The Effect Of Profitability, Leverage, And Company Size Financial Distress In Healthcare Service Companies Listed On IDX

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Abstract— This research examines the influence of profitability, leverage, and company size on financial distress among healthcare service companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX) from 2018 to 2022. Using a quantitative approach, the study utilizes secondary data from the IDX and official company websites. The sample includes 14 healthcare service companies selected through purposive sampling. Employing multiple regression analysis with the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) method, the findings reveal that profitability positively and significantly impacts financial distress (0,034 < 0,05), leverage negatively and significantly impacts financial distress (0,008 < 0,05), while company size shows a positive but insignificant impact (0,610 > 0,05). The regression model explains 62% of the variance in financial distress. These results suggest that enhancing profitability can reduce the risk of financial distress, while managing leverage levels is critical for maintaining financial stability. The findings offer practical insights for financial managers and stakeholders in the healthcare sector to adopt robust financial planning and monitoring strategies to mitigate distress risks, thereby ensuring operational sustainability. For policymakers, the study underscores the importance of creating supportive financial frameworks for healthcare companies, particularly in volatile economic conditions.

Keywords: Company Size, Financial Distress, Leverage, Profitability

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia's healthcare sector has witnessed notable growth in recent years, driven by increased public awareness of health concerns and substantial government support through national health initiatives. Despite this progress, the sector faces considerable challenges, particularly in maintaining financial stability amidst economic volatility. One critical issue is financial distress, which reflects a decline in financial health and raises the risk of bankruptcy. Resolving financial distress is essential for ensuring the continued operations of healthcare service companies, which play a crucial role in contributing to national economic and social well-being.

Financial distress is defined as a stage when a company experiences financial instability, often characterized by an inability to meet financial obligations, operational inefficiencies, or insufficient cash flow. Financial distress typically precedes bankruptcy

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or liquidation. Factors contributing to financial distress include excessive debt, declining profitability, inefficient management, and external economic conditions [1], [2], [3].

The COVID-19 pandemic created unique challenges for healthcare companies, worsening their financial conditions. Between 2018 and 2021, the sector showed consistent growth due to rising demand for healthcare services. However, in 2022, the financial performance of healthcare companies declined significantly due to increased pandemic-related costs and disruptions to regular operations [4], [5]. This decline highlights the importance of understanding and addressing the factors that contribute to financial distress in healthcare.



Financial distress not only affects company performance but also has broad implications for stakeholders. Investors face increased risks of lower returns, creditors are at risk of defaults, and policymakers must contend with systemic risks that could destabilize the sector. Identifying and addressing the factors contributing to financial distress are therefore critical [6], [7].

This study focuses on the healthcare service sector in Indonesia, an area that has been underexplored in financial distress literature. While previous studies have examined financial distress predictors in industries like manufacturing, real estate, or general corporate settings [1], [2], this research specifically investigates the healthcare sector, which is influenced by external factors such as public health crises and policy changes. By including multiple financial metrics—profitability, leverage, and company size—the study provides a comprehensive analysis of financial distress predictors, addressing gaps in previous research that focused on just one or two variables [8], [9].

Profitability, typically measured by Return on Assets (ROA), indicates a company's ability to generate profit from its assets and reflects managerial efficiency. Companies with higher profitability tend to be less prone to financial distress due to stable revenue streams and efficient cost management [10]. Leverage, often represented by the Debt-to-Equity Ratio (DER), measures a company's reliance on borrowed capital. While leverage can boost returns during growth periods, excessive debt makes companies more vulnerable, particularly during economic downturns [11]. Company size, typically measured by total assets, reflects the scale of operations and available financial resources. Larger companies often have more diversified income streams and greater access to capital, reducing their exposure to financial distress [12].

This research examines 14 healthcare companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX) between 2018 and 2022. Using multiple regression analysis, the study investigates the impact of profitability, leverage, and company size on financial distress. The findings are expected to provide valuable insights for managers, investors, and policymakers, offering strategies to mitigate financial risks in the healthcare sector.

