



## Climate Justice and Corporate Social Responsibility: Legal, Governance and Developmental Perspectives in Rajasthan

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### ABSTRACT

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This study explores the intersection of climate justice and corporate social responsibility (CSR) within the legal, governance, and developmental landscape of Rajasthan. As one of India's most climate-vulnerable states, Rajasthan faces persistent challenges such as water scarcity, drought, land degradation, and livelihood insecurity impacts that disproportionately affect marginalized and resource-dependent communities. Through a climate justice lens, the analysis highlights how existing legal frameworks, including environmental statutes, constitutional mandates, and the CSR provisions under the Companies Act, shape equitable climate action and community resilience. The study argues that CSR, when aligned with justice-oriented principles, can complement state initiatives by fostering sustainable development, improving adaptive capacities, and ensuring participatory governance. However, gaps in implementation, accountability, and community engagement limit the transformative potential of both legal mechanisms and corporate interventions. The paper concludes that integrating climate justice values into CSR strategies, strengthening governance institutions, and promoting rights-based development are essential for advancing inclusive and sustainable climate responses in Rajasthan.

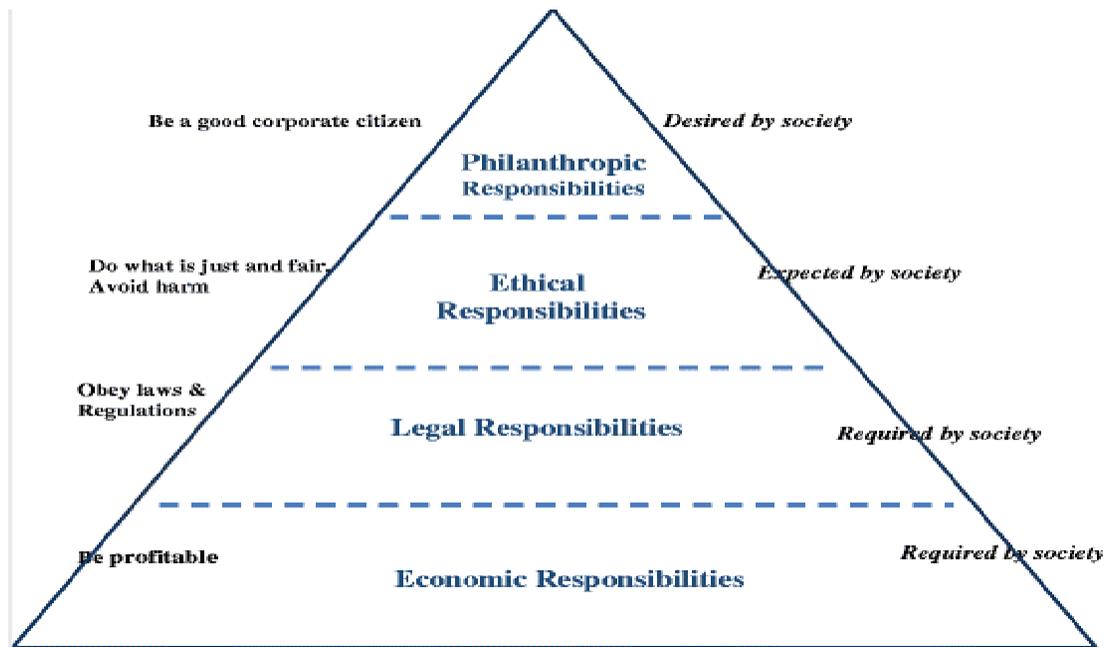
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### Introduction

In response to increased demand from consumers, the public, and their investors, who want them to operate ethically and sustainably, a growing number of businesses worldwide have been implementing corporate social responsibility plans in recent years. These days, the main goals of corporate social responsibility are to optimize the company's total influence on stakeholders and society. An rising number of businesses are integrating corporate social responsibility principles, practices, and initiatives into every aspect of their operations [1]. A rising number of businesses believe that corporate social responsibility is crucial for preserving goodwill and image, fending against asaults, and boosting company competitiveness rather than merely being another indirect expenditure.

Businesses have dedicated CSR teams that create policies, plans, and objectives for their CSR initiatives and create side budgets to support them. These programs, which have well-defined goals and are in line with mainstream business, are frequently decided by social philosophy. The personnel that are essential to this process implement these programs. Community development, education, the environment, health, women's empowerment, and other areas are all included in corporate social programs. Given the significance of corporate social responsibility as previously discussed and understood, it is crucial to make sure that these initiatives are governed by statutes [2]. The sole goal of passing legislation supporting corporate social responsibility is to give these efforts a statutory or legal character that requires everyone to take responsibility for corporate governance and social responsibility. Initiatives for Corporate Social Responsibility are encouraged and required by basic laws in India, which are governed by particular laws.



