

# Sustainability Reporting with Regard to Environmental Performance by Top Indian Textile Companies



Deepa Chandran, Udayashankara TH

**Abstract**— A sustainability report is an organizational report that informs about economic, social, and environmental performance caused by its business activities. The purpose of this paper is to determine the level of sustainability reporting of environmental performances across the top textile companies in India. The content analysis method was used to describe the sustainability reporting method. It was found that, 20% of them are reporting as per global reporting initiative (GRI) guidelines and 50% as per the business responsibility format mandated by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. It may be concluded that 70% of the industries are adhering to the business responsibility report. It may be hence concluded that the policy makers may need to 1. Upgrade the business responsibility reporting with a few definite quantitative measures 2. Make third party audits mandatory for business responsibility reporting.

**Keywords:** Sustainability, Corporate Social Responsibility, Textile Industry, Business Responsibility Report, Environmental Performance, Sustainability Report.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Sustainability in the textile industry is a consumer facing agenda. While the word sustainability has been in the industry for many years, it is gaining momentum and reaching new heights of awareness and discretions in recent times. This can be attributed to the increase in consumer awareness. The consumers are objectively and environmentally cognizant and expect manufacturers to take responsibility of the environmental issues (Carbone et al, 2007). Despite the elevated level of mindfulness of environmental issues, factors, such as price, quality, and style, have a vaster influence on the consumers' apparel purchase behavior than their concerns about the suppliers' ethical and environment-friendly practices (Wanow et al, 2005). Hence, textile organizations would have to be sustainable with not much of support from the consumers.

The principles of sustainability are currently being

amalgamated into business strategies with different drivers and objectives that could involve energy consumption, green products and packaging, setting environmental targets, setting targets for products, etc (Dangelico and Pujari, 2010). The need to conform to regulations is one of the principal drivers that generate impulse in companies and industries to adopt environmentally responsive initiatives and to go green (Dangelico and Pujari, 2010). This means that while consumers may not value sustainable products with a price tag, organizations would need to adhere to regulations.

A sustainability report is an organizational report that gives information about its economic, social, and environmental performance caused by its business activities. The sustainability reporting aids a company to communicate and publicize its broad impacts and performance in sustainability to diverse stakeholders, both within and outside the company (Pia, 2016).

This reporting is about enabling organizations to consider the impacts on a wide range of sustainability issues, enabling them to be more transparent about the risks and opportunities faced by them. The sustainability report of an organization presents its vision, values, and model of governance, and articulates the commitment to a sustainable economy globally. Sustainability reporting enables organizations to recognize and manage risks, identify opportunities, and improve performance (Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) reporting 2025, First analysis paper, 2015).

Building and maintaining trust in businesses and governments is very important in making a sustainable economy and world. Organizations spontaneously adopt different norms and standard setting bodies, such as International Organization for Standardizations, International Standards for Social Responsibility (ISO 26000), GRI's sustainability reporting standards), United Nations Global Compact's (UNGC) communication on progress, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) guidelines for multinational enterprises, to name a few. UNGC is a United Nations (UN) initiative founded in early 2000 to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies and report their implementation. In 2010, UNGC and GRI signed an agreement to align their work in advancing corporate responsibility and transparency. Organizations, such as International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC), GRI, and Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB), direct toward an all-inclusive functioning.

Manuscript published on November 30, 2019.

\* Correspondence Author

**Deepa Chandran\***, Research Scholar, Department of Environment Engineering, Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering, Mysuru, Karnataka, India (Email: [deepacee.dc@gmail.com](mailto:deepacee.dc@gmail.com))

**Dr. Udayashankara TH**, Environmental Engineering Department, Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering, Mysuru, Karnataka, India

© The Authors. Published by Blue Eyes Intelligence Engineering and Sciences Publication (BEIESP). This is an [open access](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/) article under the CC-BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>)

# Sustainability Reporting with Regard to Environmental Performance by Top Indian Textile Companies

They provide guidance in reporting Environment Sustainability Guidelines (ESG) and emphasize on identifying material topics to help industries disclose matters important to stakeholders and investors and for the benefit of the company itself (Khan, 2015).

As per the GRI framework, an issue is considered material, when it affects the ability of the company to remain profitable and socially relevant to communities in which it operates. The material issues are those topics, which are of prime significance to an organization's key stakeholders, their business continuity, and their sustainability performance.

