

Corporate Social Responsibility – an opportunity to improve the status of Society

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This article aims to provide a comprehensive overview of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), from its foundational concepts to its broader implications. The primary motivation behind CSR is the economic contribution that companies can make to society.

Introduction

As humans, we owe much to this planet, and it is our foremost responsibility to contribute positively to the society we inhabit. CSR is a concept well-known in the corporate world, and as Chartered Accountants, we are ethically bound to promote awareness and encourage actions that benefit society. By sharing knowledge through presentations to professionals and academic groups, we can help foster a more ethical organizational environment and offer guidance on enhancing ethics in financial reporting.

The evolving concept of CSR extends beyond mere charity; it calls for companies to exceed their legal obligations by integrating social, environmental, and ethical considerations into their business processes. As former Corporate Affairs Minister Mr. Salman Khurshid stated, "There is a strong need for establishing socially responsible business models, as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is not merely a question of morality but an example of good economics."

What is Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)?

CSR refers to business practices and initiatives that benefit society. The term "Corporate Social Responsibility" signifies that corporations have a shared responsibility toward the communities in which they operate. They must be concerned about societal welfare and work towards the betterment of society.

CSR encompasses a wide range of initiatives, from donating a portion of company proceeds to charity to adopting environmentally friendly business practices.

Breakdown of the Term

Corporate Social Responsibility consists of three key components:

- **Corporate:** Relating to a large company or group, the term denotes an organization formed by a group of individuals with a distinct legal identity.
- **Social:** Defined as relating to or characterized by friendly companionship or relations, the social aspect emphasizes the importance of community engagement.
- **Responsibility:** This refers to the duty of managing something or having control over someone or something.

In summary, Corporate Social Responsibility embodies the obligation of corporations to maintain harmonious relationships with society and to actively contribute to societal welfare. The communities in which these organizations operate should benefit from their actions.

Why CSR Matters

The question arises: Why should companies embrace Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)?

- **Enhances Public Image:** CSR initiatives highlight a company's commitment to societal betterment, improving its public image and increasing consumer favorability.
- **Increases Media Coverage:** Engaging in CSR often leads to positive media attention, enhancing the organization's visibility and reputation.
- **Builds Brand Value:** Strong social relationships fostered through CSR initiatives can significantly enhance a company's brand value, making it more attractive to customers.
- **Differentiates from Competitors:** Active participation in community-oriented projects allows companies to stand out in a crowded marketplace.
- **Minimizes Environmental Impact:** CSR efforts contribute to reducing environmental damage, promoting sustainability.
- **Instills a Sense of Responsibility:** CSR cultivates a culture of accountability and responsibility toward society within the organization.

Examples of CSR Activities

1. **Charitable Donations:** Supporting local and global causes through financial contributions.
2. **Improving Labor Policies:** Ensuring fair wages, safe working conditions, and employee well-being.
3. **Reducing Carbon Footprints:** Implementing practices that lower greenhouse gas emissions.

4. Participating in Fair Trade: Engaging in trade that promotes equitable treatment of producers.
5. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Creating policies and practices that foster an inclusive workplace for all.
6. Community and Virtual Volunteering: Engaging in initiatives like campaigns during the COVID-19 pandemic to support those in need.
7. Environmentally Beneficial Corporate Policies: Developing policies that prioritize environmental health and sustainability.
8. Investing in Sustainable Products: Focusing on products that are eco-friendly and sustainably sourced.
9. Socially and Environmentally Conscious Investments: Allocating resources toward initiatives that prioritize social responsibility and environmental stewardship.
10. **Employee Volunteer Programs:** Encouraging employees to participate in community service projects during work hours, often with paid time off for volunteering.
11. **Supporting Local Businesses:** Partnering with and sourcing from local suppliers to boost the local economy and promote sustainable practices.
12. **Educational Initiatives:** Offering scholarships, internships, or mentorship programs for underprivileged youth to improve educational opportunities.
13. **Health and Wellness Programs:** Implementing initiatives that promote employee well-being, such as fitness challenges, mental health support, or wellness seminars.
14. **Sustainable Packaging:** Developing eco-friendly packaging solutions to reduce waste and environmental impact.
15. **Disaster Relief Contributions:** Providing financial support, resources, or employee assistance during natural disasters or crises.
16. **Animal Welfare Initiatives:** Supporting animal shelters, wildlife conservation, or responsible sourcing of animal products.
17. **Sustainable Supply Chain Practices:** Ensuring that suppliers adhere to ethical labor practices and environmental standards.
18. **Carbon Offset Programs:** Investing in projects that reduce or capture greenhouse gas emissions to offset a company's carbon footprint.
19. **Cultural Preservation:** Supporting initiatives that aim to preserve local cultures, traditions, and languages, especially in areas where the company operates.

