



**Akancsha**

**Title** - Land Acquisition issues in infrastructure projects

**Host Organization** - KPMG Global Services Pvt Ltd

**Year** - 2018

**ABSTRACT:**

Urbanization and fast economic growth in the last two decades have increased the demand for land as the infrastructure sector (which primarily comprises of roads, rail, power, utilities) needs huge quantities of land (Ghimire et al., 2017). Land Acquisition in India is governed by the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. However, majority of infrastructure projects are affected by schedule and cost overruns. One of the primary reasons, in pre-execution phase, is the delay in LA process due to resistance from the local communities on the account of poor compensation and undervalued market price of their land (Shete and Kothawade, 2016). As on November 2016, 16 percent of the total stalled investment is at risk due to LA problems which accounts for Rs. 692.9 thousand crores. The purpose of the paper is to identify LA issues and their economic impact on infrastructure projects in India. Further, the gaps in the LA process and compensation model were identified through a detailed study of World Bank Performance Standard, types of compensation models that exist around the world and successful alternative mechanisms adopted in India. The research is based on secondary data collection. The research recommends a forward looking approach to reduce delays and cost overruns in infrastructure projects due to LA issues.

**Key words**- Land Acquisition, compensation, LARR Act, infrastructure projects.



**Akshay Gupta**

**Title:** Natural Gas Market: Feasibility studies of Natural Gas in various sectors in India and globally.

**Host Organization:** ICF Consulting India Pvt Ltd

**Year:** 2018

**ABSTRACT:**

ICF is a global consulting services company which specializes in providing program implementation, analytics and advisory services, with expertise in sectors like Energy, Environment, Government, Health, Social Programs and Transportation. With a vision of moving towards a gas based economy and increasing its share to at least 15% in the primary energy mix, Government of India is taking several policy and regulatory initiatives including providing budgetary support to Eastern India pipeline grid and fast-tracking the development of gas infrastructure, market, and growth of Industry. Further to unlock the huge potential of gas, it is critical that India addresses newer platforms to meet the requirements of the Industry and the end-users. This requires the development of a natural gas hub (physical market), setting up of LNG gas terminals and expansion in City Gas Distribution projects across Indian districts. The global experiences suggest that gas trading hub is the foundation of competitive gas markets and Indian Government has imminent plans to set up a gas trading exchange, 11 LNG terminals and expansion of CGD projects across 170+ districts in India in upcoming seven years. This report aims to feasibly analyse the prospective growth of these Natural Gas sectors in India.

**Keywords:** Gas Trading Hub, LNG Terminal, CGD, PNGRB, GAIL, Natural Gas



**Ashima Mathur**

**Title:** Sustainability Plan Of GNSD

**Host Organization:** Global Network for Sustainable Development

**Year:** 2018

**ABSTRACT:**

Background: Global Network for Sustainable Development is a non- profit organization that aims to contribute to the education of the youth for sustainable development and peace. It builds global partnerships to achieve its goal and thereby achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It intends to do this by creating Sustainability Clubs for Peace and building a strong network of clubs to achieve the organization's mission. The members of these clubs i.e. the students are encouraged to participate in community projects addressing sustainable development, and non-violent conflict resolutions.

Purpose: The objective of the work is to develop a sustainable plan for GNSD. The second objective is to identify different approaches for communicating sustainability initiatives taken by school. The focus of this project work was on schools in India and Nepal.

Methodology: The study is based on secondary research and involves market analysis, competitor mapping, thereby identifying the potential market segments. This was followed by an internal analysis of the organization to identify areas of strength, weaknesses and the competitive advantage of the firm. On the basis of this, recommendations were given for business development.

For the second objective, important parameters for communicating the sustainability of schools were identified and a framework for sustainability report was developed.

Results: The work led to the identification of issues and areas of business development. The sustainability reporting framework will be one of the business products of GNSD.

