DSEA05 – Sustainability and Responsibility Reporting

Masters of Commerce
Semester III
DSE – Elective Paper
Sustainability Accounting and Reporting

Course Type/ Course Code	Course Title	Lectures	Tutorials	Practical	Credit	Pre-requisites
DSEA05	Sustainability Accounting and Reporting	3	1	0	4	NIL

Objectives: This course aims to provide comprehensive knowledge of corporate sustainability accounting and reporting, its dimensions (ESG), and their role in SDGs. It also covers measurement techniques of environmental and social reporting, global and national frameworks, and emerging trends like integrated reporting, AI, and blockchain. Students will be able to critically examine challenges such as greenwashing and regulatory convergence in sustainability reporting and assurance practices.

Learning Outcomes: After completing the course, the student will be able to:

- Describe the evolution and conceptual underpinnings of sustainability accounting and reporting in global corporate scenarios
- Understand the fundamentals of environmental accounting, its costs, Carbon accounting, Circular economy, environmental reporting requirements in Indian context
- Explain the concept of social accounting and governance, its indicators, measurement and disclosure requirements in Indian context
- Explore national and global reporting requirements under frameworks provided by SEBI, GRI, TCFD, SASB.
- Identify and assess the challenges & emerging trends in sustainability accounting and reporting.

Contents:

Unit I **(11 Hours)**

Definition and scope of sustainability, sustainability accounting; Sustainability accounting vs Financial Accounting; Historical evolution of sustainability accounting; Brundtland Report; United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their role in business world; Triple Bottom Line (TBL) approach; Dimensions of corporate sustainability; Importance of sustainability accounting in business strategy and decision-making; Corporate sustainability reporting; Integrated Reporting.

Unit II **(11 Hours)**

Meaning and importance of Environmental Accounting; Environmental cost and types; Circular Economy; Carbon accounting and GHG protocols; Net-zero Accounting; Resource consumption accounting (energy, water, waste); Environmental Management Accounting (EMA); Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) in accounting; Environmental reporting requirements and key performance indicators in Indian context; Ethical issues in environmental accounting - Greenwashing; Indian corporate case studies.

Unit III **(11 Hours)**

Concept and significance of social accounting; CSR reporting under Companies Act, 2013; Social Return on Investment (SROI); KPIs in social accounting - diversity, employee well-being, health & safety, training, human rights, social upliftment; Stakeholder engagement and materiality assessment; Social Audit; Corporate Governance mechanisms in ESG – board roles, ethics, whistleblower policies; Social and Governance disclosure requirements under Indian regulatory frameworks; Social accounting practices in Indian companies.

Unit IV **(12 Hours)**

Overview of International sustainability reporting frameworks: GRI, SASB, IFRS, TCFD, and IIRF; Indian regulatory provisions: ICAI's Guidance Note on Sustainability Reporting; SEBI's Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR), BRSR code; MCA's ESG initiatives and CSR mandates; Comparison of Indian and international sustainability disclosure frameworks; Emerging trends - Climate risk integration; Role of Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain in ESG; Sustainability Assurance and Audit: third-party ESG Rating Providers (ERPs); Global regulatory convergence, Stakeholder activism; Geopolitical impacts.

Tutorial Exercise:

The students shall be asked to explore environmental accounting practices in high-impact Indian industries and identify key environmental costs and stakeholders. They will analyze BRSR filings of Indian companies to assess environmental and carbon impacts, and create a sustainability dashboard using ESG KPIs. A comparative analysis of CSR disclosures across sectors and a study of SEBI-BRSR vs GRI standards will be conducted. Students will also evaluate governance indicators and assess a mid-sized company's readiness for mandatory BRSR reporting.

Suggested Readings:

- Bebbington, J., Unerman, J., & O'Dwyer, B. (2021). Sustainability Accounting and Accountability. Routledge.
- Elkington, J. (1997). Cannibals with Forks: The Triple Bottom Line of 21st Century Business. Capstone Publishing.
- Epstein, M. J., & Buhovac, A. R. (2014). Making Sustainability Work: Best Practices in Managing and Measuring Corporate Social, Environmental, and Economic Impacts. Berrett-Koehler Publishers.
- Gray, R., Adams, C. A., & Owen, D. (2014). Accountability, Social Responsibility and Sustainability: Accounting for Society and the Environment. Pearson Education.
- ICAI. Guidance Note on Sustainability Reporting (Latest Edition).
- MCA. National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC).
- SEBI. Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR) Guidelines.

Note: Latest edition of the readings may be used.