



Corporate Sustainability Reporting Practices in Bangladesh: A study on selected listed manufacturing companies of Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd.

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ABSTRACT

Sustainability reporting ensures the long-term sustainability of the corporate firm by providing competitive advantages. The aim of the study was to make an evaluation of corporate sustainability reporting practices of manufacturing companies in Bangladesh. Sample size was 132 companies of 9 industrial sectors. The study was based on secondary data which are collected from the annual reports of the sample companies for the period 2011-2015. There are 149 criteria for sustainability reporting in G4 of GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) in which 58 are general and 91 are specific. The content analysis method was employed to identify the presence of sustainability reporting requirements. The study found that average disclosure of economic, society, and environmental dimensions by all sectors were 16.7%, 2.2%, and 1.4% respectively which were extremely low. Disclosure of stakeholder engagement (3.9%) and corporate governance was also low (18.8%). Regarding labor practice, information related to gender or child labor was not disclosed by any sector. Three sectors did not disclose any information related to human rights. In terms of product responsibility, only 5 sectors disclosed information which was extremely low because they only disclosed 3-4 points and average disclosure was only 1.2%. Based on G4 index, it can be said that disclosure for sustainability is poor in Bangladesh's listed manufacturing companies. This research has practical and policy implications on investors, community, regulators, government, policy makers, and other stakeholders as effect of corporate business activities on society, economy and environment can be appraised through sustainability reporting practices.

KEYWORDS: Sustainability, Reporting, Disclosure, Information, Environment

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I. INTRODUCTION:

The current corporate reporting practices limited to provide financial information through structured financial statements with little non-financial information in Bangladesh. But for sustainability purpose, corporation should provide sufficient information about economic, social and environmental factors which could affect its activities; otherwise the corporation would fall in risks associated of these factors beyond the financial information. Sustainability reporting satisfies the stakeholders through providing information on economic social and environmental factors to assess the corporate long term sustainability. The sustainability reporting disclosed the corporate company's insights capacity to address governance issues, environmental issues and all social issues which help the stakeholders to judge the corporate performance, policy and strategies rightly as a result the accountability of company's management is increased to the stakeholders.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT:

The recent crises in corporate sectors in Bangladesh are assumed due to limitations of accounting and as it did not disclosed economic, environmental and social information properly to the stakeholders. As stated earlier many scholars argues that sustainability reporting help improve the corporate performance and reduces cost, minimizes risks and gives competitive advantages. The importance of sustainable reporting is more

internationally than nationally. It creates positive image of the corporate globally and attract the existing and potential buyers and investors. As a result, the market share of the export oriented corporate sectors would increase through sustainable reporting. The textile and garments sectors and banking sector are suffering from image problem nationally and globally. If there is sustainability reporting practices, the sustainability of these sectors will be increased and all others sectors of our corporate will create progressive image nationally and globally.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW AND RESEARCH GAP:

Sustainability reports are one of the modern concepts of interdisciplinary reporting. It integrates economic, environmental and social factors that are effected by business operation of corporations (Eppel, 1999). As traditional financial statements reveal picture of previous period so it failed to meet the information needs of lenders (Quick, 2008). Stakeholders are concerned to know the effect of different activities of corporations on non-financial matters or beyond the financial statements. (O'Dwyer & Owen, 2005). The goal of corporate reporting is to disseminate the interest of all stakeholders as "We consider children who build future society, our customers, stockholders, suppliers, local community members, nonprofit organizations, governmental bodies, research and educational institutions, our employees and their families, and all other living things on earth as our stakeholders." (Matsushita Electric Group 2002). Due to responsibilities or obligations toward society a company is supposed to disclose different economic, social and environmental factors under legitimacy theory to ensure that its actions comply with society's value and thus firms can sustain its status and reputation in society (Grey et al. 1995 & Quick, 2008). According to stakeholders' theory, besides shareholders, other stakeholders' demand is addressed by sustainability reporting (Solomon & Lewis, 2002). Under agency theory, agency cost is reduced as many information is available to management and stakeholders (Ness & Mirza, 1991). Sustainability reporting can prevent future legal actions contrary to the company and thus ensure sustainability of the company (Gray 2002). Successful financial results in future is influenced by non-financial performances measures to a large extent (Ballou & Heitger, 2005). Disclosing the attainment of nonfinancial and financial goals in reports created a competitive edge to giant corporations (Epstein & Birchard, 1999). Stakeholders outside the firm can evaluate a firm's effectiveness in risk management processes. Stakeholders' expectations need to meet for sustainable operation in the long run through attaining overall strategic objectives (Ballou & Heitger, 2005).

