

Abstract of Doctoral Dissertation

Business Responsibility Reporting Practices in India¹

ALOK KUMAR*

I. Introduction

THE PACE AND pattern of sustainability is crucial in the development of every economy, with the increasing significance of non-financial aspects, companies are now considering various ESG and sustainability performance parameters as a part of their decision-making. The role of Indian corporate sector has always been instrumental in this regard. It therefore becomes interesting to study companies' sustainability and ESG parameters, as companies are showing keen interest in disclosing more and more non-financial information to their stakeholders to display their spirit of responsibility. Globally, there is an increased realization and acceptability that superior reporting is necessary to create a business environment of transparency, trust and accountability to support sustainable economic growth. Traditionally, the reporting practices of Indian companies have been sluggish as compared to their western counterparts due to the lack of demand from investors, regulators and other stakeholders. Narrative study of annual reports has been of interest to accounting and finance literature. With the emergence of corporate governance and disclosure norms across the world, such as the International Integrated Reporting and (National Voluntary Guidelines on Social, Environmental, and Economic) NVG SEE in India, it has become important to study not just what is being communicated but how it is being communicated as well. In other words, apart from the content of the communication, the form of communication is also of interest. This is all the more relevant for listed entities which, in view of the fact that they have accessed resources from the public, have an aspects of public interest involved, and are obligated to compose exhaustive responsible reporting on a regular basis. As these compounds have accersed funds from the public causing an aspects of public interest involved as these companies have accursed fund from the public causing an aspects of public interest involved.

1 The Thesis was submitted to Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh in July 2019, for the award of Ph.D. Degree awarded in 2019, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Twinkle Prusty, Professor, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh 221005, INDIA.

* Assistant Professor, Central University of South Bihar, Department of Commerce & Bussiness Studies, School of Management, Gaya, Bihar 824236, INDIA.

Submitted July 2019; Accepted February 2020