

# Environmental Accounting and Corporate Social Responsibility: Awareness, Benefits of selected Companies in Bangalore

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## ABSTRACT

The social and environmental issues and the impact of them on the decision making process have been increasingly given attention to the financial reporting. Over time there are many studies about Social and Environmental accounting that have different views and arguments on the importance to the corporate report. In developed countries, the social and environmental accounting has joined the financial report and annual report; however it is still a new concept to Indian companies. The objective of this study is to assess the understanding of selected people on the social and environmental concept, their implementation on companies in Bangalore. In order to collect data for the research, questionnaire survey will be used as a helpful method. The finding uncovers that although most people understand the importance of social and environmental activities and having corporate social responsibility reports, few of companies is able to quantify the cost and benefits of social and environmental activities as in the financial report.

## 1. Introduction

The evolution of corporate social responsibility in India refers to changes over time in India of the cultural norms of corporations' engagement of corporate social responsibility (CSR), with CSR referring to way that businesses are managed to bring about an overall positive impact on the communities, cultures, societies and environments in which they operate. The fundamentals of CSR rest on the fact that not only public policy but even corporate should be responsible enough to address social issues. Thus companies should deal with the challenges and issues looked after to a certain extent by the states. Among other countries India has one of the richest traditions of CSR. Much has been done in recent years to make Indian Entrepreneurs aware of social responsibility as an important segment of their business activity but CSR in India has yet to receive widespread recognition. If this goal has to be realized then the CSR approach of corporate has to be in line with their attitudes towards mainstream business- companies setting clear objectives, undertaking potential investments, measuring and reporting performance publicly.

Environmental and social protection is the urgent task of each enterprise, each level, each sector, and each country. For any economic sector, the development is always linked to the sustainability of environment and society. In the long term, the responsibilities of the enterprises to the environmental and social issues shall be an important factor to increase the profit of these enterprises. Thus, the enterprises are required to balance between the economic benefits and social and environmental contributions, implementing the responsibilities of the enterprises to the environment through particular actions such as: environmental impact assessment, paying environmental tax, classifying and treating solid waste, minimizing the costs on materials, fuel and reducing the costs for waste. Especially in the background of international economic integration and globalization, the competition is fierce and fiercer, many enterprises only concern on their short-term

benefits and have decisions and actions with negative impacts on the environment; as a result, they have to pay the penalty for their actions when the consumers and the society boycott.

## 2. Review of literature

**Prof. SidhartaUtama** in his Research paper stated that the role of regulator in promoting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and b. identify and evaluate the infrastructures necessary for accountant able CSR reporting using the case of Indonesia. The essay suggests that regulator can promote CSR by creating conducive infrastructures for CSR. For CSR reporting these include a. the existence of globally accepted reporting standard/guidance on CSR reporting, b. the existence of globally assurance standard for CSR reports, c. the practice of good corporate governance, d. supportive regulation on CSR, and e. Public pressure on CSR. These infrastructures are applied to the condition in Indonesia.

**Osemene, O .F (2012)** his study on impact of corporate social responsibility (CSR) practices in the Nigerian telecommunication industry (2006 – 2011) by evaluating the factors influencing CSR adoption. Primary data were obtained from pretested questionnaire administered to 400 respondents (stakeholders and telecommunication staff) across the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria using a purposive sampling technique. Secondary data on the annual reports of the company (2007-2011) were examined. Data were analyzed using appropriate descriptive and inferential statistics at  $P < 0.05$  significant level. Results revealed that CSR impacted positively on the environment, telecommunication staff and stakeholders. Factors that influenced CSR practices were identified as X1(competition), X2(subscribers demands), X3(pressure from civil and human right group), X7(service quality), X9(legal requirements), and X10(infrastructural decay)

## 3. Statement of the Problem

Recently the public is watching closely to pressing cases of violating business ethics and destroying the environment and health at serious level such as waste chemicals are discharging untreated wastewater directly to Helemariyappa lake by Cipla Company in Bangalore. The wrong-or right of the above cases are clear. However, for the society and thousands of operating enterprises, the issue of Cooperate Social Responsibility (CSR) is set up and requires to be discussed seriously in terms of policy argument and practice. What should a company do to be evaluated by the society as a good company with sustainable development? What are the responsibilities of the state management agencies? Which level should the law regulate about the corporate social responsibility?

