

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF MAJOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMPANIES IN ENERGY SECTOR OF INDIA**Lal, S, Shankar*¹ and Arora, A, Mehak²**^{1,2}Quantum School of Business, Quantum University, Roorkee, India**ABSTRACT**

This research study aims to investigate and evaluate the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives undertaken by major public and private companies operating in the energy sector of India. India is the first country to make Corporate Social Responsibility compulsory for certain profitable companies which satisfy the requirement of the Companies Act 2013. The findings of this study contribute to the existing literature by providing a comprehensive overview of the CSR practices of major public and private energy companies in India. The research aims to facilitate a better understanding of the role of energy companies in promoting sustainable development and offer practical recommendations for enhancing their CSR efforts. The research paper also focuses on understanding the CSR legislation applicable to certain profitable companies in India. The paper sheds light on the various CSR initiatives taken up by the energy companies in the financial year 2021-22. This research paper also analyses the CSR policy and major CSR projects undertaken by these companies by going through their annual reports and official websites. The findings of the paper present that companies have created a positive overall impact on the lives of people and on the environmental and economic development through their CSR initiatives. The Companies are complying with all the provided legislations of the government of India in relation to CSR. Nevertheless, companies keep the needs of the community in the centre of their CSR planning and implementation; the companies are suggested to include the local community in their CSR planning to ensure that CSR initiatives are closely linked to the needs and priorities of the communities they aim to serve.

Keywords - Environmental sustainability, Corporate Sustainability, Social inclusion, Corporate Social Responsibility

INTRODUCTION

Energy sector in India plays a crucial role in the country's economic growth and development, but it also faces several environmental and social challenges, making CSR activities essential for sustainable and inclusive growth. The Idea of Corporate social responsibility is based on the notion that the business houses have the responsibility to give back to society. The business Organizations operate in society and utilize the resources of the society and therefore they should contribute to the social and economic development of the Society and for the environmental sustainability. The Business organizations must satisfy the triple bottom of the economy, the people, profit, and planet. India is the first country to make the Corporate Social responsibility compulsory for profitable companies which satisfy the requirement of the Companies Act 2013. Present study is an attempt to understand the various Corporate social responsibility initiatives of major companies in energy sector to understand the contribution of these companies to the socio – economic development of the country. Our present study focuses on the CSR of major companies in energy sector in India. The study reveals that all the companies pay significant attention in making the planet a better place to live through their various CSR initiatives. There is evidence to show that the practice of CSR has been in the culture of India much before the contemporary term CSR was evolved by the Western World. The Holly book of Hindus Bhagwat Gita has mentioned the importance of doing good for the people and Society as 'Dharma' and 'Karma' for no reasons.

“Corporate Social Responsibility’ or CSR, is the modern term for a company’s responsibility to people, society, and the environment. Large conglomerates learned that in order to achieve sustainability in their businesses, they had to ensure that the welfare of all the participants in the entire business process was of utmost importance. Mahatma Gandhi through his trusteeship theory recommended not only the contribution of the economic capital but he also stressed on the contribution of the human capital and said that the people hold the wealth as a trust and that it needs to go back to the welfare and prosperity of the people those who need it the most. The trusteeship

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theory played a significant role and influenced the industry to form trusts and society for the development of schools, colleges and support the livelihood, hunger, health, and gender equality which later became the milestone for compulsory requirement, and all these were incorporated when the companies act 2013 was passed. According to Section 135 of the companies Act 2013 below are the certain terms with which companies are to discharge their CSR obligation as provided by law-

- a) Companies having net worth of Rs 500 Crore or more; or
- b) Companies having turnover of 1000 Crore or more.
- c) Companies having net profit of 5 Crore and above.

Moreover, the CSR provisions and rules of CSR do not only apply to native companies only, but it also applies to branch and project offices of foreign companies in India. Expenditure incurred on CSR activities is not treated as business expenditure. Every company that qualifies the conditions as prescribed in the companies Act 2013 require to spend minimum 2% of its average net profit (profit after tax) for the immediately preceding 3 consecutive financial years on CSR activities in India. Moreover, the law mandates the qualifying companies to form a Committee on CSR of the Board of Directors (Board) comprising of 3 or more directors. It is the duty of the CSR Committee to formulate and recommend to the Board, a CSR policy which shall provide the activities to be undertaken, recommend the amount to be spent on CSR activities which it has referred and monitoring the CSR Policy of the company. The CSR Committee evaluates potential CSR activities and policies and makes recommendations based on their findings. These recommendations could include specific projects, budget allocations, and other aspects of CSR. CSR rules define Corporate Social Responsibility which includes but is not limited to -

- Programs or Project relating to activities mentioned in the Companies Act 2013 (Schedule vii).
- Programs or project relating to activities prescribed by the Board of Directors in pursuance of the CSR Committee's recommendations as per the specified CSR Policy fulfilling the condition that such policy covers subjects enumerate in the Schedule.