**Figure 1: The CSR Pyramid Model/Source: [jcsr.springeropen.com](http://jcsr.springeropen.com)**

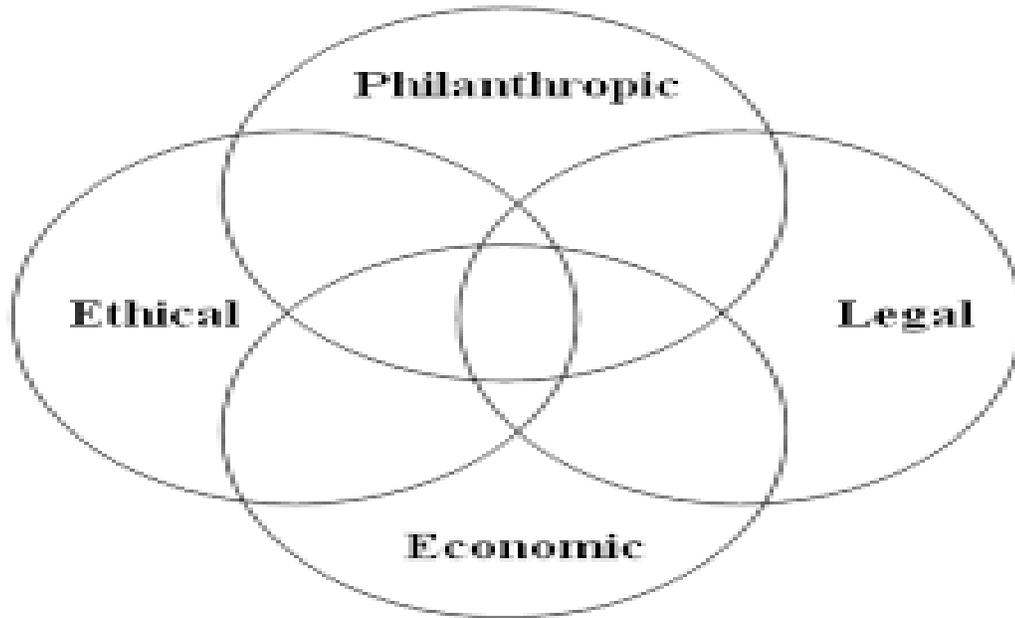
The origins of corporate social responsibility (CSR) can be traced back thousands of years. Ancient Mesopotamia, around 1700 BC, King Hammurabi instituted a code that stipulated that builders and farmers would be executed if their carelessness resulted in the deaths of others or caused significant

inconvenience to the local populace. The effects of business on society and the environment took on a completely new dimension with industrialization. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, "corporate paternalists" donated a portion of their fortune to charitable endeavors [3]. By the 1920s, conversations concerning corporate social responsibility had developed into what is now known as the "modern" CSR movement. Bowen's Social Responsibility of Businessmen, published in 1953, is credited with coining the term "corporate social responsibility" (Corporate Watch report, 2006). For every organization, the development of CSR is as ancient as commerce and business. A whole new worldview resulted from industrialization and the influence of companies on society. Since the 1960s, CSR has drawn interest from stakeholders and corporations because to its advantages.

Since 1960, many people have used the phrase "corporate social responsibility" (CSR) to refer to both legal and moral duty. Carroll expanded corporate social responsibility (CSR) in 1991 from the conventional legal and economic obligations to include ethical and charitable obligations. Its new definition shows that there are four interconnected tasks that make up corporate social responsibility (CSR) and contends that CSR cannot be accomplished without fulfilling the legal, ethical, philanthropic, and economic obligations. Shell in 1998. Corporate social responsibility (CSR) appears to be a response to the dangers posed by the educated and well-informed public. CSR was commonplace in the sector in 1990 because to firms like KPMG and Price Waterhouse Cooper (PwC). Beyond codes of conduct and reporting, corporate social responsibility (CSR) gradually began to take the lead in NGOs, multi-stakeholder projects, and ethical trade companies (Corporate Watch report, 2006) [4]. The CSR's historical development was divided into many eras (Johnson, 2010). The initial stage of CSR's growth was followed by the emergence of distinctive patterns in the 1970s. The changes that occurred in the 1990s and beyond followed the tendencies of the 1970s.

CSR was viewed as a result of industry in the early classical era. As large corporations grew in the 1870s, their operations began to have an increasing impact on various social spheres. Additional laws pertaining to corporate social responsibility were enacted between 1900 and 1920 under the umbrella of the group of social reforms that were promoted.

The immediate post-war era: Following World War II, the discussion of corporate social responsibility gained momentum. By this point, corporate generosity was ingrained in both industry and society. The concepts of stewardship and charity served as the cornerstones of modern perspectives on corporate social responsibility.



