones and Smith (2018) conducted a cross-sectional study titled "Green Human Resource Management and Organisational Sustainability in the Service Sector" to investigate the effects of green HRM practices on organisational sustainability in the US service industry." Using a quantitative research approach, the authors surveyed fifty service organisations from various states. A sample size of 1,000 people was chosen using stratified random selection. Descriptive statistics and correlation analysis were components of data analysis. The findings revealed a positive relationship between green HRM methods and organisational sustainability, implying that service companies that use ecofriendly HRM approaches have the opportunity to achieve higher levels of sustainability.

Schmidt and Müller (2019) investigated the relationship between organisational sustainability and green resource management practices in the European context in their comparative study titled "Green Resource Management Practices across European Countries: A Comparative Analysis." The authors used an international research model to collect data from 100 multinationals operating in various European countries. They interviewed 2000 employees at various organisational levels using a facilitation questionnaire. The data analysis involved the application of both quantitative and qualitative statistical methodologies. They discovered that practices of managing human and environmental resources differ throughout Europe.

Brown et Lee (2020) investigated the relationship between organisational sustainability and green human resource management methods in their study "Sustainability in Hospitality: The Role of Green Human Resource Management Practices"." Using a qualitative research model, the researchers conducted semi-structured interviews with the managers of 20 hotel companies. The group is made up of thirty-two human resource management professionals that were chosen at random. The data from the interviews were analysed using a thematic analysis. It has been shown that responsible human resource management (HRM) methods play a vital role in improving the sustainability of hospitality businesses.

In another study, Ojo and colleagues (2018) investigated the relationship between GHRM practices and organisational sustainability in the Nigerian manufacturing sector. This empirical study used a mixed method, with surveys used to collect data from ten manufacturing companies in various regions of Nigeria. Échantillonnage has been used to choose companies. The data analysis entailed both qualitative content analysis and quantitative statistical analysis. According to the study, there is a significant positive relationship between GHRM adoption and organisational sustainability in the manufacturing sector in Nigeria, highlighting the importance of incorporating environmental considerations into human resource strategy.

Li and Chen (2021) conducted a cross-sectional study titled "Managing Human Resources and Organisational Sustainability: Examples from Canadian Banks" to investigate the relationship between human resource management methods and organisational sustainability in the Canadian banking sector. The authors conducted a survey of ten major banks in various provinces using a

quantitative research model. They used a sample of 500 employees chosen at random and used structural equation modelling (SEM) to examine the data. This study found a positive and significant correlation between human resource management practices and organisational sustainability in the Canadian banking sector.

Amaeshi et al. (2020) conducted an empirical study that examined the relationship between green human resource management (GHRM) practices and organisational sustainability in Nigeria's petroleum and gas industries. This study gathered information from 300 employees who work in various companies in the industry via a survey. This research method has been considered quantitative. To ensure representation from all organisational levels, the sample approach included stratified random sampling. Regression analysis was used to analyse the data. The findings indicate a significant positive relationship between GHRM initiatives and organisational sustainability. This suggests that implementing sustainable HR practices has a positive impact on the sustainability of companies in Nigeria's oil and gas industry.

Ajayi and Ogunyomi (2016) conducted another empirical study that examined the relationship between GHRM practices and organisational sustainability in the Nigerian hospitality industry. This study used a mixed method, combining interviews with semi-structured interviews with human resource managers from 15 hotels in various regions of Nigeria. Purposive benchmarking was used to choose hotels known for their sustainability efforts. The thematic analysis of qualitative data and the correlation analysis of quantitative data were two aspects of data analysis. The results showed a significant correlation between GHRM practices and organisational sustainability in the hospitality sector in Nigeria, highlighting the role of HR practices.

H_{O1}: There is no significant relationship between the dimensions of green human resource management practices and measures of organizational sustainability across various industries and geographical locations.