Eccles et al. (2001) stated, "in order to create long-term economic value for society—shareholders and other stakeholders alike—sustainability says that companies must also create social and environmental value". Further, another researcher argues that sustainability reporting improves the capacity to identify attainment level of goals, creates environmental awareness, articulates corporate vision, mission, & objectives to all concerned parties, enhance authenticity & accountability through greater transparency, enhance efficacy level as well as identifies potential areas of developing business. (Kolk 2004). Therefore we can conclude that sustainability reporting ensures the long-term sustainability of the corporate by providing competitive advantages in terms of economic, environmental and social dimension. Eccles et al. (2014) evaluated 180 US companies to explore the impact of corporate sustainability reporting on firms' processes and performance. Study revealed that a firm's top management level is responsible for low *sustainability* reporting and disclosure depends on level of executive compensation. *High Sustainability* companies engage stakeholders, future oriented and discloses more nonfinancial information. Epstein (2004) in his study revealed that although more firms are increasing disclosing social and environmental aspects in their reports, the quality of disclosures has not improved. Moreover, there are lack of integration in reports. Khan and Ismail (2012) in their research paper identified the items which are important in internet financial reporting. The most significant items identified on presentation dimension are time needed to access to firm's website, time spent to download reports, PDF format of annual report, the existence of hyperlink and persistent link.

In Bangladesh, the corporate sustainability reporting is yet in an infancy level and the corporate sectors are disclosing some limited information on economic, social and environmental beyond financial statements in annual reports by their own way as there is no specific guideline in this regard. A number studies have been done by different scholars indirectly on this issue such as Belal, (2002); Islam & Degan, (2008); Belal and Roberts (2010); Azim et al. (2011); Islam & Dellaportas, (2011); Khan et al. (2009). Rahman and Muttakin (2005) analyzed disclosure practice of 125 companies and found that only 4% of those revealed environmental information in an expressive way. They did not find any standard structure for environmental reporting. They pointed out that there is absence of standard environmental reporting framework in Bangladesh. Belal (1999) in his study revealed that 90% of the companies disclosed some sort of environmental information in their reports. Belal (2001) became skeptic about the authenticity of disclosed information due to lack of autonomous verification system. Lack of strict regulatory bindings to disclose environmental and social information, social unawareness, traditional reporting practice of firms etc. are the reasons for non-disclosure.

Hossain et al. (2006) analyzed the reporting practice of Bangladeshi companies and found that a very few companies in Bangladesh are voluntarily disclosing qualitative social or environmental information. Study also found that the nature of the company and profitability are associated with disclosure level. Chowdhury and Hamid (2013) in their study investigated the environmental accounting of Bangladeshi textile mills. Study revealed that although managers believe the necessity of environmental accounting, very few works were done in this branch. Their research explored some reasons of not undertaking such works. Masud and Hossain (2012) analyzed the CSR reporting practices of some banks. Study period was 2010. The research found that all the banks mentions CSR activities in annual reports but less than 60% of banks comply finance act in undertaking CSR activities. Shil and Iqbal (2005) in their study found no significant association between environmental disclosure and profitability of firms. According to their opinion, many firms treat environmental disclosure as an additional burden and reluctant to disclose more information. Imam (1999) found very low effort and consciousness among Bangladeshi corporations in measuring environmental costs and revealing environmental information. Belal and Cooper (2011) in their study analyzed disclosure practices on child labor, equal opportunities and poverty alleviation. Study revealed that lack of regulatory bindings, profit motive, unawareness, and fear of adverse effect on corporate image are the main reasons for non-disclosure. Poor corporate image has adverse impact on profitability.

From the above discussion it is evident that although some research works were undertaken but so far, no comprehensive study yet has done by any researcher on comparison among different industrial sectors regarding corporate sustainability reporting practices. The present study is an ample to fill the present research gap in this area knowledge.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The core objective of the study is to make an evaluation of corporate sustainability reporting practices in the manufacturing sectors in Bangladesh. The specific objectives are to:

- (i) measure the proportion of information disclosed by firms of each sector according to G4 guideline during the five year study period (2011-2015)
- (ii) find out the sector-wise mean and standard deviation of disclosure index according to G4 guideline for each disclosure dimension
- (iii) make an overall and inter-sector comparison of sustainable reporting practices in different manufacturing sectors in Bangladesh

V. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

5.1 Sample Design:

The research was empirical in nature. In conducting the study the researchers consider all the listed manufacturing companies of Dhaka stock Exchange Ltd. (DSE) as population. All (i) financial institutions (ii) corporate bonds; (iii) debentures; (iv) mutual funds, and (iv) treasury bonds issued by existing companies and government are excluded due to non-manufacturing nature. There are 164 listed companies and securities in 10 manufacturing sectors as on July 2016 and all of these are considered as population of the study which is shown in table -1.