**Figure 2: The CSR Intersecting Circles Model (Source: keywordbasket.com)**

Trends in the 1970s: The CSR-based nature of the conflict changed somewhat in the 1970s. Corporate responsibility gave way to the idea of corporate responsiveness during World War II. The emphasis shifted from what companies could do to survive to what they could do to improve the world via sustainability as a result of this new emphasis on responsiveness [5].

Changes in the 1990s: The modern form of corporate social responsibility (CSR) emerged in the 1990s as a result of new forms of stakeholder engagement, social regulations, and governmental requirements for CSR reporting. In order to incorporate arguments based on sustainability, corporate social performance, business ethics, green marketing, stakeholder theory, and citizenship theory, critics and academics enhanced their analysis.

The nature and context of the many problem kinds make it difficult. Corporate social responsibility is deeply ingrained in every facet of the environment, society, and economic system all of which are extremely complex and dynamic systems. Furthermore, the inherent ambiguity of the problems at hand makes corporate social responsibility complicated. A type of corporate self-regulation incorporated into a company model is corporate social responsibility, often known as corporate conscience,

corporate citizenship, or responsible business. Studies show that corporate social responsibility (CSR) serves as a way for a company to make sure that it complies with legal requirements, ethical standards, and national or international conventions. Programs for corporate social responsibility (CSR) urge businesses to improve the environment and all stakeholders, including customers, workers, investors, and communities [6]. Concurrently, political sociologists developed an interest in corporate social responsibility (CSR) within the framework of late capitalism, neoliberalism, and globalization theories.

### **Literature review**

**Ahmad (2018) [1]** explores the evolving role of civil society institutions in shaping environmental governance within India's post-colonial context. The study argues that civil society actors such as NGOs, grassroots movements, and community organizations function as crucial intermediaries between the state and marginalized populations in addressing environmental injustices. Ahmad emphasizes that despite constitutional provisions safeguarding environmental rights, structural inequalities and colonial legacies still shape environmental decision-making. The paper highlights human rights challenges, especially for vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by environmental degradation. By examining environmental justice through a socio-legal lens, Ahmad underscores the need for stronger participatory mechanisms and legal empowerment to ensure equitable governance.

**Amin & Nath (2023) [2]** investigate the intersection between environmental justice and education, arguing that meaningful environmental reform requires bridging gaps in ecological knowledge, equitable access to resources, and educational opportunities. Their work underscores that environmental injustice is often perpetuated through disparities in educational exposure, which limit communities' capacity to engage in ecological decision-making. By connecting ecology, equity, and access, the authors propose an integrated educational framework aimed at fostering environmental awareness and empowering disadvantaged groups. Their analysis suggests that environmental education must move beyond scientific knowledge to include social, cultural, and justice-oriented perspectives in order to cultivate a more inclusive environmental movement.

**Atapattu (2019) [3]** Atapattu examines environmental justice and climate justice within the broader framework of constitutionalism. She argues that constitutional protections play a vital role in

safeguarding vulnerable states and communities from climate-related harms. The work highlights the differentiated impacts of climate change on the Global South, Indigenous communities, and small island nations, emphasizing the importance of embedding climate rights within constitutional structures. Through a comparative approach, Atapattu shows that constitutional environmental rights when enforceable can serve as effective tools for addressing historical inequalities, promoting participatory governance, and strengthening global climate justice efforts.

**Atapattu (2020) [4]** investigates the human rights implications of climate-induced displacement, focusing on the emerging category of “climate refugees.” She critiques the limitations of existing international legal frameworks that fail to recognize or adequately protect individuals displaced by environmental and climate-related events. The article argues for a justice-based approach that integrates human rights principles with global climate governance, ensuring dignified treatment and legal protection for displaced populations. By foregrounding the voices of vulnerable communities, Atapattu calls for the development of a comprehensive international regime that acknowledges climate displacement as both a humanitarian and justice-oriented concern.

**Colombo & Giadrossi (2019) [5]** provide a comparative analysis of international litigation related to climate change, with particular focus on access to justice in climate adaptation matters. Their case-based examination reveals that while climate litigation is expanding globally, significant barriers remain for affected communities seeking legal remedies, especially in adaptation contexts where harm is diffuse and complex. The authors highlight procedural challenges, jurisdictional limitations, and uneven power dynamics within the international legal system. They argue that improving access to justice requires reforms that strengthen transnational legal mechanisms, enhance public participation, and promote judicial responsiveness to climate-related claims. Their contribution illustrates how comparative litigation can inform the development of fairer and more accessible climate governance structures.