The issue is that how we can rely on the voluntary investment of the enterprises when there is lack of legal framework, regulations and necessary monitoring of the society and the community. Lessons show that the power of profit can make the enterprises blind and irresponsible by hiding their legal actions and the voluntary investment of the enterprises is very limited.

**4. Objectives of Research**

- 1) To investigate the Perception of Employees about CSR and Environmental and Social Accounting in selected companies;
- 2) To understand the current implementation of CSR and Environmental and Social Accounting in sample companies.

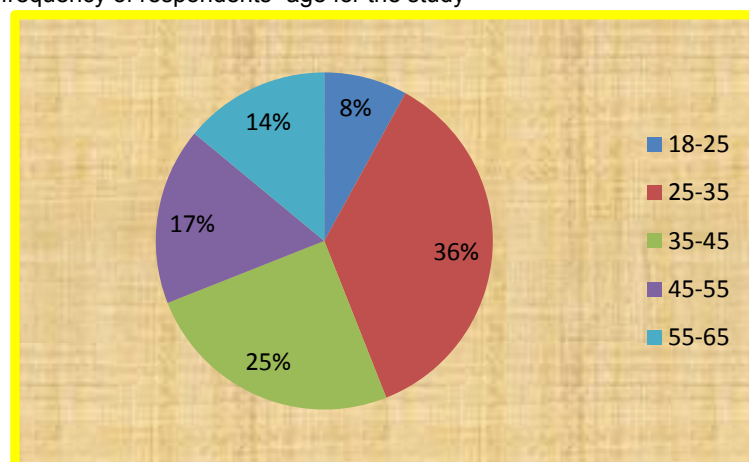
**5. Hypothesis**

- 1. There is a correlation between Environmental Accounting and Business Policy of the firm to achieve competitive advantage.
- 2. Conscious reduction in environmental costs, benefits and contingencies will enhance environmental performance of the organization

**6. Research methodology**

*1. Description of respondents' age*

The chart below shows the frequency of respondents' age for the study



**Figure 1: Age frequency of respondents**

Both Primary data Secondary data are used for the study. Primary data is new information collected by the researcher for a specific purpose. There are several ways to collect data such as through interview, questionnaire, case study, or observation. In this research, the questionnaire survey will be conducted to gather primary information define a questionnaire.

Secondary data may be taken from many sources such as company information (internal and external), government agencies, and internet-based resources. These data can be qualitative, quantitative, raw data, or compiled data. In this research, the secondary data sources are collected through public materials such as books and journals in the library, internet, official company's website and government investigation reports. In this research, a sample is taken from respondents in Infosys, L&T, ABB, and Kennametal (widia) Inc, Four big companies specializing in Software and Manufacturing. They are leading companies in their sector, therefore, this sample can be considered as a representative for the study.

**7. Result and discussion**

The questionnaire is given to 200 respondents; however, there are only 108 people respond to the questionnaire, 92 other people refuse to answer. The filled-in questionnaire is going to be classified into categories of age, gender, and question's number bases. As the research's intention, this research will study about many selected companies in Bangalore. But in fact, as for the limitation in time and capacity, the research only studies two companies. This section is merely the description and analysis of the results collected and calculated. That is for the overall picture of the results which will help to explain the findings of this research in the next section.

**1. Description of Respondents' information**

When answering the questionnaire, respondents are asked to provide some personal basic information, which are Name, Age, and Gender. With 8 questions sent to 200 people such as managers, employees, customers, receiving 108 results. This information is gathered as follows:

Based on collected data, respondents from 18 to 25 years old are 9 people, equal to 8.00 %; respondents who are from 25 to 35 years old are 39 people, hold 36.00 %. Other

respondents are people from 35 to 45 years old, 27 people, as 25.00 %; from 45 to 55 years old, 18 people, equal to 17.00 %; and from 55 to 65 years old, 15 people, as 14.00 %.