Companies are provided flexibility by giving them the freedom to choose their preferred CSR engagement which conforms the conditions specified in the CSR policy. The Board of member of the company may decide to carry out its CSR programmes, approved by the Committee on CSR, through a trust or registered society or section 8 companies with accepted track record. In India, the Companies Act of 2013 outlines the legal framework for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities. Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013, specifies the activities that companies can undertake to fulfil their CSR obligations. The Schedule VII provides a broad framework, and companies are encouraged to choose activities that align with their business and contribute to social development. Here are the activities listed in Schedule VII:

Eradicating Extreme Hunger and Poverty: Companies can contribute to programs that aim to eliminate hunger and poverty, such as supporting food distribution initiatives, poverty alleviation projects, and livelihood programs.

Promoting Education: Activities related to education can include building schools, providing scholarships, supporting vocational training programs, and promoting adult education.

Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women: Initiatives to support gender equality may involve promoting women's empowerment, providing vocational training for women, and supporting programs that address gender-based discrimination.

Reducing Child Mortality and Improving Child Health: Companies can support projects that focus on improving child health, reducing child mortality rates, and enhancing access to healthcare for children.

Ensuring Environmental Sustainability: Activities in this category may involve promoting environmental conservation, sustainable development, afforestation, and initiatives to address climate change.

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Protecting National Heritage, Art, and Culture: Companies can contribute to the preservation of national heritage, art, and culture through sponsorships, restoration projects, and supporting cultural events.

Measures for the Benefit of Armed Forces Veterans, War Widows, and their Dependents: Support for armed forces veterans and their families, including healthcare, education, and financial assistance.

Contribution to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund or any other fund set up by the Central Government for socio-economic development: Direct contributions to government relief funds for socio-economic development.

Companies are encouraged to choose CSR activities that align with their business values and contribute to sustainable development. The specific activities undertaken may vary based on the company's sector, location, and overall CSR strategy. It's important for companies to report their CSR activities in their annual reports, demonstrating transparency and accountability in fulfilling their CSR obligations as mandated by the Companies Act, 2013.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

The present paper is an investigation to understand the law related to the CSR in India and the commitment of major companies to discharge their social obligation considering the Companies act 2013. For the study, we have considered major companies in energy sector both public and private. The operations of the oil and gas firms are categorized to cause surplus effects for the external environment, thereby affecting the society, and thus, CSR becomes a key component for these firms. Section 135 of the companies act 2013 makes it mandatory for certain profitable companies meeting the prescribed threshold to spend 2% of their average net profit over preceding 3 years as CSR. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) in India is responsible for overseeing and regulating corporate affairs in the country. In the context of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the MCA plays a significant role in enforcing the CSR provisions outlined in the Companies Act, 2013.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Bhargava et al. (2016), in this paper the author has explored the commitment of the companies to comply with the rule of spending at least 2% of their profit towards CSR activities. The companies are included from automobiles, steel and oil and Gas industry. The analysis reveals that the overall companies are far away from meeting their target of 2 % however the steel industry is outperforming with the positive variance. In addition, the paper examines the historical evolution of CSR, key dimensions of CSR and the benefits of taking up CSR activities by the companies. **Rahman et al. (2019)**, the paper shed light over the available CSR legislations in India regarding CSR and particularly analyse the Tata Groups commitment towards CSR. The paper includes various CSR campaigns undertaken by the company and describes the role Tata group has played in discharging their social, economic, and environmental responsibility. The finding of the study reveals that the Tata group has been performing well in complying with the CSR legislations and has created a positive impact on society through their initiatives. **Hooda et al. (2019)**, The paper studies the CSR expenditures of the Maharatna companies for the period of 2014-15 to 2017-18, percentage of CSR expenditure on various activities and impact of ROA and PBDITA on CSR expenditure. The data collected is based on secondary source such as annual reports of the mahatma Companies. Finding suggests IOCL, NTPC, ONGC are spending more than prescribed percentage on an average while other Mahartna companies are not meeting the target. Companies spend a significant amount to CSR in areas of health and education as compared to other CSR areas. There is a significant positive relationship between PBDITA and CSR expenditure however ROA has negative correlation. **Parvin et al. (2018)**, this paper presents the drivers of CSR in India and the challenges faced by companies while undertaking and successfully implementing CSR in India. The study is based on selected software companies like Wipro, Tata, Reliance, Infosys. Data is collected through both primary and secondary sources. The findings of the paper suggest that the scale and nature of benefits from taking up CSR depend on the type and nature of business as a result it is difficult to quantify the benefits. Moreover, the motivation behind taking up the CSR initiatives besides compulsory requirement is the correlation between financial performance and social performance. **Yadav et al. (2014)**,