Prior to the sustainability reporting, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was reported by various organizations worldwide. Fundamentally, CSR is the notion that suggests social imperatives and the social consequence of business success. Organizations resolve to go beyond the minimum legal prerequisites and obligations emerging from collective agreements to address societal needs (Commission of the European Communities, 2006). CSR empirically consists of well-defined and well-publicized policies and practices of corporations that mirror business responsibility for some of the wider societal good (Matten and Moon, 2008).

Some of the popular CSR reporting frameworks are Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), Ethical Corporation, etc. There are several consulting and accounting firms (Deloitte, Ernst and Young, KPMG, PricewaterhouseCoopers) that offered services related to CSR (Tschopp et al, 2014). CSR constitutes of four modules, namely, businesses being profitable (economic responsibility), abiding the law (legal responsibility), being ethical (social responsibility), and being a good corporate citizen (philanthropic responsibility) (Lee and Carroll, 2011). Each of these four modules has been more important than the other modules at various periods (Lee and Carroll, 2011). These modules have therefore gathered eminence and attention and have changed from time to time. Being profitable was of great importance in the mid-1980s and being a good corporate citizen from the early 1990s to the late 1990s. Legal dimension gained status in the late 1990s, followed by ethical responsibility in the early 2000s.

Early CSR reporting for Indian companies was only for large-scale companies. It is a part of the annual report in the "company's policies and status of development". Among the other principles in this section is the CSR initiative reporting, where it is mandatory for companies to declare the vision and core area of CSR. The companies are also mandated to spend 2% of the average net profits for the last three financial years and report details of CSR activities carried out. Until this stage, the companies were reporting only the social initiatives, because CSR was largely understood as social improvement activities. CSR in India, has manifested into long-term implicit CSR through corporate paternalism, reflecting both colonial and indigenous business-society traditions (Arora et al, 2004). The CSR trend in India was more philanthropic a decade ago and the transition from the philanthropic mindset to CSR has been lagging behind its impressive financial growth (Matten and Moon, 2008).

As a progressive step, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MOC), Government of India (GOI), had revised the national voluntary guidelines on social, environmental, and economic

responsibilities of business in 2011 and formulated the National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC). This is named as the Business Responsibility Report (BRR). These guidelines are to be used by all businesses, irrespective of the size, sector, or location including multinational companies (MNC) and reported along with the annual financial reporting of all companies. Businesses are also encouraged to move beyond the recommended minimum provisions articulated in the national voluntary guidelines. Businesses that are preparing the sustainability report in a nationally or internationally recognized framework are allowed to furnish the same report with a mapping of principles to these guidelines (Government of India, 2011. National Voluntary Guidelines).

## II. METHODS AND MATERIALS

The scope of this study was to analyze:

1. The Method of Sustainability Reporting in the top organizations of the textile sector in India
2. The Environmental Sustainability Focus Areas
3. The Measures and Metrics of Sustainability
4. The Standards followed

A random survey study of the Indian textile industries indicated that companies with higher turnover were reporting sustainability as compared to the ones with lower turnover. The availability of information regarding sustainability was detailed with metrics in the larger companies as compared to the smaller ones. Hence, this study addressed the top textile companies in India. The list of textile industries was taken from Dun and Bradstreet India's publication of "India's Top 500 companies 2018". The list had 22 textile companies ranked in the decreasing order of total income for the year 2018. From this list, 10 companies were randomly selected for the study. These selected companies were studied to understand their sustainability reporting. The data and information was collected from the website of companies and information available in the public domain was extracted. The annual financial reports of the companies, annual sustainability reports, corporate social responsibility reports, and information regarding environment sustainability in the company websites were studied. The period of data collection was from July 2018 to September 2018. The findings from each of the companies are summarized below.

### *Vardhman Industries Limited*

"Vardhman Environmental Sustainability Directions" is a road map document for the group's sustainability vision. The Vardhman Group's sustainability measures are included and assimilated into its business functions and operations from the year 2000. Employing inventive and novel mindset to every step of manufacturing process, building green practices in daily processes, and minimizing waste in every form are the steps taken by the Vardhman Group to minimize the negative impact on the environment. The prevention and control of water wastage and air, noise, and land pollution have been the foremost emphasis of the company.

The company aims to make a change for building an enhanced environment through initiatives around water, renewable energy, and minimization of waste.