2. Description of respondents' gender

The data of respondents' Gender can be illustrated in chart as follows:

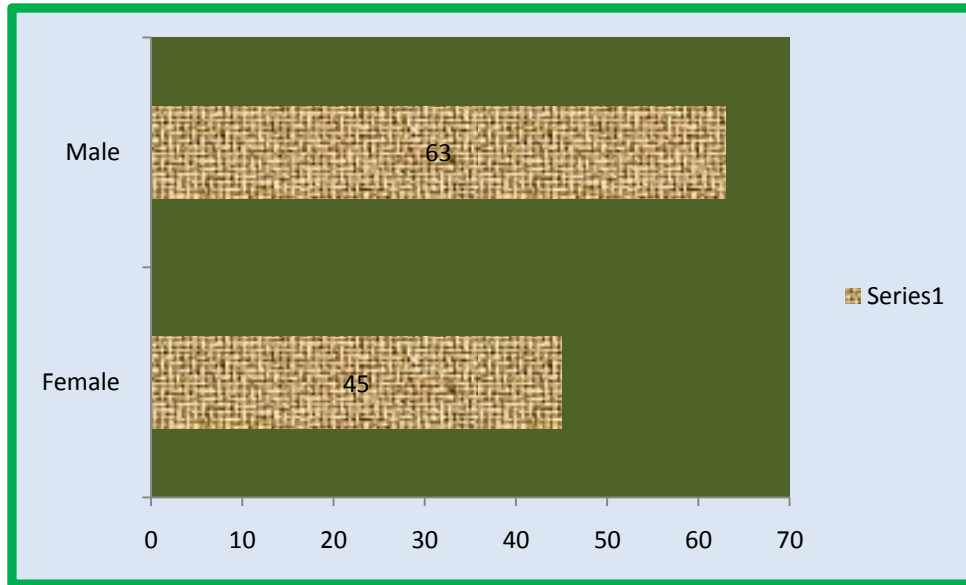


Figure2: Gender frequency of respondents

From the table and chart above, it is easily to see that among 108 respondents, 63 people are male, equals 58.00 %, and the rest, 45 people are female, equal 42.00 %.

The awareness of respondents about SEA is reflected in first three questions as follows:

2. Description and Analysis of respondents about the Awareness of Social and Environmental Accounting

2.1: The first question of SEA asking the respondents is: "I understand the meaning of "Social and Environmental Accounting." This question is asked for making sure that the understanding of SEA concept in the real life situation.