attempted to study how adoption of CSR influence the image of the companies. For the study the researcher has collected primary data from the customers as they are one of the ingredients of the stakeholders of the business. The secondary data on financial performance has been collected from secondary source. The finding suggests that there is a correlation between taking CSR initiatives and the positive corporate image of the company. CSR offers benefits to only the business but also to various other stakeholders socially and economically. **YuSheng et al. (2021)** analyses the relationship between corporate social relationship and organisational performance listed in Ghana Stock Exchange. A sample of 246 respondents working at junior and senior level in the organisations were collected through survey. The analysis reveals that there is a correlation between CSR and employee satisfaction and employee satisfaction also positively impacts the Organisational performance. The impact of CSR is more if the organisation indulges in internal CSR. **Suma et al. (2022)** An attempt has been made to understand the role of Corporate social responsibility in rural development in the state of Karnataka. The data is collected from the official websites of CSR. The amount spent in rural development has decreased in 2019-20 and 2020-21 in Karnataka. Moreover, the companies investing in rural development has also decreased in the state in these years.

Triple bottom line for corporate sustainability

The Triple Bottom Line (TBL) for corporate sustainability is a framework that evaluates the performance of a company or organization based on three interconnected dimensions: environmental, social, and economic. It expands the traditional focus on financial profits by considering the broader impacts of business activities on people, planet, and profit. Here's a breakdown of the three components within the context of corporate sustainability:

Environmental: This dimension evaluates a company's impact on the natural environment and its efforts to minimize negative effects. It includes practices such as resource conservation, waste reduction, pollution prevention, sustainable sourcing, energy efficiency, and carbon footprint reduction. Companies committed to the TBL for corporate sustainability strive to operate in an environmentally responsible manner, mitigating their ecological impact and promoting environmental stewardship.

Social: The social dimension focuses on a company's impact on society and the well-being of its stakeholders. It involves considerations such as employee welfare and engagement, labour practices, diversity and inclusion, human rights, community involvement, and product or service impacts on customers. Adopting the TBL for corporate sustainability requires businesses to prioritize social responsibility, ensuring ethical practices, fair treatment, and positive social contributions throughout their operations.

Economic: While the TBL expands the scope of corporate sustainability, it still recognizes the importance of economic viability. The economic dimension involves financial performance and profitability, as well as long-term sustainable growth. It emphasizes the need for businesses to generate profits in a responsible and ethical manner, considering both short-term financial success and long-term value creation. Economic sustainability entails maintaining profitability while also considering the social and environmental dimensions to ensure the company's long-term viability.

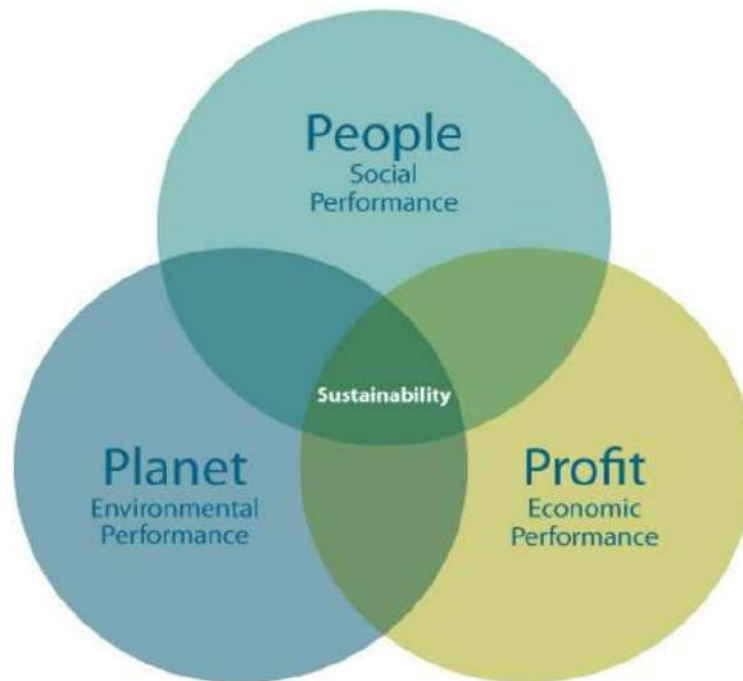


Figure 1. 3 Pillars of corporate sustainability

By incorporating the Triple Bottom Line framework into their sustainability strategies, companies aim to balance economic success with social and environmental considerations. The TBL for corporate sustainability encourages businesses to take a holistic and integrated approach to decision-making, considering the broader impacts of their actions and striving for long-term sustainable practices that benefit society, the environment, and the bottom line.