20. **Promoting Renewable Energy:** Investing in or utilizing renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind power, for company operations.
21. **Gender Equality Initiatives:** Developing programs aimed at promoting gender equity within the workplace and supporting women in leadership roles.
22. **Access to Technology:** Providing resources and training to underprivileged communities to improve access to technology and digital literacy.
23. **Food Security Programs:** Partnering with food banks or local farms to combat hunger and provide healthy food options to communities in need.
24. **Sustainability Reporting:** Publishing regular reports detailing the company's sustainability efforts and progress, enhancing transparency and accountability.
25. **Eco-Friendly Office Practices:** Implementing recycling programs, reducing paper usage, and promoting remote work to lessen the environmental impact of corporate operations.

By embracing CSR, companies not only contribute to the greater good but also create a positive impact that can lead to long-term success and sustainability.

The concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was first introduced by Howard Bowen, an American economist, in 1953. He is often referred to as the "father of CSR." Bowen presented this concept for the first time in his publication titled *Social Responsibilities of the Businessman*. Since then, many researchers have explored and expanded upon his ideas.

In July 2011, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) published the National Voluntary Guidelines (NVGs) on Social, Environmental, and Economic Responsibilities of Business. However, these principles and guidelines had limited impact on society and business practices. Consequently, the principles of the NVGs were later incorporated into a mandatory provision for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013.

The concept of CSR was formally established in India with the enactment of the Companies Act, 2013. Section 135 was inserted into this act to specifically address Corporate Social Responsibility, and the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility) Rules, 2014 were created in accordance with it. Prior to this, the Companies Act, 1956 did not contain provisions for CSR. Instead, Section 293(1)(e) of the Companies Act, 1956 addressed contributions for charitable activities, allowing companies to contribute to charitable and other funds not directly related to

their business or employee welfare, provided that the total contributions in any financial year did not exceed fifty thousand rupees or five percent of their average net profits during the preceding three financial years, whichever amount was greater.

For the first time in the country's history, the Companies Act, 2013 made it mandatory for companies to contribute to social welfare.

Legal Provision in India

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has notified Section 135 and Schedule VII of the Companies Act as well as the provisions of the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014 (CRS Rules) which has come into effect from 1 April 2014.

A number of significant developments have taken place since then. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has notified the amendments in Section 135 of the Act as well in the CSR Rules on 22nd January 2021.

Defining the terms

1. **“Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)”** means the activities undertaken by a Company in pursuance of its statutory obligation laid down in section 135 of the Act, but does not include-

(i) activities undertaken in pursuance of normal course of business of the company:

Note: any company engaged in research and development activity of new vaccine, drugs and medical devices in their normal course of business may undertake research and development activity of new vaccine, drugs and medical devices related to COVID-19 for financial years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 with certain terms and conditions apply-

✓ such research and development activities shall be carried out in collaboration with any of the institutes or organizations mentioned in item (ix) of Schedule VII to the Act;

- ✓ details of such activity shall be disclosed separately in the Annual report on CSR included in the Board's Report
- (ii) any activity undertaken by the company outside India except for training of Indian sports personnel representing any State or Union territory at national level or India at international level;
- (iii) contribution of any amount directly or indirectly to any political party under section 182 of the Act;
- (iv) activities benefitting employees of the company as defined in clause (k) of section 2 of the Code on Wages, 2019 (29 of 2019);
- (v) activities supported by the companies on sponsorship basis for deriving marketing benefits for its products or services;
- (vi) activities carried out for fulfilment of any other statutory obligations under any law in force in India;

2. "**Net profit**" means the net profit of a company as Per its financial statement prepared but does not include-

- (i) any profit arising from any overseas branch or branches of the company'whether operated as a separate company or otherwise; and
- (ii) any dividend received from other companies in India

3. "**CSR Policy**" means a statement containing the approach and direction given by the board of a company, taking into account the recommendations of its CSR Committee, and includes guiding principles for selection, implementation and monitoring of activities as well as formulation of the annual action plan.

