Volume: 4 Issue: 12 Pages: 172-179

ESG Reporting in India - A Literature Review

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Article Info.
E-ISSN: 2583-6528
Impact Factor (SJIF): 6.876
Peer Reviewed Journal
Available online:
www.alladvancejournal.com

Received: 23/Nov/2025
Accepted: 20/Dec/2025

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Abstract

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) has gained prominence in last decade owing to growing expectations of the regulators, investors and other stakeholders. In India, as a step towards ESG reporting, Business Responsibility Reporting (BRR) was introduced in the year 2012 by Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which has been upgraded as Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) for making reporting on ESG aspects more comprehensive and quantifiable. In this paper we have studied significance of ESG for businesses, its legal framework in India, the practices being followed by the corporate and growth of ESG Reporting in India. We have identified the origin of term 'ESG' and evolution of ESG Reporting in India. PRISMA Framework (Moher *et al.*, 2009) is followed for literature review to gauge the progress made in ESG Reporting in India. We find that (a) there is a move from multiplicity of ESG reporting frameworks to consolidation in the reporting (b) Integrated reporting may be new norm covering both financial and non-financial aspects (c) mandatory reporting on ESG parameters to enhance comparability and reliability of information furnished across companies (d) focus on sectoral reporting rather than a common reporting for all sectors (e) need to align organizational policies to the environmental policies for long term existence of any organization (f) the landscape of ESG research is vast considering diversity in businesses, ecological factors all having implications for company dealings with customers, employees, vendors and other stakeholders.

Keywords: ESG, ESG reporting, BRR, BRSR, India.

1. Introduction

Earth is the only planet on which life exists and for the continued existence of life, it is more than imperative for the businesses and individuals to adopt sustainable practices to check and reverse the damage caused to the environment due to their activities. One need to correctly estimate the actual cost of doing business activities that not only includes the direct cost of business activities but also an indirect cost of its impact on surrounding environment, resources, and people. Today's news reports are abundant in reporting social and environmental issues like climate change, new diseases, weather patterns, increased pollution, reduction of existing mandatory resources like water and land, growing population, increased mortality, social unrest, income disparity, extreme poverty, etc. that affects businesses in one way or the other. Responsible businesses shall work on the philosophy of being accountable to all its stakeholders.

Milton Freidman, a noted economist, has said that 'the social responsibility of business is to increase its profits' (Freidman). But, in view of the increasing pressures to act for the betterment of the society, environment and society, the corporate are required to be more sensitive to the environment in which they operate and report that appropriately so that stakeholders get a fair view of their operations. Earlier, companies used to provide financial information about their businesses but now non-financial reporting has become equally important to gauge the approach of businesses towards sustainability.

ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) has gained lot of attention in last decade because of the growing interest of stakeholders and investors pertaining to sustainable practices followed by businesses. ESG covers various aspects viz. climate change, waste disposal, employee welfare, diversity, compliances, governance structure, etc. ESG analysis helps in evaluation of the businesses not only on their financial performance but also on the non-financial aspects of their business operations. Proper ESG reporting by the corporate can pave the way for business sustainability. The number of reporting provisions has increased 10 times in 25 years since 1992 (Rio Earth Summit) to nearly thousand, which highlights the growing significance of this reporting, 2017 (WBCSD). ESG reporting provide many benefits to the companies in relation to risk management, transparency, communication and stakeholder engagement (BSE Guidance Document on ESG Disclosures). Presently, there are many governmental and independent agencies, which focus on ESG issues. For example, sustainability reporting standards issued by GRI are adopted by the companies across the world. Non-financial reporting has grown considerably during the last decade but lack of common reporting standard has resulted in difficulties for the stakeholders to compare the disclosures. (Teresa Turzo, *et al*, 2022).

In this paper first we have provided brief overview of evolution of ESG Reporting in India, research methodology, literature review, findings, growth of ESG Reporting in India, research gaps and way forward.

2. Literature Review

Initially literature review was carried out using Google Scholar to get information regarding evolution of sustainability, ESG as a concept and growth of Sustainability Reporting in India. The selective research studies from 1980 onwards are analysed and reported.