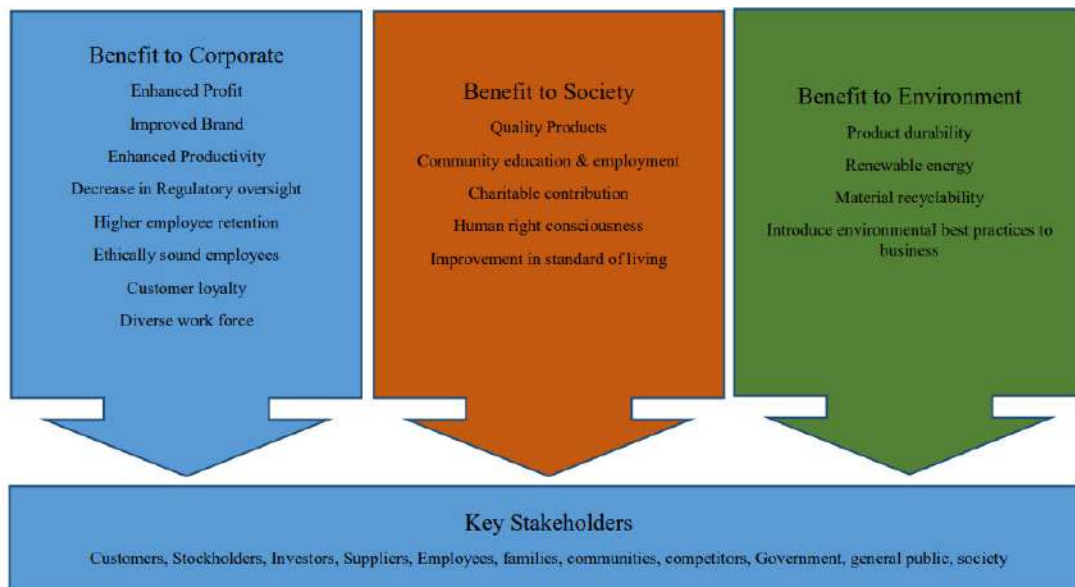


Figure 2. Benefits of CSR

METHODOLOGY

Research Design: The present study is descriptive in nature and aims to provide an overview of the CSR activities undertaken by the leading companies to compensate the cost of their operating business in India. The paper provides the description of the current trend of CSR initiatives and activities carried out by the sampled companies in the energy sector of India without providing any cause-and-effect relationship. The paper is based on secondary data of 11 private and public companies from energy sector. The data for the study were collected through various sources like annual reports and official websites of Companies and government and NGS' official websites.

Table 1. Profit after tax and CRS spending in Energy Sector

S. No	Company Name	Net profit	2% of Profit	Set off Amount	CSR Obligation	CSR Spend
1	NTPC	14089.8	281.8	NA	281.8	356.72
2	Adani Green Energy	138.16	2.76	NA	2.76	2.78
3	POWERGRID	12853.5	257.07	NA	257.07	271.14
4	RELIANCE INDUSTRIES	36827	737	NA	737	813
5	NHPC	3272.3	65.45	20.2	45.25	45.25
6	Indian Oil	16157.05	323.14	118.37	204.77	298.29
7	BHEL	725.56	14.51	21.26	NA	9.11
8	ONGC	22515.8	450.32	14.3	436.01	472.3
9	NLC INDIA LIMITED	2040.23	40.8	NA	40.8	40.8
10	GAIL	6823.02	136.46	5.76	130.7	204.97
11	BPCL	8336.49	166.73	NA	183.74	137.78