**Ghosh (2019) [6]** provides a comprehensive examination of Indian environmental law, tracing its evolution through constitutional mandates, statutory frameworks, and judicial interventions. The work highlights how India’s environmental governance has been shaped by a combination of public interest litigation, judicial activism, and the increasing influence of international environmental norms. Ghosh emphasizes the role of the judiciary in expanding environmental rights by interpreting Article 21 to include the right to a clean and healthy environment. The text also draws attention to persistent

challenges such as weak enforcement mechanisms, institutional fragmentation, and competing developmental priorities. Overall, Ghosh's analysis underscores the need for stronger regulatory coherence and community participation to strengthen environmental governance in India.

**Giacomini (2022) [7]** Giacomini critically examines the relationship between Indigenous peoples and climate justice within the framework of international human rights law. She argues that although international norms increasingly recognize Indigenous rights, gaps remain in ensuring meaningful protections against climate-related harms. The book explores how Indigenous communities disproportionately experience the effects of climate change despite contributing least to global emissions, situating their struggles within broader issues of historical marginalization and colonial legacies. Giacomini advocates for governance models that center Indigenous knowledge systems, self-determination, and participatory decision-making. Her analysis calls for redefining climate justice to include cultural integrity, territorial rights, and a shift from state-centric to community-driven environmental governance.

**Jolly & Ahmad (2019) [8]** analyze the emerging legal challenges surrounding climate refugees in South Asia, focusing specifically on how regional judiciaries address or fail to address the rights of climate-induced displaced persons. The authors highlight that South Asia, one of the world's most climate-vulnerable regions, faces increasing displacement due to sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and resource scarcity. Their chapter reveals that while national courts have taken progressive stances on environmental protection, legal protections for climate refugees remain underdeveloped and inconsistent. The authors argue for stronger judicial engagement grounded in international legal principles, urging courts to adopt rights-based approaches and expand interpretations of existing refugee and human rights frameworks to meet the demands of climate displacement.

**Ladan (2018) [9]** examines how effective domestic environmental laws and policies are pivotal to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in developing countries. He argues that without robust legal frameworks addressing environmental protection, climate change mitigation, and resource management, achieving SDG targets becomes unattainable. The article outlines the need for legal reforms that align national environmental policies with global climate commitments while strengthening institutions responsible for enforcement. Ladan also emphasizes capacity-building, public participation, and stronger policy integration across sectors as essential components of effective

sustainability governance. His analysis positions environmental law as a fundamental tool in bridging the gap between global aspirations and local realities.

**Madhanagopal & Jacob (2022) [10]** investigate the dynamics of climate risks in India, emphasizing how social inequalities shape the distribution of climate burdens. They argue that climate justice in India cannot be understood without accounting for entrenched caste hierarchies, economic disparities, and uneven access to resources. The authors show that marginalized communities face greater exposure to climate hazards such as droughts, floods, and heatwaves, while also having fewer adaptive capacities. Through a socio-political lens, they call for climate policies that are not merely technocratic but grounded in social justice, equity, and participatory governance. Their chapter advocates for a transformative approach that reimagines climate action as an inclusive process centered on vulnerable populations.

**Michael, Shrivastava, Hakhu & Bajaj (2020) [11]** present a two-step framework for integrating gender justice into climate mitigation policies in India, highlighting the ways in which gendered vulnerabilities intersect with climate impacts. The authors argue that mitigation strategies often overlook gendered experiences, leading to unequal burdens on women and marginalized gender groups. Their proposed approach involves first identifying gender-differentiated impacts within mitigation interventions, and second, designing policy mechanisms that deliberately address these inequities. Using Indian case studies, they demonstrate how gender-responsive mitigation not only promotes social justice but also enhances policy effectiveness by ensuring diverse community participation. The article calls for mainstreaming gender into climate governance through institutional reforms, improved data systems, and inclusive decision-making processes.

**Ohdedar (2022) [12]** expands the scope of climate litigation by incorporating a political ecology lens to examine climate adaptation, vulnerability, and rights-based claims. He argues that traditional climate litigation has focused predominantly on mitigation, thereby overlooking the urgent need for accountability in adaptation governance—particularly for communities disproportionately vulnerable to climate impacts. By analyzing rights-based cases, the study shows how litigation can challenge structural inequalities, highlight power imbalances, and foreground socio-political drivers of vulnerability. Ohdedar proposes that integrating political ecology helps broaden legal strategies to address not just environmental harms but also their underlying social and economic determinants. His

work emphasizes the transformative potential of litigation to advance climate justice for marginalized groups.