Sustainability depends upon the context in which it is used (Chaharbaghi and Lynch, 1999). However, the broad meaning of sustainability would be to identify and meet the needs and requirements of present as well future stakeholders (Dyllick and Hockerts, 2002). It is our duty to preserve the economic, environmental and social resource for future generations. (Dyllick and Hockerts, 2002; Tahir and Darton, 2010). At times, sustainability is though as synonymous with CSR, but this thought has changed in last decade as CSR is clearly one to achieve few dimensions of the various sustainability paradigms (Carrol and Shabana, 2010), established the business case for CSR after reviewing practices, concepts and research in the area. The authors traced the roots of CSR as early as World War II, and discussed the growth of this concept along the time and concluded that after 2000, the CSR concept amalgamated into the concept of sustainability.

Sustainability Reporting also known as Environmental and Social Reporting started in 1970s in the west, which started including environmental issues in the 1980s. The publication of separate environmental reports can be traced to early 1989. In 1990s, the social and environmental issues were started being reported simultaneously (Kolk A., 2004). Global Compact was launched in 2000 by United Nations (UN) to find ways to incorporate sustainability in the capital markets. ESG, a term originated in the landmark study 'Who Cares Wins: Connecting Financial Markets to a Changing World' of Global Compact Initiative released in 2004, prepared jointly by United Nations (UN) and some financial institutions highlighted emerging ESG issues and made many recommendations. ESG reporting and disclosure of information is an important ingredient of investment decision. ESG reporting has been mandated by law in many countries but it is voluntary in many other countries. (Sarangi, G. K., 2021).

We have come far ahead of the times when profit maximisation used to be the sole goal of businesses. The society appreciates those companies more who are responsible to all the stakeholders and not just its shareholders (Carter and Rogers, 2008). Analyzed the ethical aspects of of businesses and recognized that organizations needs to incorporate greening or environmental issues as key business value inherently embedded in corporate culture, beliefs and shared value of a firm. For business excellence, the organizations need to have environ-societal goals with various concepts viz. sustainability, qualitative growth, sustainable development and sustainable society aligned for long term perspective (Stainer & Stainer, 1997). A sustainable business has to be viable not only in terms of financial performance but it should also impact the community and environment positively.

It is firmly argued by many that businesses today enjoy a favourable position only because of the environment and the community that put them in that place. It is their duty to undertake sustainable development (Elkington, 1998). Also, that these aspects are interdependent on each other and it not impossible to achieve optimization in one factor independently (Büyüközkan and Çifçi, 2012; Carter and Rogers, 2008; Dyllick and Hockerts, 2002). These have to be balanced simultaneously and a holistic approach is to be adopted by businesses. Considering any one aspect and neglecting others will not lead to accomplishment of sustainability (Jamali, 2006). Thomas & Lamm (2012) examined sustainability from the perspective of attitudes that affect managerial decision making. The authors suggested three dimensions of personal evaluative assessments or attitudes-pragmatic legitimacy (perceived ability of an action to yield tangible benefits), moral legitimacy (perceived ability of an action to be considered right or wrong based on prevailing social norms or moral obligations), and cognitive legitimacy (perceived comprehensibility of an action in terms of benefits or loss). Further, the authors included these attitudes in the framework of Theory of Planned Behaviour to analyze the impact of these attitudes on the intention and behaviour of individuals. The authors provided a practical application of this model which can be used for understanding managers' intentions to incorporate sustainability into decision making process. The authors concluded that such insights into the attitudes and their impact on decision making process will help facilitate the transformation of profit-seeking firms into effective vehicles for promoting sustainability in the firm.