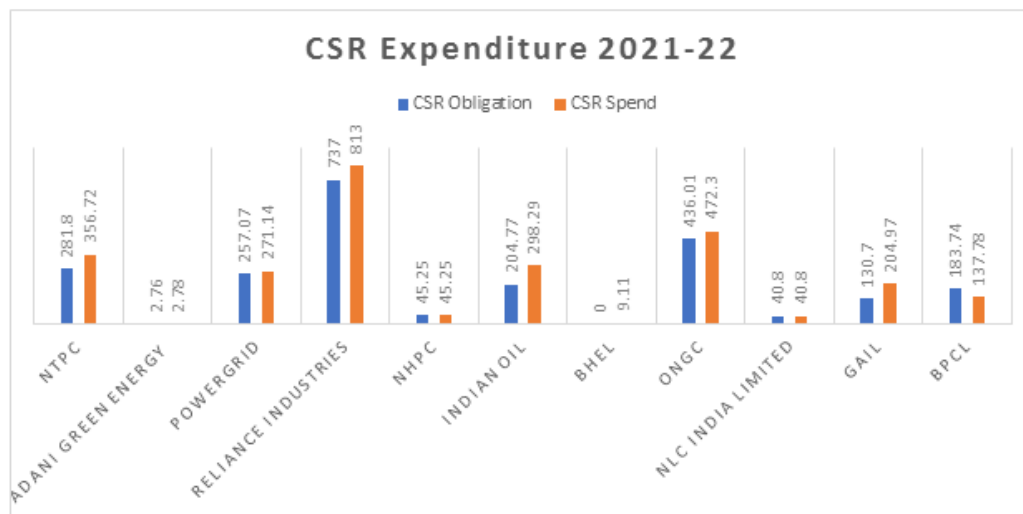


Figure 3. CRS spending in energy sector

National Thermal Power Corporation

NTPC total CSR spend in the year 2021-2022 was 356.72 Crore which was more than its CSR obligations against the provisions of section 135 of the Companies Act 2013. The company has spent an excess amount of 74.92 Crore which it can set off in succeeding financial year CSR budget. Companies CSR policy provides a wide range

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of activities including provision for implementing a few key programmes taken through NTPC foundation- A charitable trust established by the company to serve mainly the physically impaired and underprivileged divisions of the society and to empower women. The CSR activities which are undertaken by the company include activities mentioned in schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 and rules made there under for the benefit of the community at large. Focus area of the company's CSR activities are provision of health care, safe drinking water, sanitation, and education. However, company also takes up activities in women empowerment, capacity building of the youth, social infrastructure development, creation of livelihood through support for carrying out of innovative agriculture and livestock development, support to physically impaired persons and for the activity contributing towards sustainable environment.

The company majorly focuses on addressing needs of the community residing in the local area of their operations but considering sustainability and inclusive growth some of the CSR activities are also carried out by the company in different parts of the country to support government efforts. During the year 2021-22 more than 400 schools and more than 450 villages have been benefitted by the companies various CSR activities at different locations. The CSR initiatives of the company have touched the lives of around 14 lakh people. These people generally reside in remote areas in different parts of the country in some or other way.

Adani Green Energy Limited

The company has spent a total of 2.78 Crore in CSR activity for the local community. The company had a legal obligation of only 2.76 Crore and has spent 2 lakhs in excess which it can set off in succeeding year. The Adani Group has been actively involved in CSR initiatives across various sectors, including education, healthcare, rural development, and environmental sustainability. Some of their CSR initiatives include:

Education: Adani Vidya Mandir schools have been established to provide quality education to children from underprivileged backgrounds. They also support scholarships and vocational training programs to promote skill development.

Healthcare: Adani Foundation has set up hospitals and healthcare facilities in rural and remote areas to provide medical services to communities that lack access to quality healthcare. They also organize health camps and awareness programs.

Rural Development: The Adani Group focuses on improving the lives of people in rural areas through initiatives like rural electrification, water management projects, and agricultural development programs. They work towards empowering farmers, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and enhancing rural infrastructure.

Environmental Sustainability: Adani Group has undertaken initiatives to promote renewable energy sources and reduce their carbon footprint. They have invested in solar and wind power projects, implemented energy-efficient practices, and undertaken tree plantation drives to promote environmental conservation.

Community Development: The Adani Group supports various community development programs, including women empowerment, skill development, and social welfare initiatives. They collaborate with local communities to address their specific needs and uplift their quality of life.

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID)

(POWERGRID) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, is a Schedule 'A', 'Maharatna' public sector undertaking of Govt. of India. The company was incorporated on 23rd Oct 1989 under the provisions of Company Act, 1956. POWERGRID is a listed company in which 51.34% shares are owned by the Government of India and the balance is held by the public and Institutional Investors. POWERGRID has undertaken several initiatives to promote education and skill development. They have established schools, provided scholarships to meritorious students, and supported vocational training programs.

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Health and Sanitation: POWERGRID has worked towards improving healthcare facilities in rural areas by setting up medical camps, providing medical equipment, and conducting awareness campaigns on preventive healthcare. They have also constructed toilets and facilitated access to clean drinking water.

Infrastructure Development: POWERGRID has contributed to the development of infrastructure in rural areas by constructing roads, bridges, and community centres. This has improved connectivity and provided better facilities for the local population.