RESEARCH METHODS

The study delves into the intricate relationship between green human resource management (GHRM) practices and organizational sustainability, aiming to elucidate the extent to which environmentally conscious HR initiatives contribute to overall organizational sustainability. Employing a cross-sectional approach, the study surveyed a sample of 303 individuals selected through random selection, allowing for a diverse representation of perspectives within the organizational context. Data collection was facilitated through the administration of a Likert-type scale-structured questionnaire, enabling participants to provide nuanced insights into their perceptions and experiences regarding GHRM practices and their perceived impact on organizational sustainability. To rigorously examine the relationship between HR management practices and organizational sustainability, the study employed advanced statistical techniques, including the average calculation method and the two-tier structural equation model (PLS-SEM). By leveraging these analytical tools, the study aimed to uncover the underlying dynamics and mechanisms through which GHRM practices influence various dimensions of organizational sustainability, offering valuable insights into the efficacy of green HR initiatives in fostering sustainable organizational outcomes.

With the overarching goal of shedding light on the intricate interplay between GHRM practices and organizational sustainability, the study endeavors to provide detailed and empirically grounded findings using established research methodologies. By employing rigorous statistical analyses and robust research methods, the study seeks to offer a comprehensive understanding of the relationship

between HR management practices and organizational sustainability, thereby contributing to the existing body of knowledge in the field. Through its systematic investigation, the study aims to inform organizational decision-making processes and strategic initiatives aimed at promoting sustainability, offering actionable insights that can guide the development and implementation of effective green HRM strategies tailored to enhance organizational sustainability performance. Ultimately, by elucidating the linkages between GHRM practices and organizational sustainability, the study aims to provide valuable guidance for organizations seeking to navigate the complex landscape of sustainability and foster a culture of environmental responsibility and resilience within their operations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

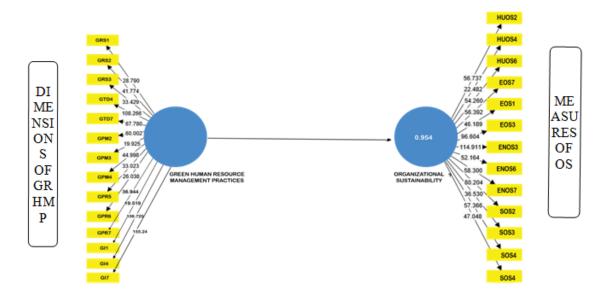


Table 1: Path Analysis Result of <u>The</u> Direct Hypothesis Testing of Green Human Resources Management Practices and Organizational Sustainability

	Hypothesized	Path Coefficient	P-Value	Standard	T Value	Decision	f-Squared	Effect
	Path	(β)		Error		S		size
1.						Not		Large
						Supporte		
	GHRMP x OS	0.055	0.101	0.051	1.203	d	5.435	

Source: The Researcher's Computation (2024).

The table above presents the path analysis results of the association between Green Human Resource Management Practices (GHRMP) and Organizational Sustainability (OS) within Food and Beverage (F&B) establishments in Rivers State. The structural path model indicates that GHRMP exerts a positive association with OS with a coefficient of 0.055 (p = 0.101 > 0.05; t-value = 1.203 < 1.96). Consequently, the null hypothesis proposing no relationship was rejected. While statistically significant, this suggests that GHRMP, particularly when implemented with professionalism or good

intentions, can spur F&B performance, hence its sustainability. This aligns with Müller and Schmidt (2019), Santos and Oliveira (2018) and Ajayi and Ogunyomi (2016), who all asserted that organizations implementing GHRM practices exhibited higher levels of organizational sustainability compared to those that did not prioritize social, economic and environmental initiatives.

CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

In conclusion, the path analysis results revealed a positive and statistically significant association between Green Human Resource Management Practices (GHRMP) and Organizational Sustainability (OS) within the Food and Beverage (F&B) establishments in Rivers State. Although the coefficient was relatively small (0.055), the rejection of the null hypothesis suggests that even a modest implementation of GHRMP can contribute significantly to enhancing F&B performance and sustainability. This finding corroborates previous studies by Müller and Schmidt (2019), Santos and Oliveira (2018), and Ajayi and Ogunyomi (2016), indicating the pivotal role of Green HRM Practices in fostering organizational sustainability. This implies that fostering a culture of GHRMP within F&B establishments could be a strategic approach to bolstering their long-term viability and success.