ESG factors influence important corporate decisions like mergers and acquisitions and executive remuneration (Chris Brooks, Ioannis Oikonomou, 2018). The regulatory framework in a country has significant influence on the ESG disclosure level (Ruhaya Atan, Fatin Adilah Razali, and Jamaliah Said, Saunah Zainun, 2016). ESG profile of a company is strongly related to market, leadership, management, risk performance and value system of the company but there is need for more research on these aspects (Stuart L. Gillan, Andrew Koch, Laura T. Starks, 2021). ESG profile of a company is an important competitive factor for the modern companies (Marco Taliento, Christian Favino and Antonio Netti, 2019). Good ESG performance of a company has implications for the company in long run (Hemlata Chela & Indra Vardhan Trivedi, 2016).

In India various aspects of ESG have been incorporated in fragmented manner by the the Government. As first step in the year 2009, concept of 'Business Responsibility' was propagated and some core elements were suggested which may add value to businesses and promote sustainability of businesses. Subsequently, National Voluntary Guidelines on Social, Environmental and Economic Responsibilities of Business, 2011 were issued.

2.1 National Voluntary Guidelines on Social, Environmental and Economic Responsibilities of Business, 2011 (NVGs)

The Corporate Social Responsibility Voluntary Guidelines, 2009, were refined by MCA in the year 2011 as NVGs, by incorporating stakeholders' feedback and other developments in India and abroad to provide more comprehensive guidelines. Guidance on implementation of Principles and Core Elements and Indicators, which are matrices that enable businesses to monitor progress on the implementation of principles is provided. The indicators were identified as 'Essential' and 'Leadership'. Essential indicators are to be adopted by all businesses, while the Leadership indicators are to be adopted by businesses who aspire to achieve a higher level in social, environmental and ethical business conduct. The requirement of filing BRR was mandated by SEBI in 2012 for top 100 companies by market capitalisation and its was extended to top 500 companies in 2015-16 and was extended to top 1000 companies in 2019.

2.2 National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC)

National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC) were issued by the MCA in the year 2019. In India, Business Responsibility Reporting (BRR) has been updated and re-named as Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) in 2020 after taking into account the best practices in the non-financial reporting globally. NGRBCs have recommended 9 Principles and the Core elements and these are applicable to all types of businesses. BRSR formats comprehensively capture all 9 principles along with quantifiable matrices, which will allow comparison across companies, sectors and time periods. The ESG principles have been incorporated more comprehensively covering the value chain. It is expected that BRSR will bring more standardisation and allow better measurement and comparability and will be very useful for investors and other stakeholders. BRSR has attempted to benchmark the sustainability reporting framework prevalent in India with some of other international frameworks taking into consideration the local sustainability issues and challenges faced by the corporate in India.

2.3 Major ESG Frameworks

Name & Year	Geographic Scope	Framework	Audience	Focus Areas*	Information Reported
GRI (1997)	Global	GRI Standards	Stakeholders	E,S,G	• General Disclosures • Economic • Environment • Social
CDP (2000)	Global	CDP Questionnaire and Reporting Guidance	Investors, Buyers & Other stakeholders	E,G	• Climate change • Forest • Water Security • Supply Chain
UN PRI (2005)	Global	6 Principles	Institutional Investors	E,S,G	
UNGC (2000)	Global	10 Principles	Stakeholders	E,S,G	• Human rights • Labour • Environment • Anti-corruption
IIRC (2010)	Global	Integrated Reporting Framework	Investors	E,S,G	• Organisational Overview • Governance Structure • Business Model • Risks & Opportunities • Strategy • Performance • Outlook
ISO 26000 (2010)	Global	Guiding Principles	Stakeholders	E,S,G	• Governance • Human Rights • Environment • Labour Practices • Fair operating practices • Consumer issues • Community involvement & development
SASB (2012)	USA	Sustainability Accounting Standards	Investors	E,S,G	• Environment • Social Capital • Human Capital • Business model & Innovation • Leadership & Governance
TCFD (2017)	Global	Climate related financial disclosures	Investors, lenders, insurers	E,G	• Governance • Strategy • Risk management • Metrics & Targets

* E-Environmental, S-Social, G-Governance
Source: Compiled by the Author

3. Research Methodology

A systematic literature review (SLR) was found to be more appropriate as it is useful in the literature for summarizing large number of studies and explains the differences among them (Cook, Mulrow, & Haynes, 1997; Wolf, Shea, & Albanese, 2001). SLR documents information, viz. author, title, etc. and the specific information, such as methods, gaps, and opportunities for further research (Tranfield, Denyer, & Smart, 2003).

