

# Contribution of Financial Management to the Development of Sustainable Corporate Practices

**Prof. Apurv Pathak and Rao Aman Rakesh**

Jai Bharat College of Commerce (Night), Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

**Abstract:** *The results of this study show how important financial management is to the sustainability process. The research is based on the necessity of publishing sustainability reports, the necessity of basing capital budgeting and other relevant financial decisions on corporate sustainability, and the necessity of measuring and reducing sustainability risks. In order to examine how the concepts actually work in practise, the relationship between financial growth and sustainability is examined, along with a comparison of the Islamic and Western financial model systems. In light of non-financial and macroeconomic aspects, the research comes to a conclusion with the creation of prediction model guidance for the detection and evaluation of distress in various firms for various interested parties.*

**Keywords:** business risk, sustainability, and financial management.

## I. INTRODUCTION

One of the most important financial fundamentals is money management. In order to analyse the importance of sustainability and achieve concurrent financial and sustainable outcomes, this research study builds an appropriate financial management framework. The study builds on earlier research on sustainability preservation and the subsequent case study analysis of sustainability implementation in the evolving financial sector environment.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Current disclosures made by corporations towards sustainable reporting and firm value

Habek and Wolniak (2015) assert that the foundation of corporate sustainability reporting and disclosure is the analysis of current and future firm performance. A greater demand exists for smarter, more flexible, and environmentally responsible methods of assessing corporate success. The creation of a technique for evaluating a company's success based on both its financial performance and its social or environmental performance is the ideal scenario. Corporate disclosures related to sustainability reporting mainly rely on the legitimacy and voluntarism strategies. The adoption of sustainability reporting is a voluntary decision because corporate entities are not compelled by the vast majority of governments in the world to disclose corporate sustainability information (Gnanaweeea&Kunori, 2018).

According to the legitimacy theory, corporations pursue corporate sustainability reporting because they want to appear credible or reliable to stakeholders and shareholders. Over time, it has become more and more important for firms to upgrade their reporting from a financial model to an integrated financial and environmental reporting model. This tactic has been observed, tried, and proven successful. Social values, community service, adherence to the law, environmental advocacy, environmental audits, and related conservation initiatives are some of the characteristics connected to the legitimacy hypothesis (Patten, 1992).

Corporate sustainability disclosures may be based on the following:

- Initiatives for environmental protection and associated areas of focus
- Programmes to cut back on carbon emissions
- Utilisation of renewable energy
- Funding for environmental research projects
- A rise in compliance and the use of environmental reporting or accounting
- Illustrating the logical relationships that exist between financial management and environmental reporting or disclosure (Tuwaijri et al., 2004).

Alshehhi et al. (2018) and Ellili and Nobanee (2016) looked into how sustainable practises affected a company's financial performance. According to Graham et al. (2005), corporate enterprises' efforts to improve corporate financial reporting not only add value to their own particular firms but also to many industries as a whole. Numerous environmental elements are becoming more recognised to organisations, and they are being incorporated into reporting systems. For instance, the aggregation of sustainable approaches by different entities and enterprises across various industries reduces a nation's overall carbon footprint. The core goal of a corporate programme like this is to increase value for shareholders and stakeholders. In particular, organisations that use sustainable practises create more value through better environmental protection, in addition to the traditional emphasis placed on financial performance by various firm stakeholders. The sustainability of the term is technically enabled by increasing environmental awareness, which also contributes to people's sustained good health and a usable environment (Pablo et al., 2019). People have gradually become more familiar with and knowledgeable about sustainable concepts as a result of published studies. As a result, stakeholders and shareholders are increasingly assigning value to sustainable practises at a variety of companies. The component of implementing sustainable business practises and the subsequent presentation of sustainable efforts and results to shareholders elicits support from shareholders and stakeholders, which translates to value. As time goes on, it's expected that a larger percentage of concurrently reported corporate financial performance will be backed by techniques taken by companies that are also sustainable (Graham et al., 2005).