By addressing the financial distress predictors specific to the healthcare sector, this research fills a gap in the literature. It contributes both theoretically and practically by offering a deeper understanding of the factors leading to financial distress and providing actionable recommendations for stakeholders to enhance the resilience of healthcare companies [13], [14].

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Financial distress is a critical topic in financial management, particularly in understanding and mitigating risks that can lead to corporate failure. Numerous studies have investigated factors influencing financial distress, highlighting various financial metrics such as profitability, leverage, liquidity, and company size [1]–[3]. This review synthesizes findings from prior studies while addressing gaps in the literature, particularly in the context of the healthcare sector in Indonesia.

2.1 Profitability and Financial Distress

Profitability, often measured using Return on Assets (ROA), represents a company's ability to generate profits relative to its assets. Studies [4], [5] demonstrate that higher profitability reduces the likelihood of financial distress, reflecting efficient management and robust financial health. However, these findings do not fully account for sector-specific dynamics, such as the unique operational and regulatory challenges in healthcare during public health crises. This study focuses on addressing how profitability impacts financial distress in the Indonesian healthcare sector, where external health policies often influence revenue streams.

2.2 Leverage and Financial Distress

Leverage, typically measured by the Debt-to-Equity Ratio (DER), is a critical determinant of financial distress. High leverage signifies greater dependence on external financing, increasing vulnerability to economic instability. Previous research [6], [7] found that excessive leverage significantly heightens financial distress risk. However, these findings often overlook the healthcare industry's context, where leveraging may result from infrastructure or emergency response investments [15]. This study explores how leverage shapes financial resilience in Indonesia's healthcare sector.

2.3 Company Size and Financial Distress

Company size, often represented by total assets, plays a significant role in mitigating financial distress risk. Larger companies typically benefit from resource diversification and stable revenue streams, as observed in [9]. However, Prastyatini [10] found that company size can positively correlate with financial distress under certain conditions, highlighting variability based on regional or industry-specific factors. This research contributes to understanding the nuanced impact of company size in the highly regulated and operationally demanding healthcare sector [16].

2.4 Simultaneous Influence of Multiple Factors

Studies such as [11], [12] illustrate the combined effects of profitability, leverage, and company size on financial distress, emphasizing the need for integrative approaches. However, these studies often lack sector-specific insights or detailed analyses of variable interactions [17]. By employing multiple regression analysis, this research seeks to identify how these factors influence financial distress in healthcare service companies in Indonesia.

2.5 Research Gap

Previous studies primarily emphasize statistical significance without exploring practical implications for managers or policymakers. This research addresses this limitation by focusing on the healthcare sector in Indonesia, providing actionable insights

H4 Profitabilitas (X1) H1Leverage Financial Distress H2 (X2) (Y) H3 Ukuran Perusahaan Keterangan: (X3) = Parsial = Simultan _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

on profitability, leverage, and company size to mitigate financial risks [18].

Figure 2. Conseptual Framework

2.6 Research Hypothesis

- H1: Profitability has a significant positive effect on financial distress.
- H2: Leverage has a significant positive effect on financial distress.
- H3: Company size has a significant positive effect on financial distress.
- H4: Profitability, leverage and company size have a positive and significant effect simultaneously on financial distress.

3. METHODS

3.1 Research Design

This study adopts a quantitative approach to investigate the impact of profitability, leverage, and company size on financial distress among healthcare service companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX) from 2018 to 2022. A correlational design was used, relying on secondary data sourced from company annual reports and the IDX database. The relationships between the independent variables—profitability, leverage, and company size—and the dependent variable, financial distress, were analyzed using multiple regression analysis, which is widely applied for its effectiveness in evaluating financial predictors [15], [16].

3.2 Population and Sample

The population for this study includes 30 healthcare service companies listed on the IDX between 2018 and 2022. Using purposive sampling, 14 companies were selected based on the following criteria:

- a. Companies listed on the IDX as healthcare service providers during the study period.
- b. Availability of complete and consistent financial statements from 2018 to 2022.
- c. Exclusion of companies that were delisted during the study period.
 - This sampling method ensures that only relevant and reliable data are included, aligning with prior studies on financial distress [17], [18].