The broad objectives of undertaking systematic literature review are as under:

- Overview of the ESG Framework
- To discuss development of ESG Reporting, regulatory framework and its importance for businesses
- To gauge adoption of ESG by businesses in their operations and its reporting thereof in India
- To understand impact of ESG adoption on business sustainability

PRISMA Framework (Moher *et al.*, 2009) is followed for literature review, draw conclusion and identify future research gaps. The PRISMA Framework uses the following approach:

Source: Moher, D., Liberati, A., Tetzlaff, J., & Altman, D. G. (2009)

3.1 Data Sources and Results

The search was conducted using EBSCO and Elsevier's Science Direct databases that included research papers, review papers in English language only. The search focused papers published in the areas of business and economics, management, social sciences, environmental science. The papers and studies which had information about development of ESG Reporting, sustainability reporting, BRR reporting were selected based upon their suitability for the study.

Keywords

ESG Reporting, ESG Reporting AND India, Sustainability Reporting AND India, Business Responsibility Reporting.

Data Screening

The initial search phrases provided 443 publications. After applying inclusion and exclusion criteria 378 publications were found suitable for further study. The abstracts of these papers were then read to filter the articles focusing on ESG Reporting. This led to a final sample of 72 articles.

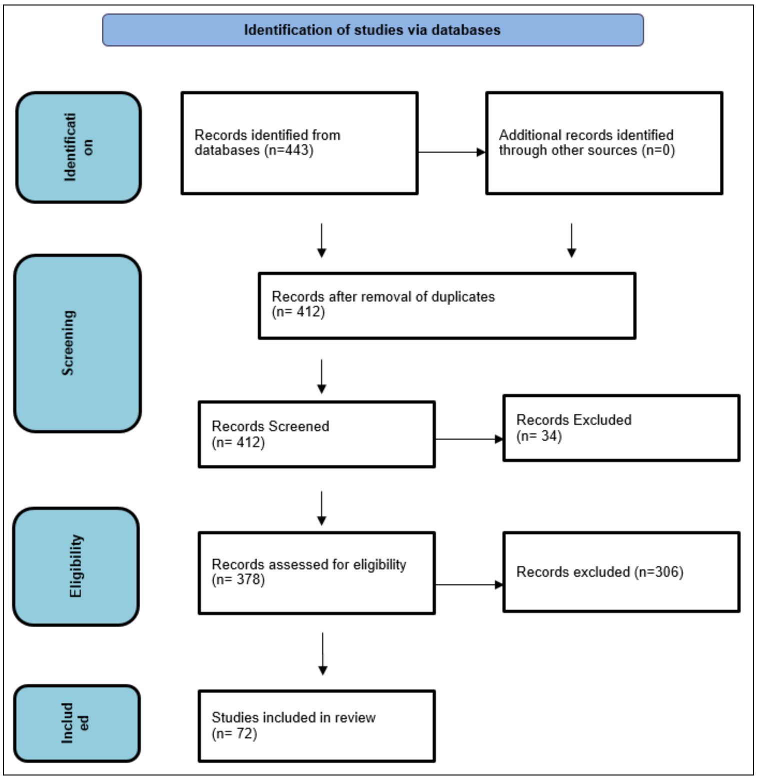
Inclusion Criteria

1. Papers published during 2000 and 2022
2. Papers in English only.
4. Papers published in Journals only.
5. Papers relating to ESG Reporting.

Exclusion Criteria

1. Papers relating to proceedings of Conferences, books, project reports, etc.
2. Duplicate records.
3. Papers without the abstract.
4. Papers not pertaining to ESG Reporting in general.