Renewable Energy and Environment Conservation: POWERGRID has been actively involved in promoting renewable energy sources and reducing carbon footprint. They have implemented projects related to solar power, wind energy, and energy conservation. Additionally, they have undertaken initiatives for afforestation and biodiversity conservation.

Rural Electrification: POWERGRID has played a crucial role in electrifying rural areas of India. They have extended electricity transmission lines to remote villages, facilitating access to electricity and improving the quality of life for the residents.

Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation: In times of natural disasters, POWERGRID has provided support for relief and rehabilitation efforts. They have contributed towards rebuilding infrastructure, providing essential supplies, and offering financial aid to affected communities. The company has transferred the amount of 271.14 Crore in PM CARE fund on 29.03.2022 as their CSR obligation for the financial year 2022-23.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has been actively involved in various Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, reflecting a commitment to contribute to the well-being of society. The philanthropic arm of RIL, the Reliance Foundation, plays a pivotal role in implementing CSR initiatives. It is involved in a wide range of projects and programs across different sectors. Reliance Industries Limited provides detailed information about its CSR activities in its annual reports and on its official website. These reports offer insights into the projects undertaken, the impact achieved, and the financial resources allocated for CSR initiatives. RIL has been involved in supporting educational initiatives, with a focus on enhancing the quality of education and increasing access for students. This includes scholarships, infrastructure development, and educational programs. The company has contributed to healthcare projects, aiming to improve medical facilities, promote health awareness, and provide healthcare services in underserved areas. For FY 2021-22 the company has spent a total amount of 813 Crore while the CSR obligation as per 2% of profit criteria was 737 Crore only. The Company has spent 76 Crore in excess which it can set off in the succeeding financial year.

National Hydroelectric Power Corporation

National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) in India has been actively involved in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. NHPC report on their CSR activities in accordance with the Companies Act, 2013, and the CSR rules framed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in India. Annual reports, CSR reports, and other publications by NHPC provide details on the nature and impact of CSR initiatives undertaken during specific periods. NHPC has conducted energy conservation campaigns to promote sustainable energy practices and raise awareness about the efficient use of electricity. These campaigns aim to educate communities on energy-saving techniques and the benefits of renewable energy sources. NHPC has actively participated in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, a nationwide cleanliness campaign launched by the Government of India. NHPC has organized cleanliness drives, awareness programs, and initiatives to promote sanitation and hygiene practices in surrounding communities. The Company has undertaken extensive green initiatives to promote environmental conservation and combat climate change. They have organized tree plantation drives, afforestation programs, and campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of preserving ecosystems and biodiversity.

Indian Oil Corporation

Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) has been actively engaged in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, reflecting its commitment to social and environmental well-being. Indian Oil Corporation, a stalwart in the energy sector, exemplifies its commitment to societal progress through impactful Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives. Fuelling not only engines but also the communities it serves, IOCL prioritizes sustainable development, community welfare, and environmental stewardship as integral components of its corporate ethos. During the year 2021-22 following CSR activities have been taken by the Company: -

Medical camps and health check-up programs for communities in need.

Support for healthcare infrastructure and facilities, including hospitals and clinics.

Scholarships and educational support for deserving students.

Skill development programs to enhance employability and empower local communities.

Infrastructure development projects in rural areas, including roads, water supply, and sanitation.

Initiatives to improve agricultural practices and enhance rural livelihoods.

Afforestation and environmental conservation projects.

Promotion of renewable energy sources and energy conservation.

Support for community development programs.

Disaster relief and rehabilitation efforts in times of natural calamities.

Sponsorship and support for sports events and cultural activities.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), a cornerstone of India's engineering and manufacturing sector, stands not only as a pioneer in the field but also as a socially responsible corporate entity. BHEL's commitment to CSR extends beyond its role as an industrial giant; it is a testament to its acknowledgment of corporate citizenship. The company's multifaceted CSR initiatives demonstrate a genuine dedication to sustainable development, community welfare, and environmental stewardship. BHEL serves as an exemplar for other corporations, showcasing how a responsible and forward-thinking approach can positively impact society while contributing to India's industrial growth. BHEL maintains a high level of transparency in its CSR activities. The company adheres to reporting requirements outlined in the Companies Act, 2013, and regularly publishes comprehensive CSR reports. These reports provide stakeholders with detailed insights into the nature, impact, and financial allocation of BHEL's CSR initiatives. BHEL is actively engaged in various CSR programmes across the country and in their local areas of operations. The Company has created medical, educational, infrastructural facilities which has changed the lives of millions. The company has spent 21.26 Crore more than its CSR obligation for the financial year 2020-21 and therefore it has set off the amount for the financial year 2021-22 against its CSR obligation of 14.51 Crore for the Financial year and has still spend 9 Crore on CSR. BHEL is taking up CSR activities/ projects which have visible social, economic, and environmental impact.