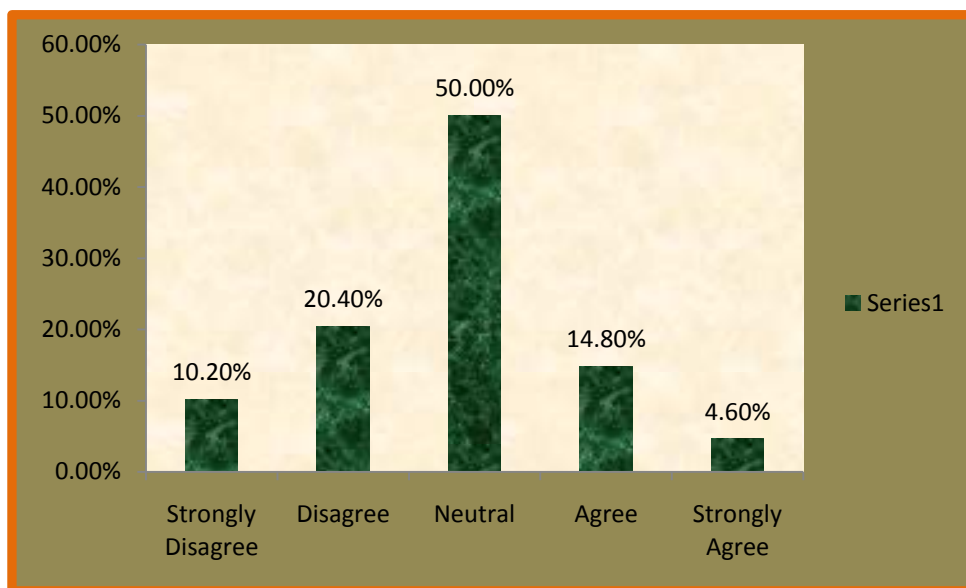


Figure 2.1: Understanding the meaning of "Social and Environmental Accounting"

Form the above diagram shows that most of the respondents have chosen: "Neutral". Among 108 respondents, only 5 people or 4.6 %, chose the answer of "Strongly Agree", 16 people chose the answer of "Agree" or 14.8 %, 54 people respondents "Neutral" equal 50.0 %, 22 people chose

"Disagree" corresponding 20.4% and 10.2% or 11 people with the most answer is strongly disagree. It means that people in society have little awareness of SEA, which is the first stage to implement SEA to wider range of business. In developed countries, the social and environmental accounting has joined

businesses" activities for a long time. In developing countries as Vietnam, the concept of SEA has not been introduced

adequately; therefore it is quite new and not popular.

**2.2 I am aware of the link between social and environmental accounting and Sustainable Development.**

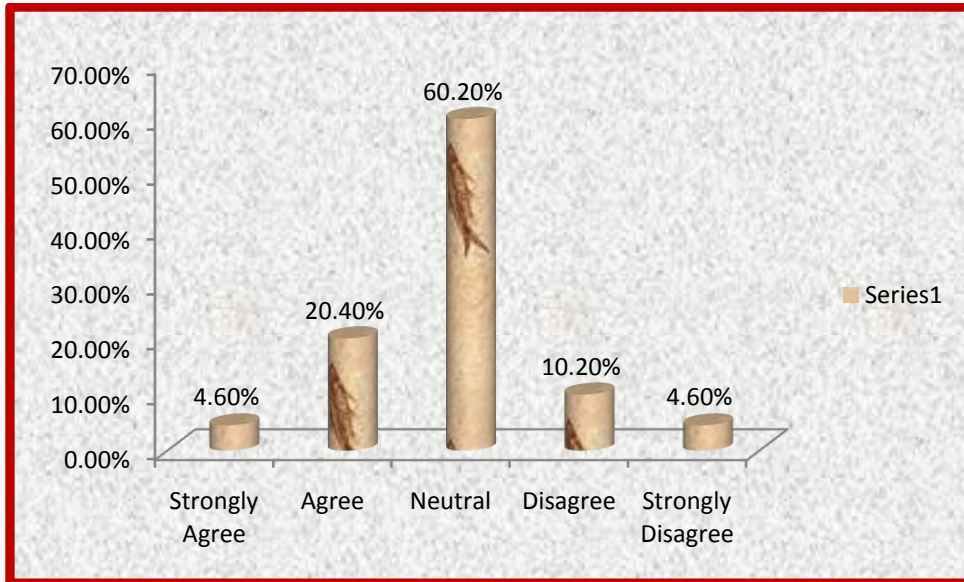
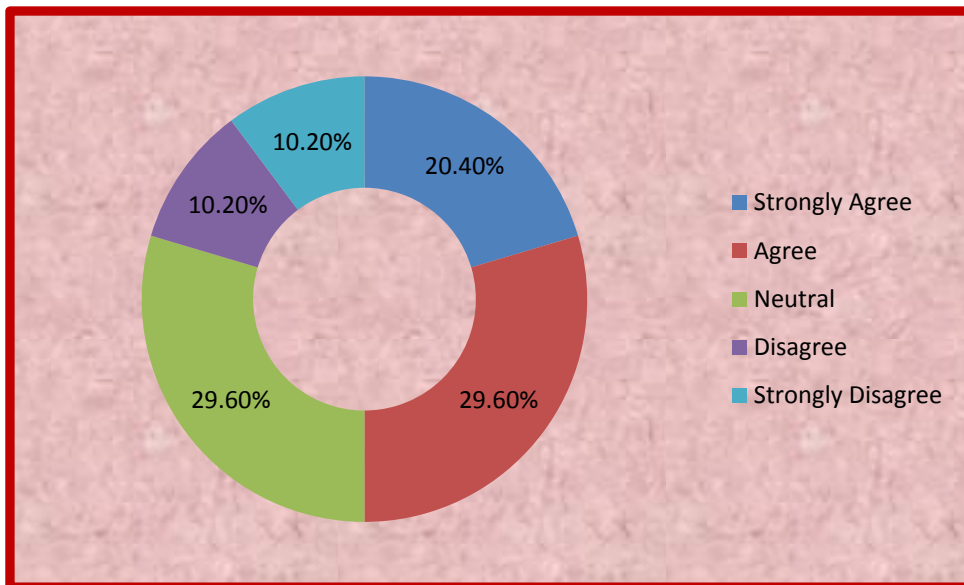