Figure 1: shows the literature included and excluded as per PRISMA Framework:



Source: Compiled by the Author

Fig 1: Systematic literature review procedure

Descriptive Analysis

3.1.1 Number of Publications Per Year

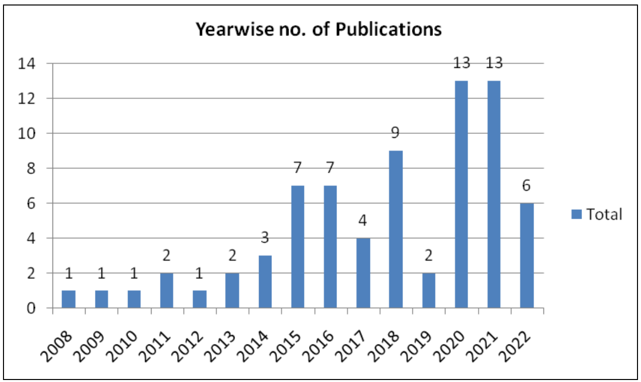


Fig 2

3.1.2 Country-wise Analysis of Articles

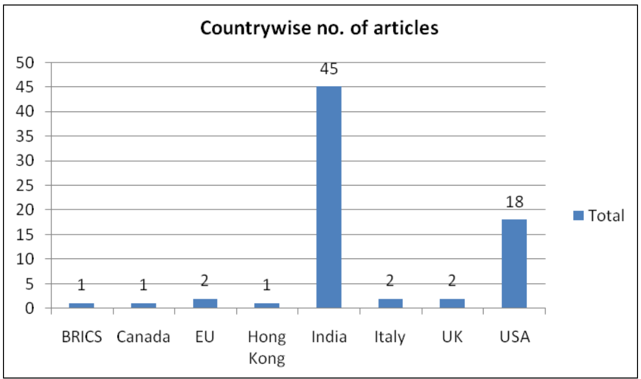


Fig 3

3.1.3 Method of Research

Figure 4 shows that qualitative research is done in 46 (64 per cent) studies and 26 (36 per cent) studies have conducted quantitative researches. This result represents that qualitative studies are conducted more.

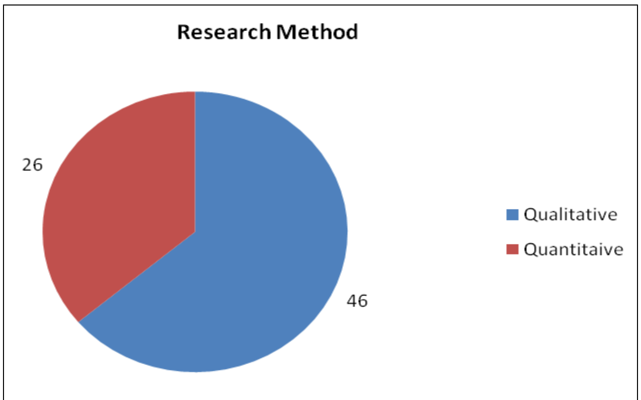


Fig 4

3.1.4 Techniques of Research

Figure 5 depicts that 62 articles used literature review followed by interviews in 5 cases, case study in 3 and questionnaire in 2 cases.

