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FAME

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES ON FINANCE, ACCOUNTING, MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS



Shri Shikshayatan College Department of Commerce

(Under Graduate & Post Graduate Evening Section)

EDITOR : Dr. (CA) Indrani Saha, **ASSOCIATE EDITOR :** Smt. Kavitha Sundararajan

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INTEGRATION OF ESG CRITERIA IN INDIAN BUSINESS SCENARIO

- A Theoretical Overview

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Abstract

ESG or Environment, Social and Governance represent the three essential criteria for evaluating the financial performance of a socially responsible, ethical business and an important indicator of business sustainability. ESG is a buzz word for investors nowadays. It is considered as a 'holistic' investment analysis technique as it uses traditional measures of financial performance that synergize with ESG criteria to help make decisions about investments. It is considered as an extension of Socially Responsible Investing (SRI). With rising global investment in ESG based funds, attempts are being made to bring the ESG criteria to mainstream investments, even in India. Also, there has been a sustained rise in socially responsible business practices in India in different areas, such as increased ESG related disclosures and adoption of Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards voluntarily by many listed companies, mandatory Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure as required by law, introduction of ESG funds by asset-management companies etc. This study attempts to explore three different spheres where there has been a proliferation of ESG in India's current business set-up- indices, funds and financial reporting.

Keywords- ESG, Corporate Sustainability, Corporate Social Responsibility