Applicability

The provisions of CSR apply to: Every company Having in the preceding financial year

- ❖ Net worth > 500 crore
- ❖ Turnover > 1000 crore
- ❖ Net Profit > 5 crore

A holding or subsidiary of a company is not required to comply with the CSR provisions unless the holding or subsidiary itself fulfils the eligibility criteria prescribed under section 135(1) stated above. And the provisions of CSR are applicable to a section 8 Company also.

Note: net worth, turnover or net profit of a foreign company of the Act shall be computed in accordance with balance sheet and profit and loss account of such company prepared in accordance with the provisions of clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 381 and section 198 of the Act.

Preference should be given to the local area and areas around it where it operates, for spending the amount earmarked for Corporate Social Responsibility activities.

Composition of CSR committee

1. For Listed companies:

- Three or more directors, out of which at least one shall be an independent director.

2. Unlisted public companies:

- Three or more directors, out of which at least one shall be an independent director. However, if there is no requirement of having an independent director in the company, two or more directors.

3. Private companies:

- Two or more directors. No independent directors are required as mentioned in the proviso under section 135(1).

4. Foreign company:

- At least two persons out of which: (a) one shall be as specified under clause (d) of subsection (1) of section 380 of the Act, and (b) another shall be nominated by the foreign company.

Note: In a situation where the amount required to be spent by a company on CSR does not exceed fifty lakh rupees, the requirement for constitution of the CSR Committee is not mandatory and the functions of the CSR Committee, in such cases, shall be discharged by the Board of Directors of the company.

Functions of CSR Committee

- (a) Formulate and recommend to the Board, a Corporate Social Responsibility Policy which shall indicate the activities to be undertaken by the company in areas or subject, specified in Schedule VII
- (b) recommend the amount of expenditure to be incurred on the CSR activities
- (c) monitor the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy of the company from time to time.

As per Rule 5(2) of the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy Rules, 2014-

The CSR Committee formulates and recommend to the Board, an annual action plan in pursuance of its CSR policy, which shall include the following:

- a) The list of CSR projects or programs that are approved to be undertaken;
- b) The manner of execution of such projects or programs;
- c) The modalities of utilization of funds and implementation schedules for the projects or programs;
- d) Monitoring and reporting mechanism for the projects or programs; and

e) Details of need and impact assessment, if any, for the projects undertaken by the company:

For companies covered under Sec 135(9) and not having CSR Committee these functions shall be carried out by the Board itself

CSR Expenditure

It is the duty of the Board of every company to ensure that the company spends, in every financial year, **at least 2% of the average net profits** of the company made during the three immediately preceding financial years, in pursuance of its Corporate Social Responsibility Policy.

In case, the company fails to spend such amount, the Board shall, in its auditor's report attached with financial statement, specify the reasons for not spending the amount.

If a company spends more than the requirement provided under section 135, that excess amount can be set off against the mandatory 2% CSR expenditure in succeeding financial years (effective from 22nd January, 2021).

The excess CSR amount spent can be carried forward up to immediately succeeding three financial years; thus, in case any excess amount is left for set off, it will lapse at the end of the said period. The amount spent by a company towards CSR cannot be claimed as business expenditure.

Is there any tax benefit under CSR?

No specific tax exemptions have been extended to CSR expenditure.

Modes of CSR Expenditure

- (i) 'Activities route', which is a direct mode wherein a company undertakes the CSR projects or programs as per Schedule VII of the Act, either by itself

- or by engaging implementing agencies as prescribed in Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014.
- (ii) 'Contribution to funds route', which allows the contributions to various funds as specified in Schedule VII of the Act.
 - (iii) Contribution to incubators and R&D projects, as specified in item (ix) (a) and contribution to institutes/organizations, engaged in research and development activity, as specified under item (ix) (b) of Schedule VII of the Act.