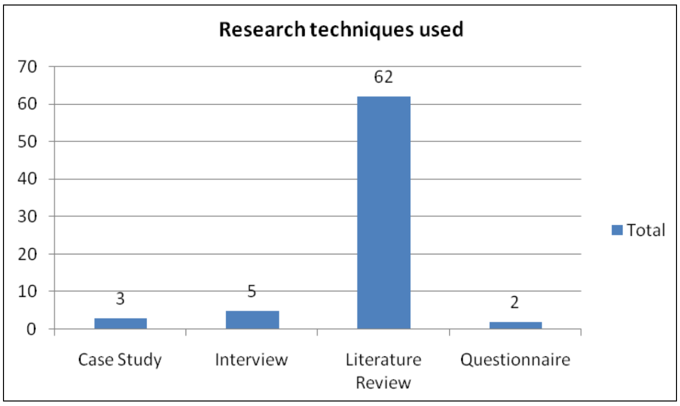


Fig 5

4. Findings

It is observed that in India sustainability reporting by companies in India is done through sustainability and integrated reports as part of annual financial statements, mostly based on GRI standards and IR framework. Also, economic performance was given maximum priority in all sustainability reports. Companies like Wipro, Infosys and Tech Mahindra are listed on DJSI, wherein companies from around the world are assessed. It is proven that companies which are there on the DJSI and follow good ESG practices perform well on the Indian stock market. It is because institutional and retail investors want to invest in the companies which perform well on the ESG parameters. Investors in India are showing greater interest in the companies which disclose more information on the ESG parameters and are sensitive towards the society and the environment. Sustainability climate in India has evolved with time, however, there is scope for improvement in communication and creativity in the way data is presented. Another interesting finding was that, though majority of companies focus on their commitments to environment, very few of them report their environmental impacts as per GRI.

NSE report on BRR Reporting in India has revealed that where law mandates disclosure on certain aspects such as employees, stakeholders and environment, the disclosures are profound whereas in other areas it is lacking in aspects like human rights and providing value to customers and consumers. The study also highlighted that companies in India disclose more on the policy aspects followed by governance in comparison to environmental and social aspects. A NSE report (2022) highlights that companies reporting on GRI framework in India disclose more information as compared to companies using other frameworks. They also pointed out that that statistically government companies and private companies reporting do not differ significantly.

In today's global business world, primary focus of a business is to increase profitability and maximize shareholder profits, and society is at crossroads to choose the right model of growth. The eminent question in this regard for humanity is to allow businesses to focus on growth through profitability only or having inclusive growth focussing on people, profit and planet (Elkington, 2004).

Jain & Winner (2016) examined the reports of companies in India to understand the extent to which Indian companies have been able to embrace the guidelines of sustainability reporting and disclose this information so that stakeholders have greater transparency and accountability. It was done using content analysis of the corporate websites since they were an important communication channel for these organizations. The results showed that 91 per cent companies provided an overview of sustainability initiatives and engagement followed by 60.5 per cent of them listing the CSR achievements. CSR reports were listed on 36 per cent of websites while only 21.5 per cent provided a sustainability report compliant with GRI. From coverage perspective, 72 per cent of them had environment stewardship as the dominant topic whereas 66.5 per cent were on company's engagement and commitment to education followed by 64 per cent focused on public health. The results also showed that bigger corporation were more transparent and open in their sustainability communication.

Bhatia & Tuli (2017) analysed content of Indian company's sustainability reports and identified significant corporate attributes affecting sustainability disclosure in India that could add value to existing literature on international sustainability disclosure practices. Major benefits of sustainability reporting are enhanced transparency, improved stakeholder relations, increased investor confidence and corporate reputation. Several studies for associating company attributes to sustainability reporting have been carried out based on which the authors analyzed this relationship across different attributes. They found that nature of industry, size, age and nationality have a significant positive relationship with sustainability reporting and disclosure. While profitability, growth, leverage, advertising intensity have a negative relation with sustainability disclosure, whereas board independence, board size and listing status do not have any relationship with them.

Kumar, Kishore; Kumari, Ranjita; Kumar, Rakesh (2021) analysed 57 environmentally sensitive companies listed on NIFTY500 from energy and mining sector. The observed that market capitalisation, firm size and standalone sustainability report are relate positively to disclosure of these companies. They have also recommended policymakers to introduce standalone sustainability reports based on GRI and to widen scope of BRR in India.

Laskar & Maji (2016) analysed content of the Indian company's sustainability and annual reports for the quality of the disclosures made. The authors found that quality of disclosure and firm performance was positively correlated. They find that most of these companies prepare reports based upon GRI, though not sufficient for covering all sectors and had a credibility gap because of greenwashing and cherry-picking of items. It was also observed there is a lack of understanding among the investors in analysing the quality of disclosures and using that for making investment decisions.