Table-1: Population of the study

Serial#	Sector	Number of companies
1	Cement	7
2	Ceramics sector	5
3	Food and Allied	18
4	Fuel and Power	19
5	Jute	3
6	Paper and Printing	2
7	Pharmaceuticals	28
8	Tannery Industries	5
9	Textile	45
Total		132

Source: Dhaka stock Exchange Ltd.

The study considered all 132 companies of 9 sectors as the sample of the study.

5.2 Sources of data and their collection:

Secondary data was used in the study. It was collected from the published annual reports of the sampled companies during 2011-2015 with a guideline of sustainable reporting. The published reports of the sampled companies were collected from Dhaka Stock Exchange and websites of the companies. Previous research studies on corporate sustainability reporting were reviewed from books, journals, research reports, dissertations, different publications of the companies and conference papers.

5.3 Analysis of data:

In analyzing the data the following consecutive steps were followed:

Firstly, development of catalogue of sustainable reporting: A catalogue of sustainability reporting was developed by containing the necessary criteria of sustainability reporting. In this case the guidelines of GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) was used as the main source of catalogue which contains the standards of economic, social and environmental aspects to be covered in sustainability reporting. The sustainable reporting guidelines of GRI are universally applicable to all sized and types of firms of all sectors across the world. The G4 (Generation 4) is the latest version of GRI guidelines. There are 149 criteria for sustainability reporting in G4 of GRI in which 58 are general and 91 are specific. The general standard has the following seven sub themes : (i) strategy and analysis; (ii) organizational profile; (iii) identified material aspects and boundaries; (iv) stakeholder engagement (v) report profile (vi) governance; and (vii) ethics and integrity where each subthemes has several disclosures. The specific 91 criteria are in mainly three themes viz. economic, environmental and social. Again these themes have several subthemes (for details please see www.globalreporting.org). The researcher developed a catalogue of sustainable reporting based on G4 guideline from Bangladesh perspective with the help of professional and academicians.

Secondly, identification and measurement sustainability: The researcher used the content analysis method to identify the presence of sustainability reporting requirements in the published annual reports and web sites of the sample companies. Content analysis method is “a technique of gathering data that consists of codifying qualitative information in anecdotal and literary form, into categories in order to derive quantitative scales of varying levels of complexity” (Abbott & Monsen 1979). The content analysis method was widely used for scoring disclosures in different previous studies.

Thirdly, after analyzing each company under a particular sector the proportion of firms (%) disclosing any particular G4 component was measured. A specific dimension consist of several components and thus for each dimension sector-wise mean and standard deviation of proportion (%) were determined. Then grand mean and standard deviation of proportion (%) were determined by taking into consideration all 9 sectors.

VI. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

6.1 Disclosure Index of Strategy and Analysis:

G4-1 Provide a statement from the most senior decision-maker of the organization about the relevance of sustainability to the organization. G4-2 provides key description of key risk, impact and opportunities.

Table 2: Disclosure Index of Strategy and Analysis

Disclosure i based on	Textile Sector	Pharmaceutical Sector	Tannery Sector	Paper & Printing Sector	Food & Allied Sector	Fuel & Power Sector	Jute Sector	Cement Sector	Ceramic Sector	Grand Total
G1	47.5	81.5	80	100	44.4	66.7	100	32.9	20	41.4
G2	22.5	0	0	0	16.7	0	0	57.1	40	15.1
Average	35	40.8	40	50	30.6	33.4	50	45	30	28.3
Standard Dev.	17.7	57.6	56.6	70.7	19.6	47.2	70.7	17.1	14.1	34.3

Source: The author, constructed based on annual report from listed manufacturing companies

This disclosure indicates strategic view, impact, risk and opportunities of the corporation for sustainability. Highest disclosed sectors in this regard were Jute and Paper & Printing with 50% disclosure although there were one or two companies these sectors. These sectors were followed by Cement (45%). The number of companies in pharmaceutical and textile sectors are higher. In this aspect, all sectors more or less provide information in the annual reports. G1 which represent strategy for sustainability were disclosed by all 9 sectors 41.4% only on an average. Mean disclosure about key risk and opportunity description by all 9 sectors

was only 15.1%. Companies disclosed information regarding their strategy and analysis about risk and opportunity was only 28.3% on an average. Low disclosed sectors were Ceramic and Food & Allied.