Funds specified in Schedule VII of the Act for the purpose of CSR contribution

- i. Swachh Bharat Kosh
- ii. Clean Ganga Fund
- iii. Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)
- iv. Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund)
- v. Any other fund set up by the Central Government and notified by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, for socio-economic development and relief and welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes, minorities and women

CSR Activities

Activities which may be included by companies in their Corporate Social Responsibility Policies

Activities relating to:—

- (i) Eradicating hunger, poverty and malnutrition, "promoting health care including preventive health care" and sanitation including contribution to the

Swachh Bharat Kosh set-up by the Central Government for the promotion of sanitation and making available safe drinking water.

- (ii) Promoting education, including special education and employment enhancing vocation skills especially among children, women, elderly and the differently abled and livelihood enhancement projects.
- (iii) Promoting gender equality, empowering women, setting up homes and hostels for women and orphans; setting up old age homes, day care centers and such other facilities for senior citizens and measures for reducing inequalities faced by socially and economically backward groups.
- (iv) Ensuring environmental sustainability, ecological balance, protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, agroforestry, conservation of natural resources and maintaining quality of soil, air and water including contribution to the Clean Ganga Fund set-up by the Central Government for rejuvenation of river Ganga.
- (v) protection of national heritage, art and culture including restoration of buildings and sites of historical importance and works of art; setting up public libraries; promotion and development of traditional art and handicrafts;
- (vi) measures for the benefit of armed forces veterans, war widows and their dependents, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and Central Para Military Forces (CPMF) veterans, and their dependents including widows;

- (vii) training to promote rural sports, nationally recognized sports, Paralympic sports and Olympic sports
- (viii) contribution to the prime minister's national relief fund ⁸[or Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund)] or any other fund set up by the central govt. for socio economic development and relief and welfare of the schedule caste, tribes, other backward classes, minorities and women;
- (ix) (a) Contribution to incubators or research and development projects in the field of science, technology, engineering and medicine, funded by the Central Government or State Government or Public Sector Undertaking or any agency of the Central Government or State Government; and

(b) Contributions to public funded Universities; Indian Institute of Technology (IITs); National Laboratories and autonomous bodies established under Department of Atomic Energy (DAE); Department of Biotechnology (DBT); Department of Science and Technology (DST); Department of Pharmaceuticals; Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH); Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and other bodies, namely Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO); Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), engaged in conducting research in science, technology, engineering and medicine aimed at promoting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).]

(x) rural development projects

(xi) Slum area development.

Explanation.- For the purposes of this item, the term `slum area' shall mean any area declared as such by the Central Government or any State Government or any other competent authority under any law for the time being in force.

(xii) Disaster management, including relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities.

Activities that do not form part of CSR –

Rule 2(1)(d) of the Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014 defines CSR and the following activities are specifically excluded from being considered as eligible CSR activity:

- (i) Activities undertaken in pursuance of normal course of business of the company. However, exemption is provided for three financial years, till FY 2022-23, to companies engaged in R&D activities for new vaccines, drugs, and medical devices in their normal course of business, related to COVID19. This exclusion is allowed only in case the companies are engaged in R&D in collaboration with organizations as mentioned in item (ix) of Schedule VII and disclose the same in their Board reports.
- (ii) Activities undertaken outside India, except for training of Indian sports personnel representing any State or Union Territory at national level or India at international level;
- (iii) Contribution of any amount, directly or indirectly, to any political party under section 182 of the Act;
- (iv) Activities benefitting employees of the company as defined in section 2(k) of the Code on Wages, 2019;
- (v) Sponsorship activities for deriving marketing benefits for products/services;
- (vi) Activities for fulfilling statutory obligations under any law in force in India.

As per Rule 2(1)(d)(ii) of the Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014 clearly states that any activity undertaken by the company outside India shall not be an eligible CSR activity. The only exception is training of Indian sports personnel representing any State or Union Territory at national or international level.

CSR Reporting

As per Rule 8(1) of the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014, the Board's Report of a company pertaining to any financial year shall include an Annual Report on CSR containing particulars specified in Annexure I or Annexure II, as applicable. In case of a foreign company, the balance sheet filed under clause

(b) of sub-section (1) of section 381 of the Act, shall contain an Annual Report on CSR containing particulars specified in Annexure I or Annexure II, as applicable.