The company follows the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines to save water by having a designated water efficiency coordinator, rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharging, wastewater treatment and reuse, and zero liquid discharge. The effluent treatment plant (ETP) treated water is reused in the processing and 100% reuse of sewage treatment plant (STP) water is achieved.

The energy conservation initiatives are optimized usage, usage of better equipment, and usage of renewable energy resources. Solar energy has been used for non-operational purposes in the group (Vardhman group of companies, company website).

Vardhman has more than 10% of its raw material coming in from sustainable sources. The company is a part of programs like organic cotton certified by Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), Use Fair Trade Cotton, Cotton Made in Africa, Cotton Lead (USA cotton), raw material from the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI) and recycled cotton. It is also associated with organic yarn certification, Organic Content Standard (OCS), and Global Recycle Standard (GRS).

The waste management initiatives include solid waste management and are aided by biogas generation and composting of organic waste. Hazardous waste is disposed as per the regulations of Central Pollution Control Board, (CPCB) India and steps are taken to reduce the generation of the same.

Vardhman group has initiatives around water, energy, raw materials, and waste management reported among other initiatives to conserve the environment. Vardhman group reports its sustainability performance in the business responsibility reporting guidelines as mandated by the GOI (Vardhman group of companies, Business responsibility report, 2017-18).

#### *Arvind Limited*

Arvind Limited has its sustainability report published separately and this is as per the GRI G4 (Global Reporting Initiative, 4<sup>th</sup> generation of guidelines) sustainability reporting guidelines. The sustainability philosophy of the group is “Fundamentally Right”, translated into practice in their day-to-day decisions across six key inputs – cotton, people, money, energy, water, and chemicals.

Arvind Limited is a member of the sustainable apparel coalition (SAC) and has been reporting carbon disclosure project (CDP). It has collaborated with BCI, member of the Water Resource Group (WRG) and member of the Carbon pricing leadership coalition (initiated by World Bank). The company has established an India textile working group for greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reporting and reduction.

The company has identified key stakeholders’ groups based on various parameters that influence the sustainability of the business and has diverse engagement and communications with them periodically. Arvind Limited has a detailed materiality map for the current year and the same is being reviewed and edited annually. Based on factors, such as risks, returns, and relevance, the materiality matrix is distilled

to arrive at six key material issues, which are cotton, water, chemicals, people, energy, and money, and other allied issues of communication and engagement.

One of the initiatives that the company has taken forward is broadening the farmers’ perspective by educating them to understand the importance of adopting sustainable practices and producing cotton free from contamination.

Among the identified ones, the regulatory and legal challenges, water use and management, communication and engagement, energy management, policies, standards and code of conduct, long-term viability of the core business, and customer satisfaction are the top priority material issues that affect the business. The company invests in safeguarding the soil’s sustainability and securing the farmers’ interests such that raw material is continually supplied, which is termed as responsible sourcing.

Arvind Limited’s report is in the GRI G4 reporting format and hence includes extensive reporting of metrics around water, waste, energy, emissions, and various other initiatives (Arvind Limited, Sustainability Report, 2016).

#### *Raymond Limited*

Raymond Limited has the business responsibility report that is reported alongside the company’s annual report. The company is committed to environmental aspects and monitors the efficient use of water, energy, chemicals, and waste reduction. All manufacturing plants are ISO 14001 for environmental management systems and ISO 50001 for energy management and are certified by Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (OHSAS).

The reduction in the consumption of energy throughout the value chain across sourcing, production, and distribution has been achieved. Adequate optimization steps are taken to ensure that transport emissions are minimal. Solar energy has been adopted in line with the national clean development mechanism and the usage of energy-efficient equipment has been implemented. For cleaner technology, the company has installed reverse osmosis (RO) and multiple effect evaporator (MEE) systems for water purification and electrostatic precipitators (ESP) for air purification. Various initiatives, such as waste heat recovery, variable frequency drives on machineries, changeover to light emitting diode (LED) lighting across the facility, have been adopted for energy efficiency.

The commitment to reduction of waste, conservation of raw materials, and pursuing zero pollution are achieved through various initiatives, technological upgradation, and improvement projects. Waste minimization and recycling of waste are built in the processing, where water and grease from wool and other products are recycled efficiently. The amount of waste recycled is 5-10%.

Sustainable sourcing is one of the key drivers for the success of business. The main raw materials, which are wool, polyester, and viscose, are sourced from reputed companies that monitor ethical production of the same with quality and consistency. The procurement of local goods and services is encouraged.



