



**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