Keywords: NGO, strategic plan, sustainability, schools



**Coleman Charles Sabbithi**

**Title:** Blockchain Applications In Infrastructure

**Host Organization:** KPMG Global Services Pvt Ltd

**Year:** 2018

**ABSTRACT:**

In 2015, WEF (World Economic Forum) predicted that 10% of the global GDP would be stored on blockchains or distributed ledgers by the end of the next decade. Though the technology came to prominence through cryptocurrencies, more applications are predicted in the next phase of technological development known as Blockchain 2.0. The year 2016-17 witnessed a steep rise in the number of blockchain companies that proposed applications in infrastructure – power and utilities; healthcare; education; justice and security; and public governance – by facilitating decentralization, security, and immutability of transaction records. While most of the proposed applications are in the operational landscape, blockchain also offers benefits of transparency, asset lifecycle monitoring, and stakeholder integration in a project development environment. This study gives a blockchain-based SPV model that offers these benefits. Operational stakeholders can be onboarded to the same blockchain to automate operational transactions. This study describes key smart contracting arrangement that can be implemented in power sector in the UK and toll roads sector in the USA. These automation models can function as initial guidance for infrastructure developers seeking to implement blockchain and smart contracts at an SPV level.

Keywords: blockchain, distributed ledger, power, toll roads, project finance.



**Dinesh Rajani**

**Title:** CEO Study on Sustainability 2018

**Host Organization:** UN Global Compact Network India

**Year:** 2018

**ABSTRACT:**

The UN Global Compact Network India- Accenture Strategy CEO Study on Sustainability 2018 uncovers the views of CEOs on sustainability representing over a decade of research on sustainable business. This study discuss about the full potential of corporates in dealing with global priorities of sustainability and United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that reveals how leading companies are adopting innovative strategies to combine impact and are creating value business. In this report, GCNI- Accenture Strategy examines push factors that contribute to companies approach on sustainability in India. The Study touches the development of corporate motivation to engage with environmental, social and governance issue in core business by interacting with Indian CEOs to dive deeper into the Indian context for sustainability. Nearly three years ago, the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Sustainable Development were adopted by UN- a new universal ambition for sustainable development. In the context of Agenda 2030, this report seeks a striking commitment to sustainable development. The study also discuss about the Indian CEOs surveyed and their belief about the opportunities that SDGs presents for the businesses to reshape their approaches to address sustainable values creation and simultaneously address the sustainability challenges present globally.



**Prerna Mehta**

**Title:** Prospects of Electric Vehicles in India

**Host Organization:** Emergent Ventures India Pvt Ltd

**Year:** 2018

**ABSTRACT:**

As per IPCC 2010 report, the Global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission was 49 GT CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents out of which the transport sector accounts for 14% of the total GHG emissions. The GHG emissions from the transport sector can be reduced by the use of a sustainable and energy efficient mode of transportation like using electric vehicles instead of vehicles using conventional fuels. Electric vehicle is beneficial than conventional vehicle as it creates less pollution, less noise, has a low maintenance cost and reduces the dependency on gasoline fuels. Many countries like India, China, America, Denmark, Germany, etc. have set targets to rule out conventional vehicles and are giving incentives to promote the use of electric vehicles. The objective is to study the global electric market trends, innovations, policies, battery and charging station technology and to formulate a roadmap for electric vehicles is formulated with a timeframe of 2018-2030. The research methodology includes study and analysis of secondary data from public documents, articles, reports, and literature on electric vehicles. The road map developed is based on various aspects like policy framework, battery technology, charging infrastructure, production of electric vehicles and battery and standards for electric vehicle.

**Keywords:** Electric Vehicle (EV), EV battery, charging station, EV policy, EV roadmap



**Vineeta Yadav**

**Title:** Translating the Concept of ‘Social License to Operate’ into a Performance Monitoring Tool for Vedanta Group

**Host Organization:** Vedanta Ltd

**Year:** 2018

**ABSTRACT:**

‘Social License to Operate’, is a term widely picked by the mining industry to indicate authenticity of its performance on aspects involving local stakeholders and particularly host communities. The project is a novel attempt to translate the term ‘social license to operate’ into a tool for monitoring social performance of ‘Vedanta Group (denotation for business units of Vedanta Resources PLC), a diversified mining and metals company. A combination of secondary and primary research methods were used for this purpose. The secondary study focused on a literature study of the term ‘social license to operate’, leading to identification of elements, which were then aligned to match Vedanta’s business context through focused discussions with the HSE team of Vedanta Group. The management understanding on the elements was supported by a secondary analysis of four peer companies and Vedanta. The project would be useful for management professionals with interest in extractive industry and its social license.