## 2.2 Conceptual construction

Making important financial decisions is the main goal of financial management. Typically, successful financial outcomes are a reflection of effective and efficient financial management. Long-term sustainability is mostly determined by financial management choices. The foundation of financial management is in concepts that, via strategic managerial choices, maximise shareholder returns or combined shareholder and stakeholder returns. By choosing and approving capital budgeting projects with environmental elements or activities as a method of achieving sustainability in light of the stated sustainability targets, sustainability considerations can be incorporated into financial decisions. A project that intends to transfer a company's primary energy sources from conventional emitting sources like coal power plants to renewable energy sources is a great example. Solar, wind, and hydropower (tidal or ocean power) are three types of renewable energy. Using a decision matrix, the capital budgeting process involves choosing the projects with the most likely and viable investment returns. Financial management's capital budgeting method enables cost and return comparisons, enabling the choice of the project with the greatest potential for success (Yilmaz & Flouris, 2010).

Brewer, Garrison, and Noreen (2005) go on to explain that the net present value (NPV) and internal rate of return (IRR) are two examples of superior financial indices that are used in the capital budgeting process. Total returns minus the original cost of capital determine the net present value, and the higher and more positive the net present value, the more likely it is that the project will be chosen (Arslan & Zama, 2015). The net present value returns are discounted and summed as functions of expected future returns discounted to present value terms using normal standard discounting factors for a more realistic analysis of anticipated outcomes. The internal rate of return is computed under the identical conditions as the net present value method of computation, with the exception of the condition of net cash flows. Undiscounted anticipated cash flows are subtracted from the initial cost of capital to determine the internal rate of return. The internal rate of return suggests that the project should be chosen if the estimated number is higher than the project rate of return. When deciding and choosing projects, however, the net present value model is superior to the internal rate of return. An extra project evaluation measure that simultaneously represents environmental conservation and the financial viability of projects can be added into the financial evaluation in order to combine the financial methodology for project selection with sustainability considerations. In the instance of a single project, a different approach may be to allocate a portion of the initial capital costs for sustainability measures, ensuring that environmental concerns are taken into account throughout the project (Arslan & Zama, 2015).

The required rate of return for a business is known as the cost of capital. Consequently, under capital budgeting financial decisions, corporations can choose a project with the necessary sustainability techniques in accordance with the current needs of shareholders and stakeholders. The choice of a project can therefore be made based on two factors: projects using environmental sustainability strategies in their execution model, and projects with the highest return. As a result, when firms prioritise sustainability over financial return targets, the financial decision-making process is

improved. Corporate social responsibility and financial performance are correlated, according to earlier study on sustainability reporting. The primary objective of the study was to determine the relationship between the dependent variable financial success and one of the independent variables corporate social responsibility. According to the findings of a study conducted by the Boston College Centre, the incorporation of sustainability components boosted the reputation of businesses as the initial effect. The second effect or impact was an increase in employee loyalty, which enhanced the likelihood of enterprises retaining their work force, an optimistic outlook. Thirdly, there was an increase in consumer loyalty, which resulted in a greater likelihood of client retention and a stronger market position for the business when sustainability strategies were implemented. The sixth observation was that there was a rise in trash reduction, which can be attributed to recycling efforts, re-use initiatives, and even the creation of more job opportunities. On the other hand, the study also included observations regarding the decline in the accuracy of corporate sustainability reports due to the voluntary nature of sustainability reporting. This statement makes sense in the context of businesses seeking customer trust and engagement as evidence of stakeholder value through inventive environmental reporting (Schaltegger & Wagner, 2006).