6.2: Disclosure Index of Company Profile:

These disclosures revealed an overview of companies’ characteristics like name, location, ownership, number of employees, and employee type. In terms of companies overview almost every sector disclosed information about nature of business. Lowest disclosed sector was fuel and power with 32.5% average disclosure and the highest disclosed sector is ceramic sector with 54.3% average disclosure. In case of G10 to G13, and G15 most of the sectors did not provide any information which are related to employee’s gender or stakeholders’ involvement. This aspect is most disclosed aspect by the listed firms. The overall disclosure was 39.9% which was the mean of all sectors. In inter-sector comparison it is seen that the most disclosed sector was Ceramic (54.3%) followed by Textile (47%). Lowest disclosed sector in this regard was fuel & power (32.5%). Information regarding companies name, location and ownership is disclosed more than 80%.

Table 3: Disclosure Index of Company Profile

Disclosure based on	Textile Sector	Pharmaceutical Sector	Tannery Sector	Paper & Printing Sector	Food & Allied Sector	Fuel & Power Sector	Jute Sector	Cement Sector	Ceramic Sector	Grand Total
G3	85	81.5	80	100	83.3	72.2	100	85.7	100	87.5
G4	65	81.5	60	0	72.2	72.2	0	71.4	100	58.0
G5	85	81.5	80	100	83.3	72.2	100	85.7	100	87.5
G6	27.5	22.2	20	0	33.3	5.6	0	42.9	40	21.3
G7	85	81.5	80	100	77.8	72.2	100	57.1	80	81.5
G8	17.5	18.5	0	0	5.6	38.9	0	28.6	0	12.1
G9	77.5	81.5	80	100	66.7	66.7	100	57.1	100	81.1
G10	5	0	0	0	5.6	0	0	0	0	1.2
G11	5	0	0	0	0	11.1	0	0	0	1.8
G12	62.5	0	0	0	50	0	0	85.7	100	33.1
G13	20	0	0	0	16.7	0	0	14.3	20	7.9
G14	55	55.6	80	100	38.9	38.9	100	57.1	80	67.3
G15	0	0	0	0	5.6	0	0	0	20	2.8
G16	67.5	0	0	0	11.1	5.6	0	28.6	20	14.8
Average	47	36	34.3	35.7	39.2	32.5	35.7	43.9	54.3	39.9
Standard Dev.	32.8	38.2	38.8	49.7	32.3	32.4	49.7	32.4	43.3	35.3

Source: The author, constructed based on annual report from listed manufacturing companies

6.3: Disclosure Index of Stakeholder Engagement:

Table 4: Disclosure Index of Stakeholder Engagement

Disclosure based on	Textile Sector	Pharmaceutical Sector	Tannery Sector	Paper & Printing Sector	Food & Allied Sector	Fuel & Power Sector	Jute Sector	Cement Sector	Ceramic Sector	Grand Total
G24	0	14.8	0	0	11.1	0	0	0	20	5.1
G25	0	0	0	0	5.6	0	0	0	0	0.6
G26	0	14.8	0	0	5.6	5.6	0	14.3	20	6.7
G27	0	3.7	0	0	11.1	0	0	14.3	0	3.2
Average	0	8.3	0	0	8.4	1.4	0	7.2	10	3.9
Standard Dev.	0.0	7.6	0.0	0.0	3.2	2.8	0.0	8.3	11.5	2.6

Source: The author, constructed based on annual report from listed manufacturing companies

Four sectors disclosed nothing on stakeholder’s engagement. Textile, tannery, paper and printing, and jute sector did not disclose any information about stakeholders of the company. Ceramic disclosed highest information on an average (10%), pharmaceutical disclosed 8.3% and food and allied sector disclosed 8.4% information. And overall, the sectors disclosed only 3.9% information on an average regarding stakeholder engagement in the organization. G-25 which represent selection and identification of stakeholders are not disclosed by any sector except food and allied sector.

6.4: Disclosure Index of Report Profile:

Companies of each sector disclosed information regarding report profile more or less. These are the general information provided by all companies. Average disclosure of information was above 50%. Highest and lowest disclosed sectors were Jute and Ceramic respectively. But G-31 (provide the contact point for questions regarding the report or its concern) is not disclosed by seven of the nine organizations. Disclosure of the information on this aspect is higher than other aspects.