**Keywords:** social license to operate, communities, social responsibility.



**Sukhmani Kaur**

**Title:** Comparative Analysis Of Minimum Wages And Living Wages For Housekeeping And Factory Staff For Oriflame India - Delhi And Noida

**Host Organization:** Oriflame India

**Year:** 2019

**ABSTRACT**

The concept of minimum wage, fair wage and living wages has been around for centuries; yet we come across reports of perpetual debts and abysmal living conditions of workers. Incidents such as Rana Plaza disaster have brought certain industries at the forefront of living wage issues. Some brands are committed to implement living wage in their supply chains but without reporting a measurable progress. It is understandable that implementing living wage across entire supply chain at once may significantly impact a company's margins. The purpose of this study is thus to first determine Living wage and understand the gap between current wages offered by the company. Only then the company can first implement the Minimum wages and finally the Living wages. This will support the organization to take small steps and analyze the impact for a small set of stakeholders at a specific location and then judge its scalability to other locations and stakeholders.

Keywords: Fair wage, Living wage, Minimum wage, Human rights, Decent living.





**Amitava Mandal**

**Title:** Identifying Markets For Philips Lighting Solutions' Solar Products, And Leverage Signify Foundation's Position In ISA For Retail Business Opportunities.

**Host Organization:** Signify Innovations India Ltd

**Year:** 2019

**ABSTRACT:**

This study is an attempt to identify probable markets for distributing solar lighting systems in International Solar Alliance countries. The study looks at parameters such as level of energy access, household income, household expenditure on energy and leverages business data and decisions like relative product pricing, threshold market potential, and the likes to arrive at a list of nations which could be focused on. The study found nations of Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Philippines, Mozambique, and a few more as the biggest possible markets for standalone solar lighting systems. Much of this could be attributed to the existence of a fast evolving financial eco system, PayG model, which allows consumers to purchase lighting essentials on an installment basis. While Asian markets like India, Bangladesh and Cambodia also have huge potential, the lack of financial model along with heavy subsidy on the fuels like Kerosene deter organisations to invest in setting up retail shops. With increasing focus on climate change as well as energy access for empowerment, governments, private bodies, CSO's and many other stakeholders are heavily investing in solar energy systems. The study is an attempt to add to the existing knowledge bank.



**Samarth Arora**

**Title:** Integrated Framework For Assessing Quality Of Life In Indian Cities

**Host Organization:** CII-ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development

**Year: 2019**

**ABSTRACT:**

Biodiversity, Air Quality and Waste Management are three areas where strong interconnections are present. These interconnections can be used to positively impact the environment around us. This project of developing an integrated framework for assessing quality of life in Indian cities was undertaken in the guidance and mentorship of CII – ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development for intercepting the benefits of these interconnections and use them to enhance the environmental benefits in urban centres of India. More than forty indicators focusing on Biodiversity, Air Quality and Waste Management have been developed and an excel based automated SWOT tool is developed which aims to benefit policy makers. Around 10 cities of different geographical and economical profiles have been sampled for pilot testing of this framework. This framework will help policy makers, businesses, investors, city governments and central governments in making effective urban planning decisions and inclusion of biodiversity, air quality and waste management parameters in existing policies.