Prior study has demonstrated that organisations with true sustainability initiatives have higher profitability and larger firm sizes compared to those that have not implemented similar strategies. In this instance, corporations with well-developed models for corporate social responsibility constitute the sustainability approaches. Specifics regarding a company's size include its market capitalization or share capital, total assets or annual revenue. Therefore, these findings lend credence to the concept that organisations that are sensitive to sustainability issues in yearly performance reporting make more effective financial decisions that lead to more successful corporate outcomes. (Cheng et al., 2014)

### **2.3 Prediction of financial distress and sustainable growth**

By analysing financial indicators, non-financial variables, and macroeconomic factors, it is possible to anticipate corporate insolvency or financial difficulty of a company. The accuracy of financial distress prediction based on firm-specific financial, non-financial, and macroeconomic indicators is the subject of a study conducted and published in the sustainability journal. In addition, the study hypothesises that considering macroeconomic and non-financial variables in addition to financial variables improves the predictability of bankruptcy in companies. The study is case-specific for the Hong Kong Growth Enterprise Market (GEM) and provides the aforementioned information to regulators of the Hong Kong capital markets as well as investors or analysts who are potential investors in the Hong Kong capital markets. By extrapolation, the conclusions and findings of the study can be extended to different capital markets with a greater emphasis on all three elements (financial, non-financial, and macroeconomic) that determine more precise bankruptcy prediction (Opler & Titman, 2018).

## **III. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the relationship between financial growth and sustainability is presented, along with a case analysis of the Islamic and Western financial model systems broken down for analysis of the concepts' applicability in the real world. The research concludes with the development of a prediction model guidance for the detection and evaluation of distress in various enterprises for diverse interest parties based on non-financial and macroeconomic factors. Under the sustainability topic, the case studies of Western financial systems and Islamic financial models demonstrate an accurate knowledge of the connection between sustainability and financial growth. As a function of sustainability, it has been recognised that bankruptcy prediction is crucial to investors, analysts, and regulators in capital markets, given the financial and macroeconomic variables that highlight the principles of financial management in sustainability measurement.

## **REFERENCES**

- [1]. Arslan, M., & Zaman, R. (2015). Organizing of Capital Budgeting Process and Financial Theory. *Journal of Resources Development and Management*, 7.
- [2]. Cheng, B., Ioannou, I., & Serafeim, G. (2014). Corporate social responsibility and access to finance. *Strategic management journal*, 35(1), 1-23.

- [3]. Chong, B. S., & Liu, M. H. (2009). Islamic banking: interest-free or interest-based?. Pacific- Basin finance journal, 17(1), 125-144.
- [4]. Gnanaweera, K. A. K., &Kunori, N. (2018). Corporate sustainability reporting: Linkage of corporate disclosure information and performance indicators. Cogent Business & Management, 5(1), 1423872.
- [5]. Graham, J. R., Harvey, C. R., &Rajgopal, S. (2005). The economic implications of corporate financial reporting. Journal of accounting and economics, 40(1-3), 3-73.
- [6]. Hisham, R. R. I. R., Palil, M. R., Nowalid, W. A. W. M., &Ramli, M. R. (2019). Islamic Leadership and Transparency Practices in Takaful Organization. Asian Journal of Accounting and Governance, 11.
- [7]. Mensi, W., Hammoudeh, S., Al-Jarrah, I. M. W., Sensoy, A., & Kang, S. H. (2017). Dynamic risk spillovers between gold, oil prices and conventional, sustainability and Islamic equity aggregates and sectors with portfolio implications. Energy Economics, 67, 454- 475.
- [8]. Ellili, N., &Nobanee, H. (2017). Corporate risk disclosure of Islamic and conventional banks. Banks and Bank Systems, 12(3), 1-10.
- [9]. Opler, T. C., & Titman, S. (1994). Financial distress and corporate performance. The Journal of finance, 49(3), 1015-1040.
- [10]. Pablo, A. L., Reay, T., Dewald, J. R., &Casebeer, A. L. (2007). Identifying, enabling and managing dynamic capabilities in the public sector. Journal of management studies, 44(5), 687-708.