Figure 2.2

This question is asked for making sure that the understanding of SEA concept in the real enterprise situation. Even though the percentage of respondents choosing "Agree" and "Neutral" is higher than the ones choosing "strongly agree"

and "disagree"; there is obvious that the number of respondents who have chosen "disagree" decreases compared to the previous question is 10% and no answer with "strongly disagree".

**Question 3: "The cost and benefit of social and environmental issues should be quantified in the Social and Environmental report?"**

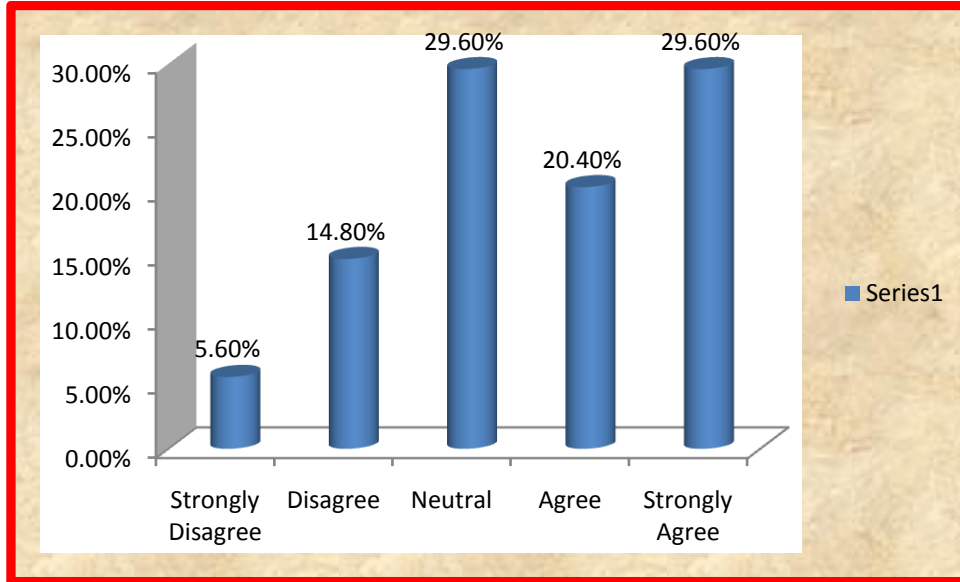


From the above analysis stated that the respondents chosen among 108 respondents, 22 people or 20.4 % chose the answer of "Strongly Agree", 32 people chose the answer of "Agree" and 32 people respondents "Neutral" or 29.6 %, 11 people chose "Disagree" and 11 people with the most answer

is strongly disagree or 10.2%. It is visible that a large number of respondents agree with this statement. The social and environmental activities are a part of their company's operation; however, there is lack of quantitative detail such as cost and benefit analysis for SEA.

3. Description and Analysis of respondents about the Implementation of Social and Environmental Accounting:

3.1 "Implementing social and environmental accounting is important to the sustainable development of company."