Disclosure requirements at the website of the company

As per Rule 9 of the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014, the Board of Directors of the Company shall mandatorily disclose-

- the composition of the CSR Committee;
- CSR Policy and
- Projects approved by the Board on their website, if any, for public access

World scenario

Although responsible companies had already existed for more than a century before, the term Corporate Social Responsibility was officially coined in 1953 by American economist Howard Bowen in his publication Social Responsibilities of the Businessman. As such, Bowen is often referred to as the father of CSR.

Role of Chartered Accountants -

Chartered Accountants can provide their expert services in various ways, including:

- **CSR Reporting and Compliance:** Ensuring that companies meet regulatory requirements and accurately report their CSR activities.
- **Advisory Services:** Offering guidance on best practices for CSR strategies and policies

tailored to specific industries.

- Implementation of the Law: Assisting organizations in understanding and implementing CSR-related laws and regulations effectively.
- Audit of Projects under CSR: Conducting audits to assess the effectiveness and compliance of CSR initiatives, ensuring funds are used appropriately.
- Alignment of Corporate and Social Values: Helping organizations integrate corporate values with social responsibility to avoid conflicts.
- Good Corporate Governance: Promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical practices within the organization.
- Conducting Awareness Programs on CSR: Organizing workshops and training sessions to educate employees and stakeholders about CSR practices and their importance.
- Impact Assessment: Evaluating the social and environmental impact of CSR initiatives to ensure they meet intended objectives.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Facilitating dialogue with stakeholders to understand their concerns and incorporate their feedback into CSR strategies.
- Financial Planning for CSR: Assisting in budgeting and financial planning for CSR projects to ensure sustainable funding.
- Sustainability Reporting: Preparing sustainability reports that detail a company's environmental and social impacts, enhancing transparency.
- Risk Management: Identifying and managing risks associated with CSR initiatives, ensuring compliance and mitigating potential liabilities.
- Benchmarking Best Practices: Analyzing industry standards and practices to help companies adopt effective CSR strategies.
- Support in Developing CSR Policies: Aiding organizations in formulating CSR policies that align with their mission and values.
- Training and Capacity Building: Providing training to employees on CSR initiatives and their roles in implementing these strategies effectively.
- Collaboration with NGOs and Community Groups: Facilitating partnerships between companies and community organizations to enhance CSR effectiveness.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Establishing systems for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of CSR projects to measure progress and impact.

CSR Awards

This initiative has been taken by the Ministry of Corporate affairs in order to increase CSR spending and to give recognition to the companies who made contributions to the societies in large and taken various initiatives. This award has been categorized into 3 parts.

Category I - Corporate Awards for Excellence in CSR

- i) Companies having eligible CSR Spend equal and above Rs. 100 Crores;
- ii) Companies having eligible CSR Spend equal and above Rs. 10 Crores and less than Rs. 100 Crores;
- iii) Companies having eligible CSR Spend equal and above Rs. 1 Crore and less than Rs. 10 Crores; and
- iv) Companies having eligible CSR Spend below Rs. 1 Crore.

Category II - CSR Awards for CSR in Aspirational Districts / Difficult Terrains

- i) Northern India
- ii) North-East India
- iii) Eastern India
- iv) Western India
- v) Southern India

Category III - CSR Awards for contribution in National Priority Areas

- i) Education
- ii) Skill Development and Livelihoods
- iii) Agriculture and Rural Development
- iv) Health, Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation
- v) Environment, Sustainable Development and Solar Energy
- vi) Women and Child Development

- vii) Technology Incubation
- viii) Promotion of Sports
- ix) Slum Area Development
- x) Heritage, Art and Culture
- xi) Support to Differently-Abled

National CSR Data Portal- <https://www.csr.gov.in/>

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has also constituted National CSR data portal which provides all CSR related data. It provides all the information related to CSR spending, year wise, state wise and companies wise. All the information is available in one platform. It also provides all the information related to National CSR award.