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

ONGC, being a major player in the oil and gas sector and a public sector undertaking, typically demonstrates a commitment to societal well-being and sustainable development. While ONGC is not primarily a CSR company, it is involved in several CSR initiatives as part of its commitment to the communities and regions where it operates. The Company has recognized the crucial role of social responsibility and has integrated CSR activities into its overall business framework. Through these initiatives, ONGC strives to contribute positively to the welfare and development of the society and environment in which it operates. ONGC, being a major player in the

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oil and gas sector, has undertaken various CSR activities with a focus on environmental and social development. Some of the key areas where ONGC has been involved in CSR initiatives include:

A multi-Speciality 300 bed hospital for the underprivileged in Sivasagar, Assam: The hospital started its services for public for the first phase of the 300 beds in the first week of March 2019.

A Cancer Institute at Nagpur: A National Institute for Cancer has been established by ONGC. Up to April 2019 this project has benefited more than 10,000 people.

An Exclusive Medical Treatment at Doorstep for the Elderly: ONGC is involved in providing medical treatment to the doorstep in remotest villages of our country for the elderly people. The Company has set up 31 Mobile Medical Unit (MMUs) which are engaged in 9 states catering to the needs of 371 villages.

ONGC – MRPL Lady Goschen Hospital, Mangalore: Mangalore District Administration approached ONGC to seek financial assistance to start a new wing in the hospital campus. ONGC provided financial assistance of Rs. 12.78 Cr to facilitate construction of the new hospital.

Ensuring Sustainable and Clean Street Lightning Solution in Remote Villages: ONGC has successfully installed 36,597 solar streetlights in the rural areas where there is no availability of regular electricity.

Gas Authority of India Limited

GAIL (Gas Authority of India Limited) is a responsible corporate citizen and is committed to take CSR initiatives for the welfare of the communities in and around its work centres. For FY 2021-2022 the company has spent 74.9 Crore more than what the company was obliged to spend on CSR activities. This reflects the company's commitment to support the underprivileged society and to promote a more inclusive and prosperous development in the nation. Some of its various CSR programs below are few we can name: -

GAIL Ujjawal: It's a CSR initiative of the Company to provide quality education to deprived children in urban and rural slums, providing infrastructure development support in Government schools. Under the project GAIL Utkarsh, the company provided free residential coaching at 4 Utkarsh Centres- Kanpur, Srinagar, Haldwani, and Varanasi for Medical /Engineering entrance examinations. The result of 2020-21 batch was announced in FY 2021-22 and 167 students qualified JEE exam out of Total 180 enrolled students under the project.

GAIL Arogya: Under the Project the company has extended the medical facilities to the underprivileged section of the society through providing health care facilities such as operation of Mobile Medical Units, COVID-19 response initiatives, STI clinics, supplying of medical equipment in Government Hospitals, health camps, sanitation and clean drinking water facilities. The company has been in the forefront in fight against Covid 19 pandemic.

GAIL Kaushal: GAIL has extended aid towards development of 6 (SDIs) Skill Development Institute as part of its collaborative efforts. The location of these Skill Development Institutes is Ahmadabad, Bhubaneswar, Vishakhapatnam, Kochi, Guwahati and Raibareili. GAIL is the nodal PSU for SDI, Raibareili. Under the support of Ministry of petroleum and Natural Gas these Skill Development Institute have been set up through collective efforts of Oil PSEs and are in accordance of "Skill India Mission" of Government of India.

GAIL Unnati: Under this project GAIL has undertaken various rural development initiatives and programs. GAIL has provided streetlights, Roads, and other infrastructure facility, facilitating basic amenities, safe drinking water facility and providing education to the rural children among others.

GAIL Saksham: This project is directed to provide people with disability to help them live their lives with dignity and pride and reduce dependency on others so that to create sense of self sufficiency in them.

GAIL Sashakt: Under this project the company has undertaken various programs to empower women to learn new skills and support their family. This provides support towards weaving of blankets by setting up of women self-help group and distributing these blankets to the needy and poor in villages and old age homes of Auraiya.

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The Company also extends support for imparting vocational training to women with visual impairment in Delhi. Under this project the support has also been extended to the adolescent girls and women through education and employability in Pant Nagar, South Delhi.

GAIL Harit: Under this Project the company takes care of the environment sustainability as part of their obligation towards the ecology. In Varanasi the company has converted diesel boat to CNG which will significantly reduce the water and air pollution levels in Varanasi. Support has also been provided for setting up 3 CNG crematoriums at Cuttack and Bhubaneswar in Odisha in order to reduce usage of woods for reducing pollution of air and for cremation.