**Sanjana Das**

**Title:** Developing A Data Exchange Framework For Cross Border Trade

**Host Organization:** Centre for Digital Economy Policy Research

**Year:** 2019

**ABSTRACT:**

The world is becoming digital at a faster rate. This has changed the patterns of trade and reshaped globalization. Technology has also restructured value chains in three ways: by reducing transaction costs, changing production processes and development of new goods and products. All of this has paved to a digital economy all over the world. Businesses and customers now have access to a wider array of goods and services with the help of internet. This has helped small business units such as Amazon and Facebook in turning into big multinationals. No country can isolate itself from this process of digitization instead they need to embrace it and be prepared for it. Governments and businesses will have a major role to play in this. In the center of this digital economy is data flow. Data flow facilitates the movement of information from a provider to a user. The main concern is, whether an individual's data is protected or not and how to differentiate between a personal and non-personal data. While, there are a few regulations that have been implemented such as the GDPR that foresees that there is no breach of data, there is still no framework that provides absolute surety of protection in customer's data and privacy. This project is an attempt in developing a data exchange framework for cross-border trade. The report will also try to create a common data dictionary for data exchange and it will also try to evaluate the possibility of leveraging the Harmonized System (HS) code as a reference system for the proposed Data Exchange Framework. Especial emphasis is laid on Bitcoin and AI Annotation.

**Keywords:** Digital Economy, Data Flows, Fourth Industrial Revolution, Data Exchange Framework, HS Codes



**Aarushi Dhingra**

**Title:** Developing Simple Environmental Management System Framework For Small And Medium Enterprises In India

**Host Organization:** STENUM Asia (Gurgaon)

**Year:** 2020

**ABSTRACT:**

The advancement of the global population is dependent on a steady increase in economic demands that have become a challenge and a cause of environment degradation in countries like India. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) account for about 70% of the industrial pollution in India. ISO 14001 standard is responsible to achieve more sustainable production and consumption practices by saving costs, improving overall business efficiency and providing long term profitability to enterprises. Out of the total 17 SDGs, 8 SDGs link to the effort of ISO 14001 standard. However, in comparison to China, India has experienced a marginal increase in ISO 14001 certifications from 257 certifications in 2000 to 6491 certifications in 2018. This study analyzes some barriers and facilitators that influence an SME's adoption of ISO 14001 in India and thereafter, develop a framework that is simple, tailored and cost-effective for SMEs. This framework provides a foundation to achieve ISO 14001 certification in the future. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with stakeholders like top management of SME with ISO 14001 certification, its competitors without ISO certification, bigger organizations to whom SMEs often serve as a tier 1 or tier 2 supplier, ISO 14001 certified auditors and subject matter experts. The interviews were transcribed, open-coded for emergent themes. Nine themes emerged namely: staff engagement, compliance awareness, facilitators to implementation, time for implementation, total cost, barriers to implementation, benefits of EMS, recommendations and general observations. Stakeholder groups have different perceptions of the purpose and benefits of ISO 14001 implementation. Some barriers included lack of employee engagement, complexity issues, and lack of human and financial resources. Facilitators included better environmental performance, cost savings, competitive edge and supply chain pressure. Simple EMS framework utilizes eco-mapping as a tool for identifying environmental impacts in SMEs and can be completed with 7 steps over 5 days. Understanding stakeholder's perspectives on challenges, opportunities and benefits of EMS can help in tailoring an EMS for Indian SMEs.

**Keywords:** "Environment Management Systems; ISO 14001; Business Sustainability; Environmental Performance; Responsible Business