ISO 26000:2010, Guidance on social responsibility, and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (2011)

ISO 26000 mainly deals with the providing assistance to organizations in contributing. It also provides 7 principles of social responsibility-

- Accountability
- Transparency
- Ethical behavior
- Respect for stakeholder interests
- Respect for the rule of the law
- Respect for international norms of behavior
- Respect for human rights

These standards provide that an organization should consider two fundamental practices of social responsibility. Those are:

- recognizing its social responsibility within its sphere of influence, and
- Identifying and engaging with its stakeholders.

ISO 26000 talks about seven core subjects of social responsibility. The seven core subjects include detailed guidance on 37 issues for social responsibility.

Those seven core subjects and related issues are-

1. Organizational governance

2. Human rights:

It mainly deals with eight issues-

- a. Due diligence
- b. Human rights risk situations
- c. Avoidance of complicity
- d. Resolving grievances
- e. Discrimination and vulnerable groups
- f. Civil and political rights
- g. Economic, social and cultural rights
- h. Fundamental principles and rights at work

3. Labour practices

- a. Employment and employment relationships
- b. Conditions of work and social protection
- c. Social dialogue
- d. Health and safety at work
- e. Human development and training in the workplace

4. The environment

- a. Prevention of pollution
- b. Sustainable resource use
- c. Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- d. Protection of the environment, biodiversity and restoration of natural habitats

5. Fair operating practices

- a. Anti-corruption
- b. Responsible political involvement
- c. Fair competition
- d. Promoting social responsibility in the value chain
- e. Respect for property rights

6. Consumer issues

- a. Fair marketing, factual and unbiased information and fair contractual practices
- b. Protecting consumers' health and safety
- c. Sustainable consumption
- d. Consumer service, support, and complaint and dispute resolution
- e. Consumer data protection and privacy
- f. Access to essential services
- g. Education and awareness

7. Community involvement and development

- a. Community involvement
- b. Education and culture
- c. Employment creation and skills development
- d. Technology development and access
- e. Wealth and income creation
- f. Health
- g. Social investment

Social Audit

Social means relating to society or its organization and audit means an official inspection of an organization's accounts, typically by an independent body. The word social is derived from the Latin word *socialis* which means 'allied'.

The word audit is derived from the Latin word *auditus* 'hearing', from *audire* 'hear', in medieval Latin *auditus (compoti)* 'audit (of an account)'.

A social audit is a way of measuring, understanding, reporting and ultimately improving an organization's social and ethical performance. It is a process by which the people, the final beneficiaries of any scheme, program, policy or law, are empowered to audit such schemes, programs, policies or laws.

Objectives of social audit

1. To assess the physical and financial gaps between needs and resources available for local development.
2. To create awareness among beneficiaries and providers of local social and productive services.
3. To create an impact upon governance.
4. To Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of local development programs.
5. To scrutinize various policy decisions, keeping in view stakeholder interests and priorities, particularly of rural poor.
6. To encourage proper utilization of funds.
7. To improve quality of service.
8. To Estimate of the opportunity cost for stakeholders of not getting timely access to public services.
9. To promote education, research and development in the techniques of the industry.

MNREGA Social Audit

Examples of social audit: Social audit in Jharnipalli Panchayat, Agaipur block, Bolangir district, Orissa

Website:

- National CSR Data Portal- <https://www.csr.gov.in>
- Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs- <https://iica.nic.in/>
- https://nrega.nic.in/netnrega/SocialAuditFindings/SA_home.aspx
- <https://www.socialaudit.rajasthan.gov.in/>
- <https://pnrd.assam.gov.in/portlets/social-audit>
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India <http://mca.gov.in/>
- www.unglobalcompact.org/
- International Labour Organization www.ilo.org
- <http://www.accountability.org>
- Social Accountability International www.sa-intl.org/
- International Organization for Standardization <http://www.iso.org/>
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development www.oecd.org
- Social return on investment (SROI) www.thesroinetwork.org/

We humans inhabit a world, and therefore we owe a duty to make it a better place to live. Through technological development and new business models, we can take individual responsibility to create a world that remains habitable for future generations. The time has come for us to embrace a new corporate ethic. Sustainability is becoming increasingly important with each passing year and has become an essential component of the business strategy for modern companies. Corporate Social Responsibility, which was initially focused primarily on environmental issues, has now expanded in depth and significance to encompass a wider range of concerns. As CSR addresses social, economic, and environmental challenges, it has become a vital concern for businesses globally.