Table 5: Disclosure Index of Report Profile

Disclosure based on	Textile Sector	Pharmaceutical Sector	Tannery Sector	Paper and Printing Sector	Food and Allied Sector	Fuel and Power Sector	Jute Sector	Cement Sector	Ceramic Sector	Grand Total
G28	75	81.5	80	100	77.8	72.2	100	85.7	80	83.6
G29	32.5	3.7	0	0	0	0	0	14.3	0	5.6
G30	30	81.5	80	100	11.1	72.2	100	42.9	20	57.0
G31	12.5	0	0	0	5.6	0	0	0	0	2.0
G32	85	81.5	80	100	83.3	72.2	100	85.7	100	87.5
G33	85	81.5	80	100	83.3	72.2	100	85.7	60	83.1
Average	53.3	49.6	53.3	66.7	53.5	48.1	66.8	52.4	43.3	53.0
Standard Dev.	32.0	43.6	41.3	51.6	41.8	37.3	51.6	39.0	42.7	39.7

Source: The author, constructed based on annual report of listed manufacturing companies

6.5: Disclosure Index of Governance:

Governance is an important issue but disclose rate is really poor on this issue. In Bangladesh, companies follows a disclosure index for corporate governance determined by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Textile and pharmaceuticals disclosed on average 20.7% and 21.9% information respectively. Jute sector disclosed highest 22.7% and with 14.7% food and allied is the lowest disclosed sector. Though companies disclose according to governmental guidelines and almost all companies follow that guideline, the disclose level is poor. No sector disclose any information on G37, G43, G44, and G50 components of governance dimension.

Table 6: Disclosure Index of Governance

Disclosure based on	Textile Sector	Pharmaceutical Sector	Tannery Sector	Paper & Printing Sector	Food & Allied Sector	Fuel & Power Sector	Jute Sector	Cement Sector	Ceramic Sector	Grand Total
G34	55	81.5	80	100	33.3	66.7	100	71.4	20	67.5
G35	7.5	0	0	0	5.6	33.3	0	0	0	5.2
G36	52.5	81.5	80	0	16.7	50	50	42.9	20	43.7
G37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
G38	5	0	0	0	11.1	0	0	0	0	1.8
G39	62.5	81.5	80	100	55.6	72.2	100	42.9	100	77.2
G40	35	33.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7.6

Disclosure based on	Textile Sector	Pharmaceutical Sector	Tannery Sector	Paper & Printing Sector	Food & Allied Sector	Fuel & Power Sector	Jute Sector	Cement Sector	Ceramic Sector	Grand Total
G41	0	3.7	0	0	5.6	27.8	0	0	0	4.1
G42	22.5	7.4	0	0	11.1	0	0	0	0	4.6
G43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
G44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
G45	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
G46	57.5	66.7	80	100	38.9	38.9	100	57.1	80	68.8
G47	7.5	7.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.7
G48	55	81.5	80	100	83.3	72.2	100	85.7	100	84.2
G49	0	0	0	0	5.6	0	0	0	0	0.6
G50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G51	27.5	0	0	0	11.1	0	0	14.3	0	5.9
G52	22.5	37	40	0	44.4	44.4	50	14.3	20	30.3
G53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	4.4
G54	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.3
G55	12.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.4
Average	20.7	21.9	20	18.2	14.7	18.4	22.7	14.9	17.3	18.8
Standard Dev.	22.7	33.2	34.4	39.5	22.5	27.0	40.0	26.6	32.8	29.0

Source: The author, constructed based on annual reports of listed manufacturing companies

6.6: Disclosure Index of Ethics and Integrity:

Table 7: Disclosure Index of Ethics and Integrity

Disclosure based on	Textile Sector	Pharmaceutical Sector	Tannery Sector	Paper & Printing Sector	Food & Allied Sector	Fuel & Power Sector	Jute Sector	Cement Sector	Ceramic Sector	Grand Total
G56	60	51.9	20	0	38.9	44.4	0	71.4	60	38.5
G57	2.5	22.2	0	0	11.1	0	0	28.6	0	7.2
G58	2.5	0	0	0	5.6	0	0	0	0	0.9
Average	21.7	24.7	6.7	0	18.5	14.8	0	33.3	20	15.5
Standard Deviation	33.2	26.0	11.5	0.0	17.9	25.6	0.0	35.9	34.6	20.2

Source: The author, constructed based on annual report from listed manufacturing companies

This dimension encompasses organization’s value, principle, norms, and person to whom unlawful behavior should be reported, which are supposed to be disclosed by the firms. But as we find here that this disclosure was really low. Though companies have disclosed information about values, law but information about where to report is not disclosed by seven sectors. Paper & Printing and Jute sector disclosed nothing. Textile, Pharmaceutical and Cement sector disclosed on average 21.7%, 24.7% and 33.3% information respectively. The most disclosed sector was Cement.