## **ANJALI DHAKA**

**Title:** Unfolding Climate-Smart Agriculture In Asia: Concepts And Finance

**Host Organization:** MSC Consulting India Pvt Ltd

**Year:** 2020

### **ABSTRACT:**

Agriculture a major source of livelihood for about 500 million smallholder farmers is facing the perils of climate change, threatening food and agribusinesses across the supply chain(IFC, 2017). Moreover, with growing populations, it is becoming essential to transform our “conventional” agricultural systems into “climate-smart agriculture (CSA).” CSA is built on the foundation of sustainable agriculture with adaptation and mitigation as its focal points thus an integrative approach with three distinct objectives. Being highly regional specific it is influenced by socio-economic, regulatory and political conditions. Transitioning to CSA comes at a cost and access to finance affects a farmer’s decision to implement CSA practices. Since it has only been ten years that CSA was rolled out, financing options explicitly directed towards climate-smart agriculture remain limited; however over a period of time, we can expect them to evolve with a growing focus on innovative financing mechanisms. In the prevailing scenario, Climate finance as allocated by the multilateral and bilateral funds has a significant potential in scaling up climate-smart initiatives with the help variety of financial instruments that they use, helping translate ideas into action. This study was designed to disseminate information, provide guidance and assess the potential of financial instruments to decipher CSA in a holistic manner and inform “smart” decisions. By reviewing “fragmented” data gathered onto a single platform this will help empower a range of stakeholders from investors; policy makers to private players, embark on a climate-smart journey.

**Keywords:** Climate-Smart Agriculture, climate-resilient agriculture, climate change, climate finance, agricultural finance



**Anuja Singh**

**Title:** Development Of An Extended Producer Responsibility (Epr) Strategy For Packaging Waste

**Host Organization:** Thinkthrough Consulting

**Year:** 2020

**ABSTRACT:**

Managing waste is a Global challenge. Solid waste generation poses a huge global threat to nature, wildlife and public health. Plastic too creates a lot of problem. Off late Single Use plastic has come under the radar of the international community with many regions banning the use of the same. Indian Government, taking a note of the Global Landscape, has introduced various policy level interventions in the form of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) & Single use plastic ban. This led many states to adopt these interventions. The state of Himachal Pradesh also announced that it will ban Single Use Plastic, however providing exemption to integrated straws with Used Beverage Cartons (UBCs) for 6 months. It also ordered companies operating in Himachal Pradesh to submit an EPR Plan for the next 6 months for UBCs with integrated straw and propose an alternative to integrated straw post the ban. Since our client is operating in the state of Himachal Pradesh, developing an EPR Strategy has become imperative under the current legislations This report aims to propose an EPR strategy for current Waste Management Ecosystem of Himachal Pradesh specifically for Used Beverage Cartons (UBCs) and Single Use Plastic (SUP). A secondary research was done along with a pilot survey in Shimla to better understand the waste supply chain of the city. However due to the pandemic the project has been put on hold and will resume after the lockdown is over. The scope is limited to Shimla and cannot be generalized. However, this research in the area of waste management can serve as a base for developing an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) strategy for Companies operating in Shimla.

**Keywords:** Waste Management, Extended Producer Responsibility, Used Beverage Carton, Packaging Waste, Single Use Plastic, Municipal Solid Waste



**Avinash Babu M**

**Title:** Sroi Analysis Of A Csr Program

**Host Organization:** Grant Thornton India

**Year:** 2020

**ABSTRACT:**

When Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) were made mandatory under section 135 of Companies Act 2013, there began a trend of Corporates investing huge amount of their profit into social initiatives in partnership with third party organizations mostly NGOs. While baseline needs assessment, impact assessment studies can help to target community needs and communicate the outcomes of the project, there was a need to understand the effectiveness of CSR interventions and social value created in monetary terms. SROI provides this framework to not just assign monetary value to social change but also understand the effectiveness of the interventions carried out or going to be carried out under organization's CSR program. My study was done with an objective of helping Grant Thornton's client organization understand monetary outcomes of their agricultural and livestock interventions carried out under their CSR program and also to know how effective it has been in creating social value among the beneficiaries. The study involved Mixed analysis of tangible and intangible outcomes of CSR program and used SROI methodology and perception assessment framework to understand the social value created and perception among beneficiaries. The SROI of their agricultural interventions was 1.13 and livestock interventions was 0.63, which resulted in combined SROI of the both agricultural and livestock interventions carried under CSR program in 6 villages of Pune district to be 0.87, indicating net social return was less than the amount of investment in the CSR program. The overall perception of the program was around 70 percent, indicating a satisfactory value rating of benefits of interventions among the beneficiaries. These findings will not just help the client organization understand the effectiveness of their investment under CSR program but also help come up with future strategic interventions to scale their CSR program and generate better social returns for their beneficiaries.