**Peel & Lin (2019) [13]** explore the rising phenomenon of transnational climate litigation, focusing on the growing contributions of Global South countries to global legal climate action. They highlight how courts in the Global South are increasingly adopting innovative legal doctrines and rights-based approaches to address climate governance failures. The authors argue that these cases reveal diverse pathways for holding governments and corporations accountable, often drawing on constitutional rights, environmental principles, and international norms. Their analysis shows that the Global South is not merely a site of climate vulnerability but also a source of legal innovation that influences global climate jurisprudence. Peel and Lin underscore how transnational litigation facilitates knowledge exchange, strengthens global legal norms, and enhances climate accountability across borders.

**Rahman (2021) [14]** examines the extent to which ordinary citizens in Bangladesh can meaningfully pursue environmental justice within the existing legal, policy, and institutional frameworks. The paper highlights significant progress in environmental jurisprudence, particularly through public interest litigation, but points out persistent barriers such as bureaucratic inefficiencies, limited public awareness, and weak enforcement mechanisms. Rahman argues that environmental governance in Bangladesh remains highly centralized, often restricting community participation and access to justice. By analyzing legal provisions, institutional structures, and case outcomes, the study reveals gaps between formal legal commitments and grassroots realities. It concludes that achieving environmental justice requires strengthening transparency, decentralizing decision-making, and enhancing institutional capacity to respond to citizen grievances.

**Tripura, Gupta & Kharbithai (2023) [15]** analyze the relationship between constitutional rights and social justice in India, emphasizing how constitutional provisions have been instrumental in advancing equality, environmental rights, and socio-economic protections. The authors highlight the judiciary's proactive role in interpreting fundamental rights expansively—particularly Article 21—to address evolving social justice concerns, including environmental protection and the rights of marginalized communities. Their analysis reveals both progress and limitations in translating constitutional ideals into practice, noting disparities in enforcement and uneven access to legal remedies. The study

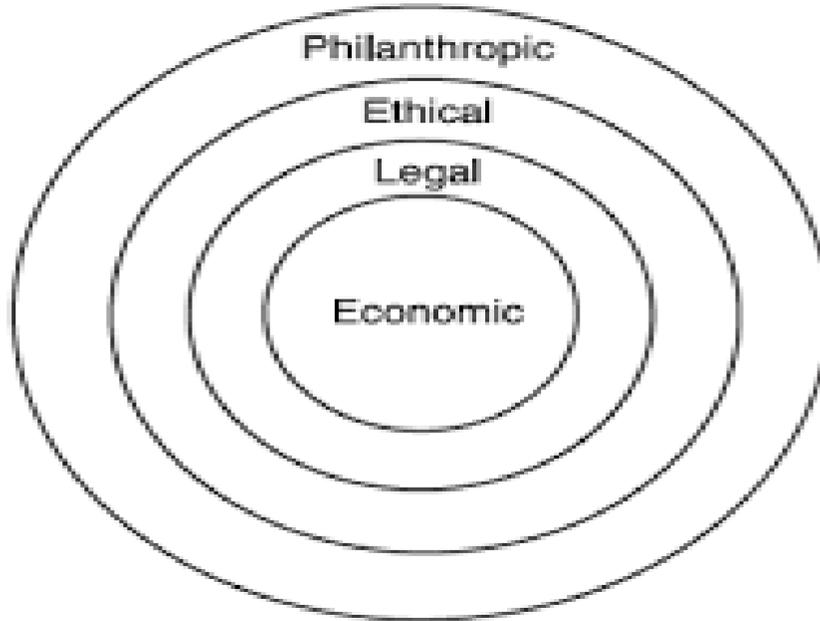
underscores the importance of integrating social justice principles into governance mechanisms to ensure that constitutional rights become meaningful tools for inclusive and equitable development.

## **Methodology**

The purpose of this research is to contribute to our understanding of the evolving role that banks play in fostering corporate social responsibility. The investigation of the tactics used by Indian banks is the main topic of this study. Because the study primarily uses an explanatory framework, the content analysis approach is used to build a relational analytical framework. The investigation of the status, vision, function, and mode of operation of Indian banks forms the basis of this study. In order to fulfill their corporate social responsibility, banks frequently collaborate with a variety of social organizations, including elected government bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs, SHGs, etc.), and academic institutions (universities, ITIs, schools, etc.). The study attempts to assess how nationalized banks are affected by Section 135 of the Companies Act of 2013 [7]. Additionally, it contrasts the corporate social responsibility programs and implementation methods used by both private and nationalized banks. Additionally, this study aims to investigate the area-specific spending of CSR programs in accordance with Section 135 of the Companies Act of 2103. A research design serves the purpose of ensuring that the data gathered during the research process can rationally and unambiguously answer the research topic. Finding information pertinent to the study topic in social science research typically involves defining the kind of evidence required to test a hypothesis, appraise a program, or precisely characterize and evaluate the significance of an observable phenomena In mixed method research, a researcher or team of researchers combines aspects of qualitative and quantitative research approaches (e.g., use of qualitative and quantitative viewpoints, data collection, analysis, and inference techniques) for the general goals of corroboration and breadth and depth of understanding. (Page 123 of Johnson et al. 2007)