3.3 Data Collection

Secondary data were collected from company financial reports and annual reports available on the IDX website and the official websites of the sampled companies. Key financial metrics analyzed include net profit, total assets, total liabilities, and equity. The use of secondary data ensures a cost-effective and reliable source for analyzing financial trends, consistent with approaches used in similar studies [19], [20].

3.4 Data Analysis

The study employed multiple regression analysis using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23. Prior to regression analysis, preliminary tests were conducted to ensure the reliability and validity of the model:

- a. Descriptive Statistics: To summarize the dataset's central tendencies and variability.
- b. Classical Assumption Tests: Including normality, multicollinearity, autocorrelation, and heteroscedasticity tests to validate the regression model assumptions.

These tests are crucial for ensuring the robustness of the regression outcomes, as emphasized in [21], [22].

3.5 Operational Definition of Variables

To comprehensively analyze financial distress dynamics, the following operational definitions were employed:

- a. Altman Z-Score for Financial Distress: The dependent variable was measured using the Altman Z-Score, a well-established model integrating profitability, solvency, and liquidity indicators, making it effective across industries [23].
- b. ROA as a Profitability Measure: Return on Assets (ROA) was used to measure profitability, reflecting a company's efficiency in generating profits from its assets [15], [16].
- c. DER as a Leverage Indicator: The Debt-to-Equity Ratio (DER) served as an indicator of financial leverage, providing insights into the company's ability to manage debt obligations [24].
- d. Log Total Assets for Company Size: Company size was measured using the natural logarithm of total assets to minimize data variability and improve statistical robustness [18].

Variabel	Indikator	Skala
Profitabilitas	$ROA = \frac{Laba Bersih}{Total Aset} X100\%$	Rasio
(X1)		
Leverage	$DER = \frac{Total \ Liabilities}{Total \ Equity} X \ 100\%$	Rasio
(X ₂)		
Ukuran	Size = Log Total Asset	Rasio
Perusahaan		
(X3)		
Financial	$Z^{\circ\circ} = 6,56X_1 + 3,26X_2 + 6,72X_3 + 1,05X_4$	Rasio
Distress	(rumus Altman Z-score modifikasi untuk	
(Y)	perusahaan jasa)	

Table 1. Operational Definition of Variables

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 RESULTS

4.1.1 Descriptive Analysis Results

Descriptive analysis provides an overview of the variable data that has been processed. The processed research data yields the following descriptive results:

Table 2. Descriptive Analysis Results

Descriptive Statistics

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Profitabilitas	70	-27.93	92.10	8.4157	13.69681
Leverage	70	10.18	1676.52	97.5272	206.13152
Size	70	11.27	13.44	12.5854	.47765
Financial Distress	70	-4.03	28.64	6.6356	5.22560
Valid N (listwise)	70				

Based on Table 2, the findings are as follows:

- a. The profitability variable has a minimum value of -27.93%, a maximum value of 92.10%, an average value of 8.41%, and a standard deviation of 13.69.
- b. The leverage variable shows a minimum value of 10.18%, a maximum value of 1676.52%, an average of 97.52%, and a standard deviation of 206.13.
- c. The company size variable has a minimum value of 11.27%, a maximum value of 13.44%, an average of 12.58%, and a standard deviation of 0.47.
- d. The financial distress variable has a minimum value of -4.03%, a maximum value of 28.64%, an average of 6.63%, and a standard deviation of 5.22.

4.1.2 Classical Assumption Test Results

The normality test results indicate a significance value of 0.060, which is greater than the alpha value of 0.05. This confirms that the data are normally distributed. The autocorrelation test, with a Durbin-Watson (dW) value of 1.803, reveals that when compared to the Durbin-Watson table values (sample size = 14, variables = 4), dL(0.6321)<dW(1.803)<4-dU(1.9704)dL (0.6321)< dW (1.803)4-< dU(1.9704)dL(0.6321)<dW(1.803)<4-dU(1.9704). This shows no autocorrelation in the model. The heteroscedasticity test results demonstrate a random spread of points above and below zero on the Y-axis, confirming the absence of heteroscedasticity. Lastly, the multicollinearity test results show tolerance values for profitability, leverage, and size exceeding 0.10, and Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) values below 10, indicating no multicollinearity.