**Description of Result-** Among 108 respondents, 32 people or 29.6 %, chose the answer of "Strongly Agree" and "Neutral", 22 people chose the answer of "Agree" or 20.4%, 16 people respondents "Disagree" equal 14.8 %, 6 people with the most answer is strongly disagree or 5.6%. Most respondents

have the judgment of the importance of implementing SEA at their companies. However, a number of 29.6% respondents that has a neutral opinion mean that the implementation of SEA is not adequately taken into account in their company.

3.2: Company voluntarily involves in developing or supporting environmental and social programs

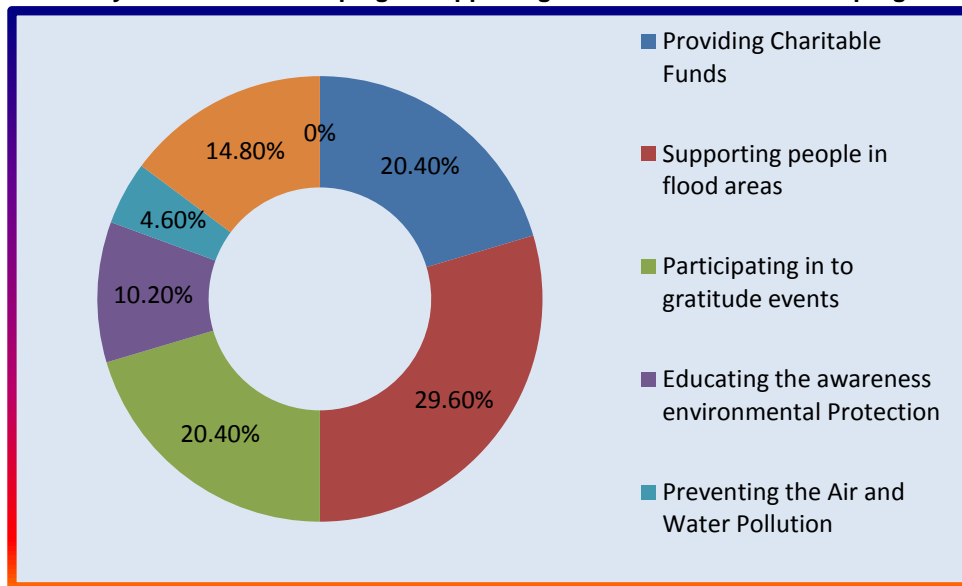
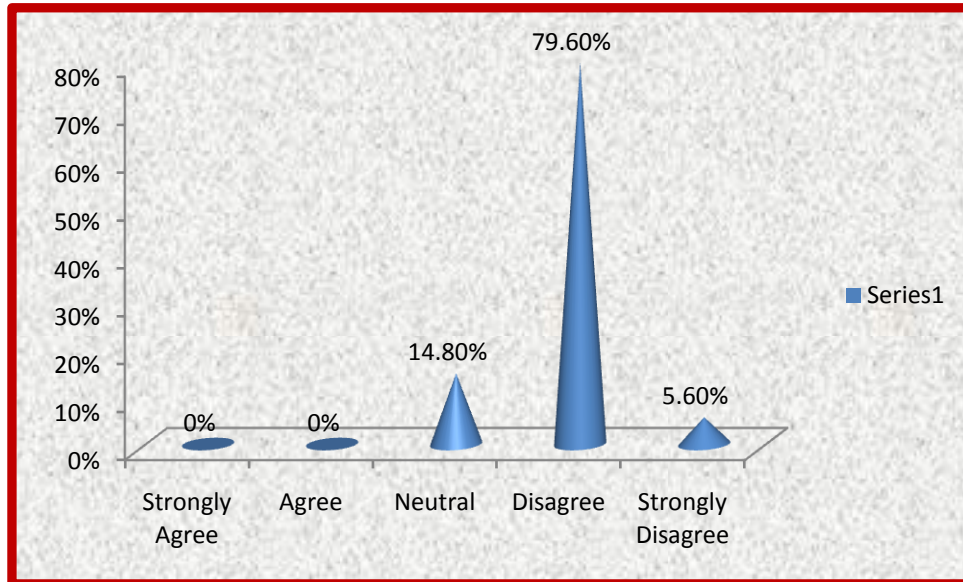