## Sustainability Reporting with Regard to Environmental Performance by Top Indian Textile Companies

Environmental concerns are incorporated in the product designs and waterless technology is used in the manufacturing of products. The aspects of waste recycling, 100% wastewater treatment through RO technology, and utilization of machineries to generate heat from waste heat are incorporated to conserve natural resources.

The company submits reports on various dimensions of sustainability, such as water, waste, energy, and raw materials (Raymond Limited, Annual Report, 2017-18).

### *Grasim Industries Limited*

The annual report of Grasim Industries Limited contains information on sustainability and business performance report. The group defines sustainable business as one that can continue to survive and thrive within the growing needs and tightening constraints of a sustainable world. Rather than merely complying to current legal standards, the group tries to conform to international standards under a program called "responsible stewardship". The environment management program is developed with a three-pronged approach of environment protection, resource conservation, and social development. All manufacturing plants are certified for environmental management system (ISO 14001) and occupational health and safety (OHSAS 18001). Safety, resource management, ambient air quality, and water conservation are the important areas of focus for the group.

The business has been successful in reducing water consumption by improving process efficiencies and in-house innovations and replicating the best practices across units. This has led to a decrease of water requirement by 44% from the baseline. The company has consistently reduced water consumption over the years and it recycles water and waste to the tune of 10%.

In the procurement of wood, which is a raw material in the production of viscose staple fiber, 60% of the wood is certified by Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and 0% wood is sourced from endangered forests (Grasim Industries Limited, company website).

The company has built up highly integrated horizontal and vertical set-ups and the sourcing is from ethical partners, thereby ensuring sustainable raw material sourcing. The company prioritizes sourcing from local vendors and encourages them to set up ancillary units around the plant. The company has guidelines on developing products to respond to the challenge of climate change.

The usage of renewable sources of energy is to the tune of 80-90% of the requirements in the manufacturing set-up of pulp units. The aspects of clean technology for manufacturing, use of renewable energy, and energy efficiency across plants are implemented. In order to reduce energy consumption, redesign of processes and installation of energy-efficient equipment are in place.

The company has a structured risk management approach, which encompasses identifying potential risks, assessing their impacts, and mitigating the same.

All types of waste, including water are recycled based on the company's 3R principle (Reduce, Recycle, and Reuse). The company has strategic initiatives to address global environment issues, such as climate change and global warming, by going in for various certifications for their products and processes.

Grasim reports on various sustainability leads with details. Critical parameters, namely, water, waste, energy, raw material, and risk assessment, are addressed by the company (Grasim Industries Limited, Annual Report, 2017-18).

### *Fab India Overseas Private Limited*

The company has a committee that conducts CSR activities in line with the mission stated in their CSR policy and in the schedule VII of the Companies' Act, 2013. The CSR activities are annually reviewed by the board members.

Fab India is a platform for products made from traditional techniques, skills, and hand-based processes, linking over 55000 craft-based rural producers to the modern urban markets, thereby creating a base for skilled and sustainable rural employment. The company is built on the model to preserve India's traditional handicraft process. The products are natural and hence environment friendly.

The company's policy for conservation of environment include steps to ensure environmental sustainability, ecological balance, conservation of natural resources, protection of flora and fauna, and sustenance of air, water, and soil quality. The company invests in rural education with a focus on environmental education. The company partners and contributes funds to organizations that work on environment related issues, renewable energy, environment impact assessment, sustainable industrialization, rainwater harvesting, water issues, air pollution, and climate change. All these measures are considered as the company's efforts toward building a sustainable business (Fab India Overseas Private Limited, CSR policy, 2017).

### *Jagatjit Cotton and Textile Mills Limited (JCT)*

The company has appointed a CSR committee and reports the CSR progress and policy in its annual report. The company has a CSR policy that is annually approved by the board. The CSR committee decides the CSR activities to be taken up by the company in accordance with the policy, and oversees and monitors the progress of initiatives, which are largely around social issues (Jagatjit Cotton and Textile, Annual Report, 2017-18).

The company primarily focuses on good health and safety practices with all measures to avoid any accidents and occupational hazards. The company is keen on conservation of resources. The manufacturing operations are conducted to ensure sensitivity toward the environment and minimize waste by encouraging green initiative practices. Efficient management of resources and use of renewable energy is encouraged. The employees are trained to fully understand the company policies and comply with all requirements (Jagatjit Cotton and Textile, company website).