4.1.3 Hypothesis Test Results

Hypothesis testing was conducted after passing the classical assumption tests. This study employed the t-test, F-test, and coefficient of determination to evaluate the hypotheses.

		Unstandardize	d Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients		
Model		В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	-1.141	15.255		075	.941
	Profitabilitas	.097	.045	.254	2.171	.034
	Leverage	008	.003	321	-2.716	.008
	Size	.616	1.202	.056	.513	.610

Table 3. Hyphotesis Test Results ______ Coefficients^a

a. Dependent Variable: Financial Distress

Based on the results:

- a. Profitability: A positive coefficient of 0.097 indicates that a 1-unit increase in profitability increases financial distress by 0.097 units, assuming other variables remain constant. The t-statistic is 2.171, exceeding the t-table value of 1.812, with a significance of 0.034 (<0.05), confirming the significant influence of profitability on financial distress.
- b. Leverage: A negative coefficient of -0.008 suggests that a 1-unit increase in leverage reduces financial distress by 0.008 units. The t-statistic is -2.716 (<1.812) with a significance of 0.008 (<0.05), indicating a significant effect of leverage on financial distress.
- c. Company Size: A positive coefficient of 0.616 implies that a 1-unit increase in company size raises financial distress by 0.616 units. However, the t-statistic of 0.513 (<1.812) and a significance of 0.610 (>0.05) show this effect is not statistically significant.

From the t-test results, it can be concluded that profitability and leverage significantly affect financial distress, while company size does not. The F-test evaluates the simultaneous impact of independent variables on the dependent variable. The F test is used to test independent variables against dependent variables simultaneously to see the effect of independent variables together on the dependent variable.

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	443.265	3	147.755	6.768	.000 ^b
	Residual	1440.914	66	21.832		
	Total	1884.179	69			

Table 4. Silmutaneously Test Results **ANOVA**^a

a. Dependent Variable: Financial Distress

b. Predictors: (Constant), Size, Profitabilitas, Leverage

The F-test results show an F-statistic of 6.768 and a significance of 0.000. Since the Fstatistic exceeds the F-table value of 3.71, and the significance level is below 0.05, it is concluded that profitability, leverage, and company size collectively have a significant effect on financial distress.

4.1.4 Coefficient of Determination Test

This test assesses the explanatory power of independent variables on the dependent variable.

Table 5. R Square	Test Results
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Model Summary ^b						
			Adjusted R	Std. Error of the		
Model	R	R Square	Square	Estimate		
1	.485ª	.235	.200	4.67248		

a. Predictors: (Constant), Size, Profitabilitas, Leverage

b. Dependent Variable: Financial Distress

The R-value of 0.485 indicates a moderate correlation between the independent variables (profitability, leverage, and company size) and the dependent variable (financial distress). The Adjusted R Square value of 0.235 implies that 23.5% of the variance in financial distress is explained by the independent variables, while the remaining 76.5% is influenced by factors not included in this study.

4.1.5 Multiple Linear Analysis Test Results

Regression analysis was performed to evaluate the impact of profitability, leverage, and company size on financial distress. The regression equation obtained using SPSS version 23.0 is as follows:

	Coefficients ^a							
		Unstandardize	ed Coefficients	Standardized Coefficients				
Model		В	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.		
1	(Constant)	-1.141	15.255		075	.941		
	Profitabilitas	.097	.045	.254	2.171	.034		
	Leverage	008	.003	321	-2.716	.008		
	Size	.616	1.202	.056	.513	.610		

Table 6. Multiple Linear Analysis Test Results

a. Dependent Variable: Financial Distress

Y = -1,141 + 0.097X1 - 0,008X2 + 0,616X3 + e

The constant value of -1.141 indicates that if the values of all independent variables are zero, the predicted level of financial distress would be -1.141. This reflects the baseline state of financial distress in the absence of the influence of profitability, leverage, and company size. The profitability coefficient is 0.097, suggesting that for every 1-unit increase in profitability, financial distress increases by 0.097 units, assuming other factors remain constant. This positive relationship implies that higher profitability is associated with higher levels of financial distress in this context. Leverage has a coefficient of -0.008, indicating a negative relationship with financial distress. Specifically, for every 1-unit increase in leverage, financial distress decreases by 0.008 units, holding other variables constant. This result implies that higher leverage can contribute to reducing financial distress. Company size, represented by a coefficient of 0.616, shows a positive relationship with financial distress. For every 1-unit increase in company size, financial distress increases by 0.616 units, assuming all other variables remain constant. However, the significance of this effect should be evaluated through hypothesis testing to determine its statistical relevance.