At least one "point of integration" referred to as the "point of interface" by Morse and Niehaus (2009) and Guest (2013) is present in every genuine mixed methods investigation, where the qualitative and quantitative elements are combined [8]. A design built on several components may be identified by its points of integration. The term "mixed methods designs" refers to the fact that the components are now "mixed." However, the phrase "mixing" is deceptive because the components must be thoroughly integrated rather than just mingled. Using a questionnaire, the researcher tried to gather bank

managers' replies for this study. Both open-ended and closed-ended questions are included in this survey.



**Figure 3: The Committee for Economic Development (1971) published the Concentric Circle model of CSR.**

The Committee for Economic Development (1971) published the Concentric Circle model of CSR. Descriptive research frequently starts with exploratory research, and the information gathered from exploratory research is used to choose respondents, prioritize issues, formulate and pose questions, and schedule the time and location of the respondents' questions [9]. A descriptive research is one that gathers data without altering the surroundings (i.e., no manipulation). It is used to define "what exists" in relation to variables or conditions in a scenario by gathering information about the current state of the phenomenon. This approach includes anything from developmental research to surveys. Descriptive research was considered to be helpful in this study as attempts were made to define and characterize the behavioral part of corporate social responsibility in the Indian setting, and questionnaire respondents were chosen using random sampling. A sample, as used in research, is a collection of individuals, things, or products selected for assessment from a wider population. To guarantee that the researcher can extrapolate the results from the study

sample to the entire community, the sample should be representative of the population. The researcher's goal in this study is to investigate the corporate social responsibility policies of Indian banks, which can be thought of as a sample universe. The researcher used three nationalized banks and three private sector banks as a sampling unit using purposive sampling.

### **Appropriate Sample Size**

The top three banks from each sector Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, HDFC Bank Limited, ICICI Bank Limited, and Axis Bank Limited were chosen for this study. For this investigation, a total of six banks were examined.

### **Procedure for Sampling**

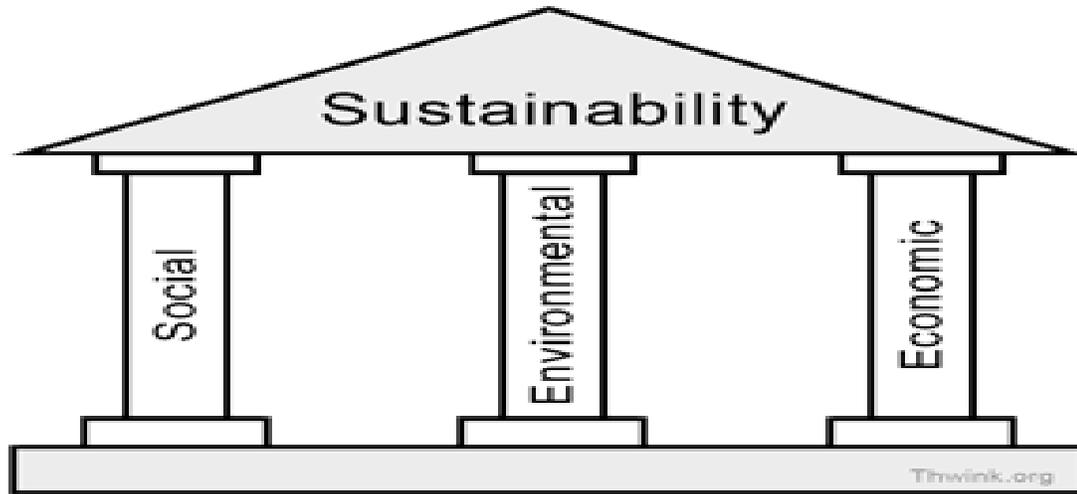
The process of choosing sample members from a population is known as a sampling technique. It can also be referred to as a method of selecting a subset of a population in order to test findings about the entire population. In light of this, the researcher selected a suitable sampling technique to obtain the study's results [10].

Purposive sampling, often referred to as judgment, selective, or subjective sampling, is a sampling approach where the researcher uses his or her own judgment to pick study participants from the community. Purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling technique where the researcher's judgment is used to choose the sample's components. Researchers frequently think that they may save time and money by employing good judgment to acquire a representative sample.

Because these chosen banks account for more than 75% of the income in each category, the top three banks from each category were chosen using this sample technique. As a result, the study's findings may be applied generally. According to Crisil Inclusix, 2018 (volume 4), five states were able to secure the top spots. As of December 2018, Delhi (NCT) is the only state with the most number of newly opened branches of both private and nationalized banks. Additionally, it has the densest population of any of the top five states, providing more room for CSR initiatives.