6.7: Disclosure Index of Economic Disclosure:

In term of economic disclosure more or less all sectors disclosed information. Cement sector disclose on average 33.3% information related to economy which was highest. Beside this sector textile and ceramic sector disclosed 25% and 24.4% information respectively. Fuel & Power was the least disclosed sector. Information related to G4-EC5 (wage level by gender), and EC6 (portion of senior management hired from local

community) were not disclosed by any sector. This information is related to gender wise payment and proportion of the senior management payment. EC3 and EC8 were disclosed by only two sectors.

Table 8: Disclosure Index of Economic Disclosure

Disclosure based on	Textile Sector	Pharmaceutical Sector	Tannery Sector	Paper & Printing Sector	Food & Allied Sector	Fuel & Power Sector	Jute Sector	Cement Sector	Ceramic Sector	Grand Total
G4-EC1	72.5	81.5	20	100	83.3	72.2	100	85.7	100	79.5
G4-EC2	60	3.7	0	0	22.2	0	0	71.4	80	26.4
G4-EC3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	2.8
G4-EC4	25	22.2	60	0	22.2	0	0	42.9	0	19.1
G4-EC5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EC6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EC7	35	11.1	0	0	0	0	0	28.6	20	10.5
G4-EC8	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	28.6	0	3.7
G4-EC9	22.5	0	0	0	0	5.6	0	42.9	0	7.9
Average	25	13.2	8.9	11.1	14.2	8.6	11.1	33.3	24.4	16.7
Standard Dev.	26.5	26.7	20.3	33.3	27.6	23.9	33.3	31.1	38.4	25.2

Source: The author, constructed based on annual reports of listed manufacturing companies

6.8: Disclosure Index of Environmental Disclosure:

The Environmental disclosure encompasses the effect of energy and water on emissions, effluents and waste. Moreover, it covers biodiversity, transport, and product and service-related impacts, as well as environmental compliance and expenditures. From the table it is seen that environmental information disclosure was very poor. Most sectors disclose information in their favor like G4-EN31 (expenditure or investment to protect environment). Cement and Ceramic sector disclosed 14.3% and 40% information respectively on G4-EN3 (total energy consumed within the firm). Information related to greenhouse, water pollution, and waste management were not disclosed. In table 9 we can see that most of the components of the environmental disclosure is marked zero. Cement sector disclosed highest, which was only 3.78% on an average. Jute sector did not disclose a single information regarding environment. Overall disclosure by all sectors is 1.4% on an average.

Table 9: Disclosure Index of Environmental Disclosure

Disclosure based on	Textile Sector	Pharmaceutical Sector	Tannery Sector	Paper & Printing Sector	Food & Allied Sector	Fuel & Power Sector	Jute Sector	Cement Sector	Ceramic Sector	Grand Total
G4-EN1	22.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5
G4-EN2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
G4-EN3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14.3	40	6.0
G4-EN4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14.3	0	1.6
G4-EN5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14.3	0	1.6
G4-EN6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	2.2
G4-EN7	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
G4-EN8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14.3	0	1.6
G4-EN12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28.3	0	3.1

Disclosure based on	Textile Sector	Pharmaceutical Sector	Tannery Sector	Paper & Printing Sector	Food & Allied Sector	Fuel & Power Sector	Jute Sector	Cement Sector	Ceramic Sector	Grand Total
G4-EN14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14.3	0	1.6
G4-EN20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN31	0	29.6	60	100	5.6	27.8	0	28.6	0	28
G4-EN32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-EN34	0	3.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4
Average	.74	.98	1.76	2.94	.16	.82	0	3.78	1.76	1.4
Standard Deviation	3.9	5.1	10.3	17.1	1.0	4.8	0.0	8.1	7.6	4.9

Source: The author, constructed based on annual reports of listed manufacturing companies

6.9: Disclosure Index of Labor Practice:

Labor benefits, hire by age, group, gender and health and safety issues related information are disclosed under this dimension. Cement sector disclosed on average 6.3% information that was highest and Paper & Printing sector did not disclose any information. Pharmaceuticals disclosed only 5.1% information related to labor issue. No sector disclose any information related to components LA7, and LA14 to LA16 of labor practice dimension. Only Textile sector disclosed information related to LA10 to LA13.