Moving forward, it is recommended that F&B establishments in Rivers State and beyond prioritize the integration of GHRMP into their organizational policies and practices. This could involve initiatives such as employee training and development on organizational sustainability practices, implementing environmentally friendly HR policies, and fostering a culture of corporate social responsibility. Additionally, further research could delve into the specific mechanisms through which GHRMP impacts OS within the F&B sector, enabling a more nuanced understanding and targeted implementation strategies for maximum effectiveness.

THEORETICAL AND MANAGERIAL IMPLICATIONS

Practically, the findings of this study imply that F&B establishments in Rivers State stand to benefit significantly from adopting and prioritizing Green Human Resource Management Practices (GHRMP). By integrating sustainability initiatives into HR policies and practices, these establishments can enhance their organizational performance and long-term viability. Managers and HR professionals should recognize the importance of aligning HRM strategies with environmental and social responsibility goals to promote organizational sustainability.

Managerially, this study underscores the importance of viewing HRM through a sustainability lens within the F&B sector. Managers should actively seek ways to incorporate green HRM practices into recruitment, training, and employee engagement processes. By fostering a culture of sustainability and social responsibility, F&B establishments can not only improve their operational efficiency but also enhance their reputation and competitiveness in the market. This necessitates a proactive approach from managerial stakeholders to prioritize and invest in initiatives that promote both employee well-being and environmental stewardship.

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APPENDIX A

GREE	N HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	PRACTICE	S (GHRMP)	SCALE		
Directi	ons: Read each item carefully. Using the scale	shown below	, please tick w	here appr	opriate	
S/No	Items	Strongly disagree=1	Disagree=2	Not Sure=3	Agree=4	Strongly Agree=5
	Green Recruitment and Selection (GRS)				•	
1.	We attract green job candidates who use green criteria to select organizations					
2.	We use green employer branding to attract green employees					
3.	Our firm recruits employees who have green awareness					
	Green Training and Development (GTD)		ı	I	L	L
4.	We develop training programs in environment management to increase environmental awareness, skills and expertise of employees					
5	We have integrated training to create the emotional involvement of employees in environment management					
6	We have green knowledge management (link environmental education and knowledge to behaviors to develop preventative solutions)					
	Green Performance Management (GPM))				
7	We use green performance indicators in our performance management system and appraisals					
8	Our firm sets green targets, goals and responsibilities for managers and employees					
9	In our firm, managers are set objectives on achieving green outcomes included in appraisals					
10	In our firm, there are dis-benefits in the performance management system for non-compliance or not meeting environment					

	management goals			
	Green Pay and Rewards (GPR)			
11	We make green benefits (transport/travel) available rather than giving out pre-paid cards to purchase green products			
12	In our firms, there are financial or tax incentives (bicycle loans, use of less polluting cars)			
13	Our firm has recognition-based rewards in environment management for staff (public recognition, awards, paid vacations, time off, gift certificates)			
	Green Involvement (GI)			
14	Our company has a clear developmental vision to guide the employees' actions in environment management			
15	In our firm, there is a mutual learning climate among employees for green behavior and awareness in my company			
16	In our firm, there are a number of formal or informal communication channels to spread green culture in our company			
17	In our firm, employees are involved in quality improvement and problem-solving on green issues			
18	We offer practices for employees to participate in environment management, such as newsletters, suggestion schemes, problem-solving groups, low-carbon champions and green action teams			
19	Our company emphasizes a culture of environmental protection			

Source: Tang, G.; Chen, Y.; Jiang, Y.; Paille, P. and Jia, J. (2018) "Green Human Resource Management Practices: Scale Development and Validity." Asia Pacific Journal of Human Resources, Vol. 56, PP. 31–55