**Sustainable Development:** Natural resources are being used by humans more quickly than they are being replenished. Much of the current progress is therefore unsustainable. Understanding sustainable development challenges and addressing them in a company's business plan may be done through corporate social responsibility.

**Globalization:** As a result of its emphasis on international trade, multinational corporations, and global supply chains, corporate social responsibility issues pertaining to human resource management procedures, environmental preservation, health and safety, and other topics are becoming more prevalent.



**Figure 4: The Principal Foundations of Sustainability/Source: thwink.org**

In order to determine how company affects local communities, labor conditions, and the economy, as well as what actions may be made to guarantee that business contributes to the preservation and advancement of the public good, corporate social responsibility can be extremely important.

### **Governance**

Global Compacts, Declarations, Guidelines, Principles, and other documents have been created by governments and intergovernmental organizations to set standards for what constitutes appropriate corporate behavior [11]. International aims and rules pertaining to human rights, the environment, and anticorruption are frequently reflected in corporate social responsibility instruments.

**Impact of the Corporate Sector:** Concerns regarding influence and accountability are raised by the sheer size and quantity of corporations and their capacity to affect political, social, and environmental systems in comparison to governments and civil society.

## Result

In the case of India, it is evident that the requirement for a CSR fund attracted more businesses. Additionally, it is probable that overall CSR expenditures will rise in tandem with profits. This measure sends a clear message to many businesses that greater spending must be done wisely, methodically, and intelligently if it is to provide tangible outcomes.

Following the collecting of data from the bank management, the researcher analyzed all of the data and used charts and graphs to convey the findings in a comprehensible way. The researcher examined each sampled bank's CSR spending for the fiscal years 2014–15 through 2017–18 independently before combining the results to get the final product [12].

**Table 1: PNB's CSR Spending**

S. No.	Financial Year	Expenditure (crore)
1	2014-15	3.75 <sup>10</sup>
2	2015-16	6.76 <sup>11</sup>
3	2016-17	2.72 <sup>12</sup>
4	2017-18	28.66

**Source: CSR Box Reports & RTI Cell**

The information on Punjab National Bank's corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending is displayed in Table 4.1. The Right to Information Act of 2005 and the corresponding years' annual financial reports were used to gather the data. With the exception of FY 2016–17, PNB's CSR spending was increasing quickly [13].

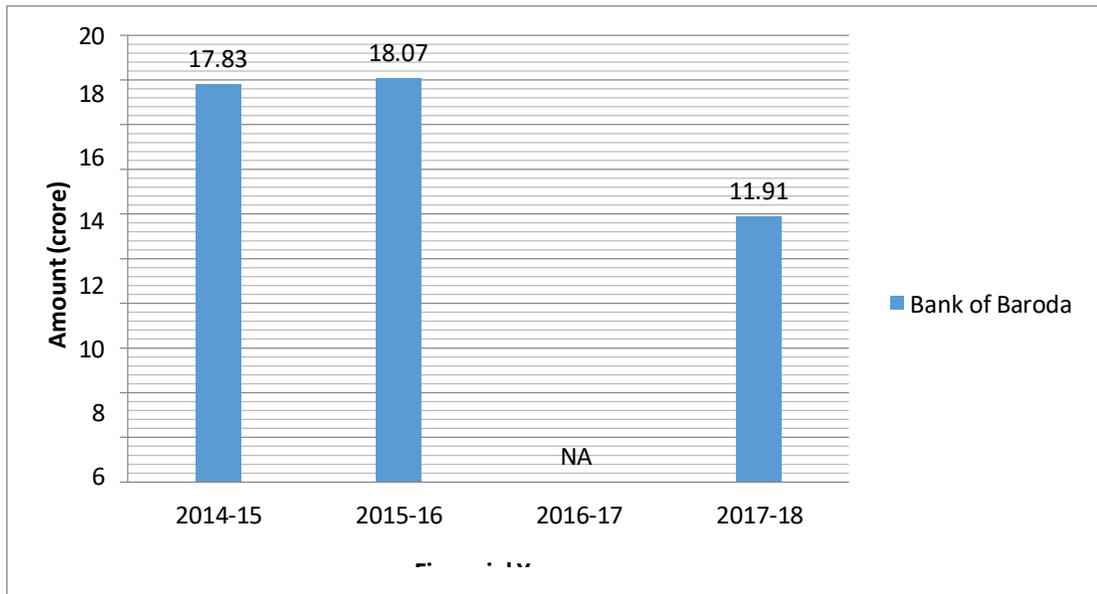
**Table 2: BOB's CSR Spending**

S. No.	Financial Year	Expenditure (crore)
1	2014-15	17.83
2	2015-16	18.07
3	2016-17	NA <sup>13</sup>
4	2017-18	11.91

**Source: CSR Box Reports & RTI Cell**

The information on Bank of Baroda's corporate social responsibility (CSR) expenses is displayed in Table 4.2. The Right to Information Act of 2005 and the corresponding years' annual financial reports were used to gather the data. BOB's CSR spending was increasing quickly. Compared to FY 2015–16, there was a significant increase in CSR spending in FY 2016–17.