Table 10: Disclosure Index of Labor Practice

Disclosure based on	Textile Sector	Pharmaceutical Sector	Tannery Sector	Paper & Printing Sector	Food & Allied Sector	Fuel & Power Sector	Jute Sector	Cement Sector	Ceramic Sector	Grand Total
G4-LA1	2.5	0	0	0	0	5.6	0	0	0	0.9
G4-LA2	12.5	51.9	60	0	44.4	33.3	50	42.9	60	39.4
G4-LA3	5	3.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.0
G4-LA4	0	3.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4
G4-LA5	12.5	3.7	0	0	5.6	5.6	0	28.6	20	8.4
G4-LA6	0	0	0	0	0	5.6	0	14.3	0	2.2
G4-LA7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-LA8	12.5	3.7	20	0	0	5.6	0	0	0	4.6

Disclosure based on	Textile Sector	Pharmaceutical Sector	Tannery Sector	Paper & Printing Sector	Food & Allied Sector	Fuel & Power Sector	Jute Sector	Cement Sector	Ceramic Sector	Grand Total
G4-LA9	0	14.8	0	0	5.6	16.7	0	14.3	0	5.7
G4-LA10	12.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.4
G4-LA11	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.6
G4-LA12	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.6
G4-LA13	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
G4-LA14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-LA15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-LA16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Average	4.4	5.1	5	0	3.5	4.5	3.1	6.3	5	4.1
Standard Deviation	5.2	13.0	15.5	0.0	11.1	8.9	12.5	12.8	15.5	9.7

Source: The author, constructed based on annual report from listed manufacturing companies

6.10: Disclosure Index of Human Rights:

Table 11: Disclosure Index of Human Rights

Disclosure based on	Textile Sector	Pharmaceutical Sector	Tannery Sector	Paper & Printing Sector	Food & Allied Sector	Fuel & Power Sector	Jute Sector	Cement Sector	Ceramic Sector	Grand Total
G4-HR1	2.5	3.7	0	0	11.1	11.1	0	14.3	40	9.2
G4-HR2	5	18.5	0	0	11.1	0	0	14.3	0	5.4
G4-HR3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-HR4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-HR5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-HR6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-HR7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-HR8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-HR9	0	3.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4
G4-HR10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-HR11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-HR12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Average	0.6	2.2	0	0	1.9	0.9	0	2.4	3.3	1.3
Std. Dev.	1.6	5.3	0.0	0.0	4.3	3.2	0.0	5.6	11.5	2.9

Source: The author, constructed based on annual report from listed manufacturing companies

Information related to human rights like training, human development investment disclosure is unacceptably low. Pharmaceuticals and Cement disclosed only 2.2% and 2.4% information respectively. The highest disclosure is seen in Ceramic (3.3%). Three sectors disclosed nothing on human rights- Tannery, Paper & Printing, and Jute. On average, only 1.3% disclosure of information was made by the whole manufacturing industry. The most disclosed components by the sectors were G4-HR1 and HR2. These two points are related to company's investment on human resource and training for human resource.

6.11: Disclosure Index of Society:

Table 12: Disclosure Index of Society

Disclosure in % based on	Textile Sector	Pharmaceutical Sector	Tannery Sector	Paper & Printing Sector	Food & Allied Sector	Fuel & Power Sector	Jute Sector	Cement Sector	Ceramic Sector	Grand Total
G4-SO1	0	33.3	60	0	16.7	22.2	0	42.9	40	23.9
G4-SO2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-SO3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-SO4	0	0	0	0	5.6	0	0	0	0	0.6
G4-SO5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-SO6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-SO7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-SO8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-SO9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-SO10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-SO11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Average	0	3.03	5.45	0	2.03	2.02	0	3.90	3.64	2.2
Standard Deviation	0.0	10.0	18.1	0.0	5.1	6.7	0.0	12.9	12.1	7.2

Source: The author, constructed based on annual report from listed manufacturing companies

Regarding social information, disclosure was very low by the sectors. Highest disclosed sector was Tannery with 5.45% disclosure. Overall disclosure for sustainability was 2.2% on average. G4-SO1 (development programs) was the most disclosed components which was disclosed by all sectors except Textile, Paper & Printing and Jute. These three sectors did not disclosed information regarding society. Except SO1 and SO4, no information was disclosed by any sector. Disclosure related to society was low. The table shows that social disclosure for sustainability is disappointing.