NLC India Limited

NLC India Limited, formerly known as Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited, has been actively involved in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. NLC is a Navratna company in the power sector with a focus on lignite mining and power generation NLC India Limited as a responsible corporate entity is carrying out a wide range of corporate social responsibility activity in areas listed in scheduled VII of the companies Act 2013. NLC India Limited has been in the forefront of tackling the adverse effects of the covid 19 pandemic since March 2020. The Company has spent Rs 40.80 Crore for the year 2021-22 for various CSR projects. The major CSR initiatives NLC has undertaken during the year 2021-22 are given below:

The company support for educational initiatives, including scholarships, infrastructure development for schools, and skill development programs to empower local communities and is active participator in healthcare initiatives, such as organizing medical camps, health awareness programs, and contributing to healthcare infrastructure to improve the well-being of communities. The company also Contributes to community development projects, including infrastructure development, community welfare programs, and initiatives focused on enhancing the quality of life for people in the areas where NLC operates. NLC Emphasis on environmental sustainability, potentially including afforestation, conservation of natural resources, and practices that minimize the environmental impact of its operations. NLC has Undertaken projects for rural development, including initiatives focused on improving agricultural practices, livelihood opportunities, and overall rural well-being. NCL's CSR activities are likely to align with the CSR provisions outlined in Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

BPCL has supported numerous educational programs and initiatives aimed at providing quality education to underprivileged children. The company has set up schools, vocational training centers, and scholarships to promote skill development among economically disadvantaged individuals. BPCL has undertaken several healthcare initiatives to provide access to quality healthcare in remote areas. The company has set up healthcare facilities, conducted medical camps, and supported initiatives related to sanitation and hygiene awareness. The company has also been actively involved in environmental conservation efforts. The company has implemented measures to reduce its carbon footprint, promote energy efficiency, and support renewable energy projects. BPCL has also undertaken tree plantation drives and initiatives to preserve biodiversity. BPCL has focused on rural development through various initiatives. The company has undertaken projects related to agriculture, rural infrastructure development, and livelihood generation. BPCL has supported farmers by providing training, agricultural inputs, and access to markets. In times of natural disasters and emergencies, BPCL has extended support by providing relief materials, medical assistance, and financial aid to affected communities. The company has also contributed to the restoration of infrastructure and rehabilitation efforts. The company has encouraged sports and cultural activities by supporting tournaments, competitions, and events at the local, regional, and national levels. The company has sponsored athletes, artists, and cultural programs to promote talent and preserve cultural heritage.

FINDINGS

The findings of this paper suggest that the companies have significantly contributed to address various social, economic, and environmental concerns and the companies are complying with the CSR rules and regulation

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formulated by the Indian government. The companies have taken up CSR initiatives in all thematic areas like well-being of communities, supporting social causes, education, healthcare, and economic development. By actively participating in community projects, businesses can help address local needs, improve quality of life, and foster positive relationships with stakeholders and the information related to their CSR activities are made available on the official websites and annual reports of all the selected companies. All the companies under study have a CSR policy, CSR Committee and follow the rules and regulation as given in the company's act 2013. Companies give priority to the local area of their operation where they operate their business; however, they also take CSR initiatives in other areas as per the need and ordinance of Govt of India.

LIMITATIONS

The main limitation of this paper is that it only studies the CSR initiatives of the major energy sector companies' other sectors and industries are not included or considered for this study. Moreover, the data collected is limited to only the period of FY (2021-22). It is advisable to review data for a long period of time to better analyse the trend of the CSR spendings and contribution of these companies for the overall support to the social and economic lives of the people and the environmental sustainability. Secondly, the data collected is secondary from the Companies websites and annual reports. Therefore, the analysis from the beneficiary's point of view could not be possible.

CONCLUSION

Companies have created a positive overall impact on the lives of people and on the environmental and economic development through their CSR initiatives. The Companies are complying with all the provided legislations of the government of India in relation to CSR. Nevertheless, companies keep the needs of the community in the centre of their CSR planning and implementation; the companies are suggested to include the local community in their CSR planning to ensure that CSR initiatives are closely linked to the needs and priorities of the communities they aim to serve. Companies involve stakeholders, including local communities, NGOs, employees, and government agencies, in the planning and implementation of CSR projects. Engaging with stakeholders helps understand their needs, gain support, and create sustainable solutions. Moreover, some of the Companies have also adopted an impact assessment of their CSR initiatives so that they can get feedback and suggestion to further improve their future CSR initiatives so to have a more visible impact.

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