**Nitish Kumar Parihar**

**Title:** Perspectives To Global Climate Action

**Host Organization:** Brookings Institution

**Year:** 2019

**ABSTRACT:**

Anthropogenic climate change has attracted the attention of people from all quarters and countries which are both developed and developing. It is also well understood that while climate change is a great equalizer, its impacts across the globe are far from equal. This has prompted parties to agree to curb climate change. However, the problems and effective solutions are not adequately understood. Bearing this in mind, the study investigates the relationship between wealth of a country and its performance on the Energy trilemma index, the effectiveness of current emissions accounting perspective and the global flows of climate finance under USD 100 billion pledge. The findings reveal that much of the world population (in developing countries) does not enjoy energy access, and the rising energy demand would only increase GHG emissions. This is coupled with the fact that these countries have low GDP per capita, because of which very less can be directed towards curbing pollution. To add to it, the emissions accounting system burden these countries further by asking the developing countries to take responsibility for consumption in affluent countries. This is further topped by the nature of climate finance directed towards developing regions, which is mostly in the form of loans and are not to the extent promised. Therefore, there is now a greater need to attempt to address these problems and ensure that future agreements are robust and are not made on the hoof.

**Keywords:** Climate Action, Energy Trilemma, Emissions Accounting, USD 100 Billion pledge





## **Rajat R Khajane**

**Title:** Formalized, Data-Informed Approach For Csr Implementation Partner Portfolio Management

**Host Organization:** Robert Bosch Engineering and Business Solution Private Limited

**Year:** 2020

### **ABSTRACT:**

Corporate Social Responsibility has become the norm for most businesses based in India that are eligible under The Companies Act, 2013. Businesses seldom implement the Corporate Social Responsibility independently but prefer to engage through partnerships. Though there is no secret formula to guarantee the success of a partnership, anecdotes suggest that partnership portfolios can be managed efficiently to improve the probability of success. Thus, it would be valuable to understand in context of Corporate Social Responsibility, how to design or expand the partner portfolio and how portfolio performance should be measured and managed. In this study, formalized data informed approach is adopted where decision making is evidence based. Mixed research methods such as secondary analysis, archival study, interviews and site visits were used to acquire inputs and gain insights. These insights resulted in the development of an onboarding tool with a comprehensive set of criteria to assess potential partners and performance evaluation framework for the existing partners, both customized to specifications outlined by the host organization. Systems thinking led to the standardization across the project lifecycle for example tracking of the data from memorandums of understanding, development of templates for impact reporting and adoption of new indicators. The true potential of onboarding tool rests not in making the decision whether to accept or reject but to discern the strengths and weaknesses of the potential partner. Similarly, the output of performance evaluation framework must be considered from a continuous improvement perspective to ensure achievement of intended outcomes.

**Keywords:** Corporate Social Responsibility, partnership, data informed, onboarding, performance management



## **Rishabh Nayyar**

**Title:** Breaking The Spiral Of Philanthropy In The Assistive Technology Sector

**Host Organization:** Foundation for Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship (FISE, Trade Name – Social Alpha).

**Year: 2019**

### **ABSTRACT:**

The start-ups working in the assistive technology sector, have a high social impact but are plagued by years of philanthropy, essentially shifting the demand from a paying customer to a charity based product distribution system where the consumers are unwilling to pay for the products as they would get the products free from NGO's, governments or foundations. In the current scenario, the companies sell their products to foundations, NGO's and governments, not at a cost but full price including profit mark-ups, the foundations then give the product to the end consumers for free. This leads to an uncompetitive market scenario and hence, reducing innovation in the sector.

Social Alpha is enabling the start-ups in the sector through investments in product development, design for manufacturing, and work-order fulfillment, to build and sell the product at a subsidized price, essentially increasing the demand of paying customers in the sector. I completed due diligence of two start-ups for investment and executed the key events and outreach programs for the 14 other start-ups as a part of the Assistive Technology Accelerator.

**Key Words:** Impact Investing, Venture Capital, Assistive Technology, Start-ups, Philanthropy, Assistive Technology Accelerator