De Silva Lokuwaduge, Chitra S.; De Silva, Keshara M. (2016) have pointed out that non-financial reporting lacks several characteristics of financial reporting as later is more regulated and have to meet certain quality criteria. But the same is not the case with non-financial reporting as mostly it is unaudited which may lead to greenwashing and quality issues with the ESG data and disclosures.

Yogesh Chauhan and Surya B Kuamr (2018) did analysis of relationship between non-financial disclosures and the valuation of Indian firms and observed that there is a positive co-relation between the two. They also observed that these firms have lower cost of funds, higher operating profits and pay more cash dividends. Narjess Boubakri *et al* (2021) observed in their paper that India, Malaysia, South Africa and Mexico are the countries having highest level of CSR reporting. They have attributed this growth to the regulatory changes, market awareness and pressures from investors and consumers. Rashidah Abdul Rahman and Maha Faisal Alsayegh (2021) in their study have observed that socially visible organizations (economic performance, size, leverage and profitability) disclose more on ESG factors because of the pressures of the investors, regulators, media, etc. They also observed that firms convey about the sustainability practices to establish that their products are good for the society. Ellen Pei-yi Yu *et al* (2021) did extensive survey of 1963 companies belonging to 49 countries on their ESG disclosure practices. They observed that firm characteristics significantly affect the firm disclosure. They also pointed out that companies listed in other countries disclose more on ESG parameters than those listed in their home countries. Monika Singhania and Neha Saini (2022) examined the ESG reporting practices of the Reliance Industries Ltd. and observed that it has score low as compared to average performance of top 10 companies in India. They also observed that in emerging markets like India, the reporting on ESG factors is at sub-standard level as compared to developed markets.

Searcy and Elkhawas (2012) have mentioned that MSCI ESG Indices, FTSE4Good Index, and DJSI are some of the important ESG indices. Avetisyan and Hockerts (2017) have observed that SRAs provide ESG data based upon parameters such as management of the company, emissions and human rights. Searcy and Elkhawas (2012) have remarked that SRAs provide ESG ratings of firm performance based upon composite score taking into account individual ESG issues concerning a company. Jackson *et al*. (2019) have observed that rating agencies make evaluations based upon the ESG data viz. sustainability reports, data filed with regulators and information available on websites. Slager *et al*. (2012) have mentioned that investors use ESG ratings in several ways such as comparing the performance of company with other group of companies before making investments. Cappucci (2018) has remarked that ESG ratings have mixed opinions since on one hand they provide comprehensive and comparable data for the companies but on the other hand these are being criticized for the quality of ESG data on which the ESG ratings are based. Other authors have raised concerns about conceptualizing of the ESG factors by different SRAs and the weights assigned to them in arriving the ESG ratings. Such questions raise concerns about the way the SRAs evaluate a firm performance of ESG factors, because these ratings may significantly affect a firm's investment scenario and perception in the mind of investors. The report titled 'ESG Ratings and ESG Data Providers', published by IOSCO has drawn greater attention of Regulators towards the ESG rating providers in their jurisdictions.

Nagal *et al*. (2017) analyzed various classification systems for ratings, accounting and reporting for sustainability. They first compared the development and institutionalization of current systems and found a significant difference in the classification done based on financials and sustainability. This difference existed along multiple dimensions e.g. content of classification (creditworthiness & financial performance vs. sustainability performance), field structure (oligopoly & standardized vs. heterogeneous), market signal (unequivocal & unidirectional vs. diverse & multidirectional) etc. They categorized the existing field of accounting and reporting into three different instruments viz. sustainability reporting (published in addition to the financial reports), integrated reporting (incorporating non-financial information in financial statements and eliminate segregated disclosure), sustainability accounting (integrating quantitative non-financial information like KPIs into companies' financial statements). The authors compared the KPIs for ESG 3.0, KPI Standard (accounting framework promoting the standardization of integrating nonfinancial information into corporate reports), and G4 Guidelines (aim to create sustainability equivalent of the GAAP for financial reporting) on various parameters. The authors concluded that there is lack of a single best practice that might be one of the reasons for the lack of credibility and trust with the standards and the sustainability reporting done by various organizations adhering to various standards.

