COMGE08 – ESG and Business Sustainability

Master of Commerce
Generic Elective Course: ESG and Business Sustainability

Course Type/ Course Code	Course Title	Lectures	Tutorials	Practical	Credit	Pre-requisites
GE - COMGE08	ESG and Business Sustainability	3	1	0	4	NIL

Objective: Through a blend of theoretical frameworks and real-world examples, students will develop a foundational understanding of how to integrate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles of sustainability into business practices for a more responsible and resilient future . Further they will learn how to assess and manage ESG risks, understand ESG disclosure frameworks and prepare sustainable reports.

Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the foundational concepts of sustainability and ESG in a business context.
- Analyze the impact of ESG factors on business performance and risk management.
- Evaluate various ESG reporting frameworks and standards.
- Develop strategies for integrating ESG considerations into business operations and decision-making.

Contents:

Unit I **(8 hours)**
Business sustainability definition; Business Case for Sustainability; Evolution of sustainability in business; The triple bottom line: People, Planet, Profit; Overview of ESG and its significance in today's business environment, Global sustainability challenges and their implications for business.

Unit II **(15 hours)**
ESG Factors and their Business Implications; Environmental Factors : Climate change, Resource efficiency and waste management, Environmental risk assessment and mitigation; Social Factors: Labour practices and human rights, Diversity, equity, and inclusion, Community engagement and social impact initiatives; Governance Factors: Corporate governance structures and best practices, Ethical decision-making and compliance, Transparency and accountability mechanisms.

Unit III **(15 hours)**

ESG Reporting and Regulatory Frameworks: Comparative analysis; ESG metrics and performance indicators: ESG Ratings and Indices; Regulatory landscape and compliance requirements: business sustainability and responsibility report.

Unit IV **(7 hours)**

Integrating ESG into Business Strategy: Aligning ESG goals with corporate strategy; Stakeholder Engagement and Communication; greenwashing; Challenges and best practices in ESG reporting.

Tutorial Exercise: Students will analyze ESG reports of different companies and conduct research/audit to identify projects for university and businesses.

Suggested Readings:

- Eccles, R. G., Serafeim, G., & Krzus, M. P. (2014). *The integrated reporting movement: Meaning, momentum, and materiality*. Wiley.
- Hitchcock, D., & Willard, M. (2015). *The business guide to sustainability: Practical strategies and tools for organizations* (3rd ed.). Routledge.
- Laszlo, C. (2008). *Sustainable value: How the world's leading companies are doing well by doing good*. Stanford University Press.
- Porter, M. E., & Kramer, M. R. (2011). Creating shared value. *Harvard Business Review, 89*(1/2), 62–77.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). (2021). *Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) format*. https://www.sebi.gov.in
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). (2021). *Guidance note on Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR)*. https://www.sebi.gov.in
- Werbach, A. (2009). *Strategy for sustainability: A business manifesto*. Harvard Business Press.