### *Lakshmi Mills Works (LMW)*

The company reports the CSR progress in its annual report. At LMW, the belief is that while growth is vital, green is imperative; and hence, the company has transformed their gray area into a green operation. The growing urgency to save the world for a better and brighter tomorrow has resulted in an interesting mindset alteration in the company namely,

“while strategy is paramount, sustainability is intrinsic; results are crucial but responsibility is cardinal”.

The company has primarily adopted green initiatives by reducing the generation of dust and noise across their businesses. The company has invested in improved equipment and has initiated process improvements that optimize the consumption of utilities.

The water conservation efforts have been methodically strengthened. The 100% zero liquid discharge (ZLD) is followed as per the regulation and e-waste is handled as per the norms.

The company believes that green operations are timesaving and people-friendly and hence, the company's operations were aligned to the flow technique to save idle time and reduce labor fatigue. Green operations are less polluting and are surrounded by nature and hence, the green belt around the manufacturing premises was enhanced, moving up the barometer of green operations. The company has a directive to strive and attain the greenest ranking in their business space that is generally considered as not being environment friendly.

The sourcing of input raw materials has been evolved to enable recycling. The manufacturing processes have been improved to consume less energy and resources, and enable sustainable packing and transportation efficiencies. The sourcing from local and small producers is preferred and the suppliers are trained to understand various systems and quality tools. LMW reports with a deep sense of responsibility, which is evident in the vision statements for sustainability (Lakshmi Machine Works Limited, Annual Report 2016-17).

#### *Rupa and Company*

The BRR reporting is a part of the annual report of the company. It has formulated a CSR committee and has a CSR policy. Rupa and Company is committed to the society, ecology, and environment. Caring for the society, country, and the planet is neither philanthropy nor generosity, but a way of doing sustainable business at Rupa. The corporate company believes that by following the CSR policy, it is not generous but relevant and meaningful to the society to which it belongs. The vision is to improve lives in pursuit of collective development and environmental sustainability, pursue initiatives directed toward enhancing welfare measures of the society based on long-term social and environmental consequences. The aim is not only to guide the company and its people to indulge in social activities, but also to integrate business processes with social processes and orient to larger social issues. The company also ensures that its business goals are pursued without compromising any of the elements of sustainability throughout the lifecycle of goods, right from design to delivery.

The company strives to safeguard the environment by advocating and encouraging stakeholders and employees to utilize resources efficiently and minimize hazards. The company reports that about 5-10% of the waste generated is recycled. The company gives job work and encourages local and small vendors in the area of its operations. The company has invested in solar energy for use in its own manufacturing units.

Carrying out business as a socially responsible corporate

citizen in accordance with the principles of sustainability, balance, and equity is one of the important parameters for the company and is hence open to receive thoughtful suggestions for sustainable business practices from stakeholders or any member of the public. The company encourages employees to contribute toward CSR activities and its progress is reported annually by the CSR committee and monitored by the board.

Rupa and Company has a vision statement for sustainability articulated in detail and it encourages communication as one of the most effective tools for sustainability (Rupa and Company Limited, Annual Report, 2017-18).

#### *Atul Limited*

The business responsibility report is as per the new guidelines set by the MOC, GOI. The belief at Atul is that true sustainability calls for a multi-dimensional and multi-focused approach and the company has the opportunity and obligation to create value for stakeholders along with safeguarding the planet and benefiting the society. The company addresses environmental sustainability through inputs, such as energy and water, and outputs, such as emissions, effluents, and wastes including biodiversity, transport, product, and services.

The company has developed products that are environment friendly and the products are listed in the report. The company continuously improves the environmental performance for its existing products and undertakes thorough investigation of new products to meet the CPCB norms. The preference to small and local vendors is a priority and managers in the company are encouraged to source locally.

The company has an in-house facility to recycle waste and is continuously minimizing the waste generated. More than 10% of the waste is recycled.

Energy monitoring equipment is installed and the changeover to LED lighting has taken place to save energy. Wind energy is harnessed through turbines and used in the manufacturing units. Waste, effluents, and emissions are reprocessed to recover products.

They have zero liquid discharge in their manufacturing plants and they constantly research to find better ways of treating pollutants. Improvement in technology has resulted in decreased consumption of water, electricity, and natural gases, and recovery of useful products from waste.