Figure 3.2: Description of Result – Question3.2

The result for this question of is that 22 people or 20.4 %, chose the answer of "Providing charitable funds" and "Participating into gratitude events", 32 people chose the answer of "Supporting people in flood areas" or 29.6 %, 11 people respondents "Educating the awareness of

environmental protection" equal 10.2 %, 5 people chose "Preventing air pollution/ water pollution" or 4.6 % and 16 people with the most answer is "Collecting, recycling, reuse, and proper disposal of products" or 14.8%.

**Question 3.3: Company has an accounting system to quantify the cost and benefit of social and environmental programs.**



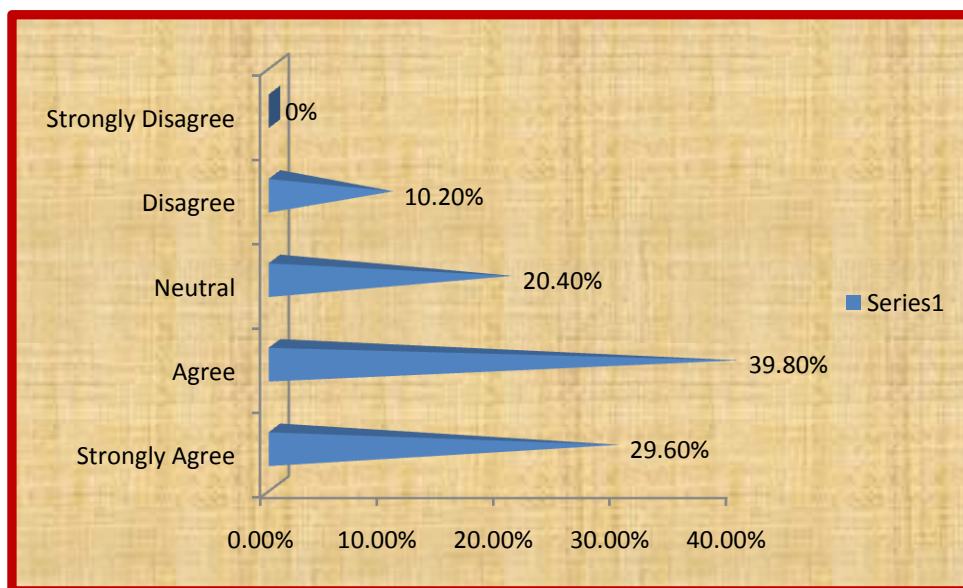
**Figure 4.8: Description of Result – Question 3.3**

**Description of Result-**There are 16 people or 14.8 %, chose the answer of “Neutral”, 86 people chose the answer of “Disagree” or 79.6 %, 6 people respondents “Strongly disagree” equal 5.6 % and none of them chose “Strongly agree” or “Agree”. The reason for this change is due to the changing customers’ perceptions of eco-friendly products and major changes in societal conditions. In India, the enterprise does not have cost/benefit calculation that considers the contributions to social and environmental solutions for reducing social and environmental impacts and improving social equity and environmental conservation developments. The administration benefits take into account of the economic benefits from enhancing the customers’ understandings of the

company’s effort to reduce social and environmental impacts that has not been applied.

**Question 3.4:It is necessary to include the Social and Environmental report in the annual report or sustainability report**

In this question, respondents were asked “It is necessary to include the Social and Environmental report in the annual report or sustainability report”. The result for this question is that 32 people or 29.6 %, chose the answer of “Strongly Agree”, 43 people chose the answer of “Agree” or 39.8 %, 22 people respondents “Neutral” equal 20.4 %, 11 people with the most answer is “Disagree” or 10.2% and none of people chose “Strongly disagree”.