6.12: Disclosure Index of Product Responsibility:

Product information disclosure by the sectors was extremely poor. Four sectors (Tannery, Paper & Printing, Fuel & Power and Jute) disclosed nothing. As a whole, all sectors disclosed product responsibility information of only 1.2% which present very low disclosure for sustainability. G4-PR1, PR3, and PR5 have been disclosed by only two or three sectors, but other than this no component has been disclosed by the firms. Information those are negative like G4-PR6 (sale of banned products), G4-PR8 (breaches of customer privacy and losses of customer data) were not disclosed by any firms. Highest disclosed sector was Pharmaceutical (3.3%)

Table 13: Disclosure Index of Product Responsibility

Disclosure based on	Textile Sector	Pharmaceutical Sector	Tannery Sector	Paper & Printing Sector	Food & Allied Sector	Fuel & Power Sector	Jute Sector	Cement Sector	Ceramic Sector	Grand Total
G4-PR1	2.5	3.7	0	0	11.1	0	0	0	0	1.9
G4-PR2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-PR3	7.5	22.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.3
G4-PR4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-PR5	0	3.7	0	0	0	0	0	28.6	20	5.8
G4-PR6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-PR7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
G4-PR8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0

G4-PR9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Average	1.1	3.3	0	0	1.2	0	0	3.2	2.2	1.2
Standard Dev.	2.5	7.3	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	9.5	6.7	2.1

Source: The author, constructed based on annual report from listed manufacturing companies

6.13 Key Findings:

Based on the data presentation and analysis the following result is presented below.

- Information related to the society is disclosed by the sectors is low (see table 12). Almost half of the sectors represented in this study did not disclose any information regarding society. Those present information regarding societal aspects are very low. They only disclose their contribution to the society not more than that. According to the GRI standards societal disclosure for sustainability is very poor.
- Environmental disclosure is excessively low (table 9). Sectors of listed companies hardly disclose any information related environment. Only cement sector disclose information regarding greenhouse effect. Other sectors only disclose information about their contribution toward environment. As per GRI standards environmental disclosure for sustainability is low.
- When it's come to labor practice only information disclosed are fulltime employee's facility and some health and safety benefits. Information related to gender or child labor was not disclosed by any sectors (table 10). On this aspect disclosure for sustainability is also low.
- Usually firms provides training to their employees but in this study author found that three sector did not disclose information related to human rights (see table 11). In the content of human rights disclosure of information is also low.
- In terms of product responsibility only 4/5 sectors disclosed information which was extremely low because they only disclosed 3/4 points. Grand total amount of product responsibility disclosure is only 1.2% (table 13).
- In this study it was found that the corporate social and environmental disclosure is very low. As the author used Global Reporting Initiative index: G4-Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, based on this it is said that disclosure for sustainability is poor in Bangladesh's listed manufacturing companies.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS:

Companies should disclose more information in their annual reports about the society such as effect of business operations on local community, anti-corruption & public policy, anti-competitive behavior, compliance, supplier assessment and grievance mechanism. Some issues in labor practice and decent work such as training & education, diversity & equal opportunity, equal remuneration and grievance mechanisms for labors should be incorporated in reports. Firms should disclose certain human right issues such as non-discrimination, freedom of association & collective bargaining, child labor, compulsory labor, security practices, indigenous rights and assessment of employees. Certain information related to the product such as customer health and safety in product usage, product and service labeling, marketing communications, customer privacy, compliance should be revealed by the firm. In economic disclosure, firms should disclose procurement practices in detail. Firms should disclose environmental aspect to a significant extent by revealing information related to materials, energy, water, effect of emissions, and waste on biodiversity. Finally, a general disclosure policy should be developed and measures should be taken to ensure that firms comply with the disclosure policy.

VIII. CONCLUSION:

In this study it was found that the corporate social and environmental disclosure is very low. As the author used Global Reporting Initiative index: G4-Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, based on this it is said that disclosure for sustainability is poor in Bangladesh's listed manufacturing companies. Research on sustainable reporting practices in a country like Bangladesh will enable the related parties to have a thorough understanding of the nature of corporate reporting. Moreover, the outcome of this research is significant to regulators, professional bodies, investors, management, accountants, auditors, researchers, educators and students in this field. With the outcome of this research, the regulatory and professional bodies would be able to ascertain the extent of sustainability reporting by different corporate sectors of Bangladesh. This will help them to make policy and guidelines for improving the reporting practices in corporate sector of Bangladesh. This research will particularly enhance the quality of literature in the field of corporate sustainability reporting in Bangladesh. Researchers in this field would be benefited from the study because it would serve as a benchmark for future research on corporate sustainability reporting. It sheds light on the understanding of corporate sustainability reporting practices which would help stakeholders. Finally, the study contributes to exiting store of knowledge on accounting and auditing.

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