The product responsibility includes product and service labeling, compliances, customer health and safety, and customer privacy (Atul Limited, Business Responsibility Report, 2017-18).

#### *Sulej Textiles Limited*

The company is driven toward building a sustainable business through environment-friendly operations and reducing carbon footprint through investment in green technologies and sustainable practices. The approach is to increase the efficiency continuously to achieve optimum utilization of resources and technology.

# Sustainability Reporting with Regard to Environmental Performance by Top Indian Textile Companies

Wastewater recycling and rainwater harvesting are incorporated in manufacturing plants. Technologies in the wastewater treatment facility are enhanced with RO to achieve ZLD. The company has invested in eco-friendly ways of conserving water and energy through technological advancements, machinery modifications, energy audits, and timely maintenance across the business.

Usage of sustainable raw materials, such as organic cotton and eco-friendly dyes and pigments, are in practice for all clients. Rooftop solar panels are installed to create their own source of energy. Metrics related to water savings, energy savings, renewable power generated, and sustainable raw materials used are reported (Sutlej Textiles Limited, Annual Report 2017-18).

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Top textile companies in India were studied for the method of sustainability reporting. The results for method of reporting are given in Graph i.



**Graph i: Breakdown percentage of the method of sustainability reporting across textile companies**

It was observed that 50% of the companies reported as per the BRR guidelines by MOC, GOI. 10% of the companies reported as per the GRI guidelines, while 20% of the companies merged CSR reporting with annual financial reports, as per the older guidelines in India. 20% of the companies that did not report in either format, but had the sustainability initiatives listed in the company websites. Table i details the companies' names and the methods followed for reporting sustainability.

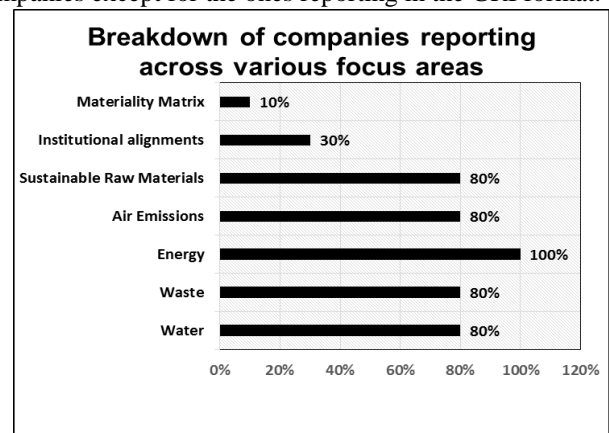
Sl.No.	Company Name	Method of Reporting
1	Vardhaman Industries Limited	Business Responsibility Report
2	Arvind Limited	Global Reporting Initiative Report
3	Raymond Limited	Business Responsibility Report
4	Grasim Industries Limited	Business Responsibility Report
5	Fab India Overseas Limited	Initiatives listed
6	Jagatjit Cotton & Textile Mills Limited	Annual finance report with CSR
7	Lakshmi Mills Works	Annual finance report with CSR

8	Rupa & Company	Business Responsibility Report
9	Atul Limited	Business Responsibility Report
10	Sutlej Textiles Limited	Initiatives listed

**Table i: Company-wise method of reporting sustainability**

Companies reporting in the BRR format answer questions under environmental sustainability as initiatives with no metrics. The BRR reporting touches upon various critical parameters, such as water, waste, energy, emissions, etc., to be monitored for sustainability.

Regarding qualitative analysis, the companies that followed GRI guidelines were found to report metrics related to water, waste, emissions, energy, and various initiatives in detail. Graph ii shows the breakdown of the focus areas and the percentage of companies reporting them. The reporting of metrics for any of the focus areas was minimal by all companies except for the ones reporting in the GRI format.



**Graph ii: Breakdown of the companies reporting across various focus areas**

Energy was discussed and reported by all companies in this study. This could be attributed to the fact that energy costs were increasing and formed a significant part of the operating expenses (Jose, 2018).

Water, waste, air emissions, and raw materials were reported by 80% of the companies with minimal metrics, which can be ruled out as insignificant information when compared to the ones reported as per GRI. Institutional alignments, would help learning, but this parameter was reported by only 30% of the companies studied (Khan, 2015).