**Figure 4.9: Description of Result – Question 4 – Part III**

**Description of Result -**The results showed that most of selected managers questioned are aware quite clearly of the importance of CSR issues in the enterprise, as well as "Environmental and social accounting" that should be included in financial statements or annual report in the enterprise itself.

It is also the rules of business ethics, and they perceive their roles beside the profit in business, they are responsible for the environment and society where the enterprise is operating. It is also found that they had become aware of long-term benefits and firm development of the enterprise in the future; there will

be big contribution of SEA to accompany the products and services that the society recognizes that enterprise.

## 8. Findings

- Based on collected data, respondents from 18 to 25 years old are 9 people, equal to 8.00 %; respondents who are from 25 to 35 years old are 39 people, hold 36.00 %. Other respondents are people from 35 to 45 years old, 27 people, as 25.00 %; from 45 to 55 years old, 18 people, and equal to 17.00 %; and from 55 to 65 years old, 15 people, as 14.00 %.
- Most of the respondents have chosen: "Neutral". Among 108 respondents, only 5 people or 4.6 %, chose the answer of "Strongly Agree", 16 people chose the answer of "Agree" or 14.8 %, 54 people respondents "Neutral" equal 50.0 %, 22 people chose "Disagree" corresponding 20.4% and 10.2% or 11 people with the most answer is strongly disagree. It means that people in society have little awareness of SEA, which is the first stage to implement SEA to wider range of business
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- 20.4 %, chose the answer of "Providing charitable funds" and "Participating into gratitude events", 32 people chose the answer of "Supporting people in flood areas" or 29.6 %, 11 people respondents "Educating the awareness of environmental protection" equal 10.2 %, 5 people chose "Preventing air pollution/ water pollution" or 4.6 % and 16 people with the most answer is "Collecting, recycling, reuse, and proper disposal of products" or 14.8%.
- There are 16 people or 14.8 %, chose the answer of "Neutral", 86 people chose the answer of "Disagree" or 79.6 %, 6 people respondents "Strongly disagree" equal 5.6 % and none of them chose "Strongly agree" or "Agree". The reason for this change is due to the changing customers' perceptions of eco-friendly products and major changes in societal conditions.

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- CSR issues in the enterprise, as well as "Environmental and social accounting" that should be included in financial statements or annual report in the enterprise itself. It is also the rules of business ethics, and they perceive their roles beside the profit in business, they are responsible for the environment and society where the enterprise is operating.

## 9. Suggestions

Environmental information to help make management decision on pricing, controlling overhead and capital budgeting, and external use, disclosing environmental information of interest to the public and to the financial community. Hence, it is suggested that environmental accounting concepts must be clysters cleared for the public, financial communities and others gain knowledge on environmental accounting and to know far it is useful to the stakeholders.

## 10. Conclusion

Within the macro view, the environmental protection, business growth and social efficiency, is always in conflict. Also for enterprise, growth pressure or business effect can transgress the environment protection, unless the authorities or consumers interfere. Each product selected by consumers can be considered as a vote for the enterprise. The more votes there are, the better it is for the growth of the enterprise. The problem is whether the consumers are aware of and use selecting right effectively or not.

## 11. Limitations of the Study

In this Article, some limits can affect the accurate and enough result for a Research Paper. Firstly, it can be mentioned that selecting business enterprise of executives are not ready to give information because of Company policy. Secondly, answers were only selected precipitately other than practical natural world. Or answers are to help, other than taking time for each situation. All above matters affect the survey result, small or big. Therefore, with those basic limitation and difficulties during researching, the research can give the best result in aspect of small research.

## 12. Scope for Furthers Research

Environment Accounting new to our India context, the above research topic, if it is carried out better in the future, there will be some more specific experiences as well as plans to improve and give more satisfactory 54 Result. Firstly, this research shall be widen more to enterprises, there will be more time to collect survey data, and there will be more approaching methods such as direct interview. In addition, questionnaire will be given more suitably for each subject, and it can be divided each question for each different knowledge level to related problems.

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