Several Trends that are Visible in the Realm of ESG Reporting are mentioned below:

1. There is a move from multiplicity of ESG reporting frameworks to consolidation in the reporting.
2. Integrated reporting may be new norm in the future.
3. Reporting mandatorily on ESG parameters for enhancing comparability and reliability of information furnished across companies.
4. Focus on sectoral reporting rather than a common reporting for all sectors since what is relevant for one sector may not be relevant for others. ESG matrices that are relevant for one industry may not be relevant for other industry.
5. Need to align organisational policies to the environmental policies for long term sustainability of businesses.

It is evident from literature that there has been greater focus and emphasis on ESG reporting worldwide in the past decade. But, the framework on ESG Reporting is in the evolution phase and various Government and non-government bodies are working in the direction to evolve universally acceptable ESG framework that may be adopted across companies in different countries for easier comparison between the companies on adoption of ESG principles. Global developments in the ESG domain suggest that world is moving towards a Global Sustainability Standard.

5. Conclusion and Research Implications

The landscape for ESG research is vast considering diversity in businesses, ecological factors all having implications for company dealings with customers, employees, vendors and other stakeholders. Global changes in awareness about sustainability have percolated across societies all over the world, and hence awareness in the Indian business and political community also started getting influenced by this concept in last decade. This enhanced awareness resulted in changes in the Companies Act, 2013, effective from April 1, 2014 to make CSR activities mandatory for certain class of Indian businesses. Review of annual business and sustainability reports of organizations from different sectors in India reveals that there is still no standardized method of reporting sustainability related activities. Added to it is the variation in focus upon various areas of sustainability and reporting methods adding to the confusion among the stakeholders.

It is also evident that Indian business context is very different in approach and awareness on sustainability paradigms in business context. The emerging ESG scenario presents a new challenge for companies in India since the regulatory framework provides similar reporting parameters irrespective of the size of business and sector. There is a 'one-size fits all' approach being adopted for sustainability reporting in India. The findings have implications for the Indian corporate and policy makers. Corporate are putting more emphasis on improving transparency by disclosing more ESG information regarding business operations. The regulators need to play a more proactive role to facilitate the corporate in ESG reporting.

Research Gaps & Direction for Future Research

A lot of work has been done in India to understand the sustainability and relevant approaches taken by organizations where most of the focus is to establish the relationship with either the firm performance or the disclosure or reporting practices. There is a dearth of research on the current situation of Indian organizations with respect to the full gamut of sustainability dimensions and their applicability to Indian corporate sector. We can say that sustainability is still a fuzzy concept in India with not much clarity on the areas it should address. Hence, there exists a comprehensive gap to define the same in the Indian context.

a) Expertise is lacking with companies as to how to prepare comprehensive sustainability report meeting the expectations of the Regulators and other stakeholders. This may be taken up for further research.
b) There is a need to identify ESG factors relevant to a company, industry and the country.
c) To suggest framework for preparing uniform sustainability reports to curb greenwashing.
d) To undertake research upon the efficacy and adequacy of the ESG reporting.
e) To study role of external factors such as media, investors and regulators in motivating the companies to disclose more on ESG factors.
f) To study interrelationship between the ESG reporting and growth of Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) or ethical investing.
g) To study social and environmental attitudes of the investors towards different companies based upon the ESG information these companies disclose.
h) To assess the extent to which BRR framework captures ESG parameters and its standing in terms of global practices pertaining to ESG disclosures.

6. Limitations and Contribution

The paper explores the practices and legislative approach on ESG in India. Keeping in view the fact that the scope of the topic under study is so wide that it touches the global reporting scenario, the scholar is restrained to limit the study to certain important areas viz., ESG reporting in India, practices, the issues, regulatory approach. This study has academic as well as practical importance for the Government, Regulators, Corporate and the Society at large.

Declaration of Conflicting Interests

The Author(s) declare(s) that there is no conflict of interest.

Funding

The author(s) received no financial support for the research, authorship and/or publication of this article.

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