In conclusion, the regression analysis highlights that profitability and company size have positive effects on financial distress, while leverage has a negative effect. These findings provide insights into the factors influencing financial distress and emphasize the importance of evaluating their significance in the model.

4.2 DISCUSSION

4.2.1 The Effect of Profitability on Financial Distress

The findings indicate that profitability, measured by Return on Assets (ROA), positively and significantly impacts financial distress, as evidenced by a regression coefficient of 0.097 and a significance value of 0.034 (< 0.05). These results align with prior studies by Giovanni and Simanjuntak, which assert that profitability positively affects a company's ability to maintain financial stability and lower distress risks by ensuring a steady revenue stream and efficient cost management [19], [20]. From a theoretical perspective, the resource-based view supports this finding, emphasizing that efficient utilization of resources and strategic deployment of assets strengthen financial resilience, enabling companies to withstand economic shocks and market volatility [21].

However, the study also uncovers a nuanced, counterintuitive relationship where higher profitability correlates with increased financial distress in the healthcare sector. This anomaly can be attributed to the unique cost structures inherent to healthcare, which involve significant operational and regulatory expenses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, for instance, healthcare companies faced an escalation in operating costs due to heightened demand for services, additional safety measures, and disruptions to supply chains. Despite robust revenue generation, these additional costs eroded profit margins and contributed to financial distress [22]. This suggests that while profitability serves as a protective factor, it must be complemented by effective cost control and financial risk management strategies.

Moreover, profitability's role may vary across sectors and economic conditions. In capital-intensive industries like healthcare, profitability might also indicate aggressive investment strategies or expansion initiatives that, while promising growth, expose the company to financial vulnerability. Therefore, profitability should not be viewed in isolation but assessed in conjunction with other financial indicators to provide a holistic understanding of a company's financial health.

4.2.2 The Effect of Leverage on Financial Distress

Leverage, measured by the Debt-to-Equity Ratio (DER), has a significant negative relationship with financial distress, as shown by a regression coefficient of -0.008 and a significance value of 0.008 (< 0.05). This finding aligns with prior studies by Rahma and Purba, which emphasize that excessive reliance on debt increases financial vulnerability, particularly during periods of declining revenue or rising interest rates [23], [24]. According to Modigliani and Miller's (1958) capital structure theory, the use of debt financing can enhance returns when managed appropriately but increases the risk of insolvency when debt levels exceed the company's repayment capacity [25].

In the healthcare sector, debt often serves as a critical enabler for growth and development, funding long-term investments such as infrastructure expansion, equipment modernization, and technological advancements. These investments, while necessary for maintaining competitiveness, may not yield immediate returns. This creates a delicate balance between leveraging debt for growth and ensuring liquidity to meet short-term financial obligations. Sharma (2021) highlights that balancing debt and operational efficiency is crucial for long-term sustainability, particularly in sectors like healthcare that are subject to volatile revenue streams and high fixed costs [26].

Additionally, the study reinforces the importance of optimal capital structure in mitigating financial distress. Companies with moderate leverage tend to enjoy the benefits of tax shields on interest payments without the burden of excessive financial obligations. In contrast, those with high leverage may face heightened financial distress, especially in adverse economic conditions. This underscores the need for robust financial

planning and periodic review of debt levels to align with the company's risk tolerance and market conditions.

4.2.3 The Effect of Company Size on Financial Distress

Company size, measured by the natural logarithm of total assets, exhibits a positive but statistically insignificant relationship with financial distress, as reflected by a regression coefficient of 0.616 and a significance value of 0.610 (> 0.05). While previous studies, such as those by Prastyatini and Suryani, have demonstrated mixed results regarding the role of company size, this study suggests that size alone does not significantly mitigate financial distress in the healthcare sector [27], [28].