The environmental sustainability reporting in the textile industry was found to be at the novice stage with a scope for tremendous progress (Neeraj, 2014). The same was noted in this present study as well. The CSR trend, is more of a philanthropic mindset in India. This study found that it continues in the same way with marginal shift toward environmental sustainability (Matten and Moon, 2008).

### IV. CONCLUSIONS

Out of the companies reviewed for sustainability reporting, 20% reported in the GRI format.



The GRI reporting is a robust and exhaustive format, where reporting companies measure all parameters affecting environmental sustainability, and record and report the same. The famous management thinker Peter Drucker had said, "What gets measured, gets managed". While the GRI also does not have any standards to which reporting companies have to adhere to, it is an encompassing framework to measure all critical influencing parameters of sustainability, such as water, waste, emissions, energy, raw materials, and policies.

A majority (50%) of the companies studied reported as per the business responsibility reporting guideline formulated and mandated by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. The shortcoming of this guideline is that it is a qualitative reporting with no quantitative measures. For example, there are many companies, which as we have seen above, are reporting use of renewable energy or recycled water. If the percentage of renewable usage or recycled water is a meager paltry percentage, it is definitely quite an insignificant improvement.

Some companies report in the corporate governance format embedded in annual reports. The adoption of the BRR has still not taken place. This goes to say that while the 2012 guidelines were passed, the governance for adherence to the same is weak. 40% of the companies need to move from reporting in the CSR method or not reporting at all.

It can be concluded that the BRR reporting needs to be upgraded with a few quantitative measures and the companies operating within India need to adhere to the BRR guidelines and report annually. It can also be concluded that CSR and BRR are currently perceived as voluntary guidelines and not as mandatory guidelines for business operations in India. The need to mandate environment sustainability measures is definitely a pressing need and regulations are required in the near future.

## REFERENCES

- Arora, Bimal and Puranik, Ravi. (2004). A Review of Corporate Social Responsibility in India. *Development*. 47. (93-100). DOI: 10.1057/palgrave.development.1100057.
- Arvind limited, Sustainability report, 2016. <http://arvind.com/pdf/ArvindSR.pdf>. Accessed on July 10, 2018
- Atul Limited, Business responsibility report 2017-18. <https://www.atul.co.in/sustainability-brr/overview.pdf>. Accessed on September 24, 2018
- Carbone, Valentina & de Brito, Marisa & Meunier, C. (2007). Environmental Awareness in The Clothing and Textile Supply Chain: A European Perspective. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322798126\\_Environmental\\_Awareness\\_In\\_The\\_Clothing\\_And\\_Textile\\_Supply\\_Chain\\_A\\_Europe\\_an\\_Perspective](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322798126_Environmental_Awareness_In_The_Clothing_And_Textile_Supply_Chain_A_Europe_an_Perspective). Accessed on September 24, 2018
- Dangelico, R.M. & Pujari, D. (2010) *J Bus Ethics* 95:471. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-010-0434-0>.
- Dun & Bradstreet India's publication of "India's Top 500 companies 2018". [https://www.dnb.co.in/Publications/top500\\_2018/Indias\\_Top\\_500-Companies-2018.pdf](https://www.dnb.co.in/Publications/top500_2018/Indias_Top_500-Companies-2018.pdf). Accessed on May 7, 2019
- Fab India Overseas Private Limited, CSR policy, 2017. <https://www.fabindia.com/file/general/CSR%20Policy.pdf>. Accessed on April 7, 2018
- Grasim industries limited, Annual report, 2017-18. [http://www.grasim.com/pdf/Grasim\\_Industries\\_annual\\_report\\_2017-18.pdf](http://www.grasim.com/pdf/Grasim_Industries_annual_report_2017-18.pdf). Accessed on November 28, 2018
- Grasim Industries Limited, company website. <https://www.grasim.com>. Accessed on April 26, 2018
- GRI's reporting 2025, First analysis paper 2015. <https://www.globalreporting.org/resource/library/Sustainability-and-Reporting-Trends-in-2025-1.pdf>. Accessed on June 5, 2018