**Graph: 1**



The CSR spending of Bank of Baroda, the second sampled nationalized bank, increased from 17.83 crores in the 2014–15 fiscal year to 18.07 crores in the 2015–16 fiscal year. During the study period, it was not possible to analyze the data for 2016–17. Thus, the researcher examined the 2017–18 financial

report, which showed that 11.91 crores were spent on CSR. The bank's FY 2016–17 balance sheet's poor profitability was the primary reason for this decline in CSR spending. In the fiscal year 2014–15, Canara Bank spent 30.39 crores on CSR initiatives; in 2015–16, that amount increased to 32.70 crores. The quantity of CSR activities decreased from 32.68 crores to 28.53 crores in the fiscal years 2016–17 and 2017–18. This decrease was caused by the nationalized banks' decreased market share in 2016–17 [14].

HDFC Bank is the private bank with the highest yearly revenue. From 2014–15 to 2017–18, this bank increased their CSR expenditures by 118.55 crores, 127.28 crores, 305.42 crores, and 374.54 crores, respectively. This demonstrates the bank's dedication to sustainability and society. In partnership with social organizations, the bank has created a gross root channel for the comprehensive development of rural communities. Additionally, the bank increased its overall market share and made enormous profits from its lending services.



**Figure 5: Green washing's seven faults. Source: cogencyteam.com**

The overall CSR expenditure of sampled nationalized banks (214.0 crores) is somewhat higher than the total CSR expenditure of sampled private sector banks (2135.88 crores), according to a review of

annual financial reports, CSR box reports, and RTI answers. Only after a thorough examination of the aforementioned papers was the primary cause of this delay identified, the study discovered that this is due to the disparity between these two groups' revenues. Private sector banks outperformed other banks in terms of profitability, which led to an increase in CSR spending. The average earnings over the previous three years are used to calculate CSR expenditures. It has been shown that profitability should be taken into account when evaluating CSR expenditures.

Targeted policies and long-term cooperation with knowledgeable outside organizations were additional factors contributing to this distinction [15]. Each of the three private banks has a foundation specifically for CSR initiatives in India. These foundations worked in conjunction with several governments and non-governmental organizations to address specific societal issues in certain regions.

## **Conclusion**

Together, climate justice and corporate social responsibility (CSR) provide a revolutionary paradigm for tackling Rajasthan's escalating socioeconomic and environmental vulnerabilities. Due to the state's vulnerability to climate threats, which range from recurrent droughts and water scarcity to desertification and livelihood instability, solutions must be not only technically sound but also socially just and legally enforced. Despite making relatively little contribution to ecological degradation, marginalized communities such as rural people, pastoral groups, women, and Indigenous communities bear a disproportionate share of the effects of climate change, according to a climate justice lens. Strong legal safeguards and governance structures that can guarantee an equitable allocation of the costs and rewards of climate change are necessary to address these disparities. In this situation, corporate social responsibility (CSR) becomes an essential supplementary instrument that may increase community resilience and close state capacity shortages. When aligned with climate justice principles, CSR initiatives in Rajasthan can move beyond philanthropic gestures to focus on long-term environmental sustainability, climate adaptation, and rights-based development. Corporate investments in water conservation, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and climate-resilient infrastructure can directly enhance community well-being while also supporting the state's broader developmental goals. However, for CSR to be genuinely effective, it must be guided by transparent governance frameworks, accountability mechanisms, and inclusive participation of local stakeholders. Rajasthan's policy landscape rooted in national environmental laws, the CSR mandate under the Companies Act, and state-led climate adaptation initiatives provides an enabling environment, but its implementation

remains uneven. Strengthening legal enforcement, integrating climate justice into state planning, and promoting cross-sectoral collaboration between government agencies, corporations, and civil society are essential steps moving forward. Ultimately, achieving climate justice in Rajasthan requires a shift from reactive environmental management to proactive, rights-based governance where corporate responsibility becomes a shared developmental commitment rather than an optional contribution. By embedding equity, sustainability, and legal accountability at the centre of climate and CSR efforts, Rajasthan can chart a more resilient, inclusive, and just developmental path.

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