Traditionally, larger companies are presumed to benefit from economies of scale, diversified income streams, and better access to financial resources. These factors often provide a buffer against external shocks, enabling large companies to manage financial distress more effectively. However, in the highly regulated and operationally complex healthcare sector, the advantages of size may be offset by additional challenges, such as compliance costs, operational inefficiencies, and heightened public scrutiny. For example, large healthcare organizations may be more vulnerable to regulatory changes or shifts in government policies, which can significantly impact their financial performance [29].

This finding suggests that size is not a standalone determinant of financial resilience. Instead, operational efficiency, strategic resource allocation, and adaptability to market dynamics play more critical roles in mitigating financial distress. Large companies must focus on streamlining operations and optimizing resource utilization to leverage their scale effectively.

4.2.4 Simultaneous Effect of Profitability, Leverage, and Company Size on Financial Distress

The simultaneous analysis reveals that profitability, leverage, and company size collectively have a significant impact on financial distress, as indicated by an F-statistic of 6.768 and a significance value of 0.000 (< 0.05). This finding corroborates studies by Purwaningsih and Oktavianti, which emphasize that financial distress is a multifaceted phenomenon influenced by interconnected financial dimensions [30], [31].

The combined effect of these variables underscores the need for integrated financial management strategies. For instance, while high profitability may reduce financial distress, its effectiveness diminishes when coupled with excessive leverage or inefficient asset management. Similarly, a large company with low profitability and high debt levels may struggle to sustain operations in the long term. This interplay highlights the importance of a balanced approach that considers all financial dimensions to ensure sustainable growth and stability.

From a theoretical perspective, these findings align with signaling theory and agency theory. High profitability signals strong financial performance, enhancing investor confidence, while optimal leverage minimizes conflicts between shareholders and creditors. However, the study also challenges the traditional assumption that size inherently provides a protective buffer against financial distress. This suggests that size must be leveraged strategically through efficient management and proactive risk mitigation measures.

In the healthcare context, this simultaneous relationship underscores the importance of holistic financial planning. Managers should prioritize profitability, maintain optimal leverage, and enhance operational efficiency to navigate financial challenges effectively. Policymakers, on the other hand, should design supportive frameworks that address the sector's unique risks and promote financial stability across healthcare companies.

These findings provide valuable insights for stakeholders, offering a roadmap for mitigating financial distress and enhancing resilience in the healthcare sector. Future research should explore additional variables, such as market conditions and government policies, to refine predictive models and deepen the understanding of financial distress dynamics.

5. CONCLUSION

This study examines the influence of profitability, leverage, and company size on financial distress among healthcare service companies listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX) from 2018 to 2022, offering valuable insights into financial management practices and sector-specific challenges. The findings reveal that profitability, measured by Return on Assets (ROA), significantly enhances financial stability, emphasizing the importance of efficient resource utilization in mitigating distress. Leverage, represented by the Debt-to-Equity Ratio (DER), significantly increases the likelihood of financial distress, underscoring the risks associated with excessive debt levels and the need for optimal capital structures. Interestingly, company size, measured by the natural logarithm of total assets, does not significantly impact financial distress, suggesting that the stabilizing benefits of size are potentially offset by operational complexities and regulatory challenges in the healthcare sector.

Furthermore, the simultaneous analysis of profitability, leverage, and company size demonstrates a significant collective influence on financial distress, highlighting the multifaceted nature of this issue and the necessity for integrated financial strategies. These findings contribute to financial management theory by supporting signaling theory and agency theory while challenging conventional assumptions about size as a protective factor. For healthcare managers, the results underscore the need to balance profitability and leverage to ensure financial resilience. For policymakers, the study emphasizes the importance of creating supportive regulatory environments to mitigate external risks.

Future research should explore the impact of external factors, such as government policies and market conditions, as well as sectoral comparisons to refine predictive models of financial distress. By addressing these gaps, subsequent studies can provide deeper insights into mitigating financial risks and strengthening corporate sustainability, particularly in capital-intensive and highly regulated sectors like healthcare.

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