- Jagatjit Cotton and textile, Annual report, 2017-18. <http://www.jct.co.in/pdf/jct%20Annual%20report%202018.pdf>. Accessed on August 18, 2018
- Jagatjit Cotton and Textile company website. <https://www.jct.co.in/sustainability.asp>. Accessed on December 4, 2018
- Iwanow H, McEachern MG, Jerrery A. (2005). "The influence of ethical trading policies on consumer apparel purchase decisions A focus on the Gap Inc." *International Journal of retail and distribution management*, Vol 33 No 5. [https://www.academia.edu/8026760/The\\_influence\\_of\\_ethical\\_trading\\_policies\\_on\\_consumer\\_apparel\\_purchase\\_decisions\\_A\\_focus\\_on\\_The\\_Gap\\_Inc](https://www.academia.edu/8026760/The_influence_of_ethical_trading_policies_on_consumer_apparel_purchase_decisions_A_focus_on_The_Gap_Inc). Accessed on September 22, 2018
- Khan, M., Serafeim, G., & Yoon, A. (2015). Corporate Sustainability: First Evidence on Materiality. [http://www.sustainablefinance.ch/upload/cms/user/CorporateSustainability\\_Firstevidenceonmateriality\\_Khan\\_Serafeim\\_Yoon\\_February2015.pdf](http://www.sustainablefinance.ch/upload/cms/user/CorporateSustainability_Firstevidenceonmateriality_Khan_Serafeim_Yoon_February2015.pdf). Accessed on September 14, 2018
- Lakshmi Machine Works limited, Annual report 2016-17. <http://keic.mica-apps.net/wwwisis/Annual%20Report/355%20lms-annual-report-2016-17.pdf>. Accessed on January 18, 2019
- Lee, S.Y. & Carroll, C.E. (2011). The emergence, variation, and evolution of corporate social responsibility in the public sphere, 1980-2004: The exposure of firms to public debate. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 104(1), 115-131. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-011-0893-y>.
- Matten, D., & Moon, J. (2008). Implicit and explicit CSR: A conceptual framework for a comparative understanding of corporate social responsibility. *Academy of Management Review*, 33(2), 404-424. <https://doi.org/10.5465/amr.2008.31193458>.
- National voluntary guidelines 2011, Ministry of Corporate affairs, Government of India. [http://www.mca.gov.in/Ministry/latestnews/National\\_Voluntary\\_Guidelines\\_2011\\_12jul2011.pdf](http://www.mca.gov.in/Ministry/latestnews/National_Voluntary_Guidelines_2011_12jul2011.pdf). Accessed on Jan 5, 2019
- Neeraj Goyal. (2014). Corporate sustainability reporting practices among Indian companies – myth or reality, *International journal of management and social science research*, 3(1), 54-60. <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.407.5895&rep=rep1&type=pdf>. Accessed on January 9, 2019
- PD Jose & Sourabh Saraf. (2014). Corporate Sustainability Initiatives reporting: A study of India's most valuable companies, 20. [https://www.nseindia.com/research/content/res\\_iimb\\_4.pdf](https://www.nseindia.com/research/content/res_iimb_4.pdf). Accessed on July 25, 2019
- Pia Fagerstrom. (2016), Analyzing sustainability reporting by best performing companies in global sustainability indices 7. <https://helda.helsinki.fi/bitstream/handle/10138/162055/analyzin.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y>. Accessed on January 7, 2019
- Raymond Limited, Annual report 2017-18. [http://www.raymond.in/sites/default/files/Raymond\\_AR\\_Deluxe\\_2018%20.pdf](http://www.raymond.in/sites/default/files/Raymond_AR_Deluxe_2018%20.pdf). Accessed on October 2, 2018
- Rupa and company limited, Annual report 2017-18. <http://rupa.co.in/site/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/F.Y-17-181.pdf>. Accessed on September 24, 2018
- Sutlej Textiles Limited, Annual Report 2017-18. [http://sutlejttextiles.com/pdf/Financials/Annual%20Reports/Annual%20Report\\_2017-2018.pdf](http://sutlejttextiles.com/pdf/Financials/Annual%20Reports/Annual%20Report_2017-2018.pdf). Accessed on December 15, 2018
- Tschopp, Daniel and Nastanski, Michael. (2014). The Harmonization and Convergence of Corporate Social Responsibility Reporting Standards, *Journal of Business Ethics*, 125, issue 1, p. 147-162. DOI: 10.1007/s10551-013-1906-9.
- Vardhman group of companies, Business responsibility report, 2017-18. [https://www.var dhman.com/user\\_files/investor/BRR.pdf](https://www.var dhman.com/user_files/investor/BRR.pdf). Accessed on February 26, 2019
- Vardhman group of companies company website. <https://www.var dhman.com/csr#!sustainability>. Accessed on February 26, 2019