



A STUDY ON THE AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING AMONG COMMERCE STUDENTS, MUMBAI

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Abstract:

Promoting sustainable development and responsible business practices now depends much on environmental accounting. With a comparative analysis based on gender and level of study (undergraduate and postgraduate), the current study investigates the degree of knowledge of environmental accounting among commerce students in Mumbai. A systematic survey with a Likert scale gathered first-hand information. Against a target sample size of 80, 86 replies were gathered—enough for research. Data interpretation for the investigation uses percentages. With clear gender and academic level variations, the results show that most business students have major environmental accounting awareness. The research draws attention to how important it is to reinforce environmental accounting ideas within the curriculum for business.

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Introduction:

Important worldwide worries have become environmental problems including loss of biodiversity, pollution, resource depletion, and climate change. Governments, investors, and society are putting businesses under growing pressure to run responsibly toward the environment. Environmental accounting has become quite relevant in this sense as it enables companies to recognize, quantify, and reveal environmental expenses and advantages.

Environmental accounting integrates environmental issues into standard accounting procedures to help better decision-making and promote sustainable development. As future managers, legislators, and accountants, commerce students are essential in carrying out and promoting environmental accounting

techniques. Thus, knowing their degree of knowledge is really important.

This research seeks to find out how much Mumbai's business students are familiar with environmental accounting.

Objective of the Study:

1. To grasp the fundamental idea and significance of environmental accounting.
2. To examine the relevance of environmental accounting in commerce education.
3. To assess the level of awareness of environmental accounting among commerce students in Mumbai.
4. To compare awareness levels between undergraduate and postgraduate students.
5. To suggest measures for improving awareness of environmental accounting.



Research Methodology :

Based on primary data, this study adopts a descriptive approach. The study intends to determine how familiar Mumbai's commerce students are with environmental accounting.

Primary data were obtained from a methodical questionnaire developed utilizing a five-point Likert scale ranging from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree. The survey was given to graduate and undergraduate business students.

Although the target sample size for the study was 80 respondents, 86 responses were gathered—considered adequate for study. Using the convenience sampling technique, the respondents were selected.

The collected data for interpretative analysis employed the percentage method. To compare awareness levels based on level of study (UG and PG) and gender, the data were reviewed.

Review of Litreature:

Every research project needs a literature review as it establishes the setting and background for the study. It entails evaluating and summing relevant past study on the topic. Review of past studies helps the researcher spot current weaknesses, what has already been accomplished, and where contributions of the current study can provide anything fresh. A thorough examination of the literature ensures that the study is based on solid ground and avoids action replication. Underlining many concepts, theories, and discoveries developed by prior scientists also makes it simpler for one to connect them with the ongoing study and draw parallels.

1. Shona Russell, Markus J Milne, Colin Dey (2017).

Critical comments on environmental accounting and plans for ecologically aware accounting under the umbrella of accounts of nature and the nature of accounts.

The investigation of review motivates academics to challenge accepted understandings of accounts and

nature and provides avenues for theoretical and practical research aiming at including environmental viewpoints into accounting frameworks. Furthermore stressing the need of environmentally conscious accounting in advancing sustainability, this research

2. Mauricio Marrone, Martina K Linnenluecke, Grant Richardson, Tom Smith (2020)

Developments in environmental accounting research both inside and outside the accounting discipline.

The article investigated how newly created inventions may always lag behind the progression of research interests over time. This research highlights how fast and energetic research in environmental accounting is.

3. Zaneta Stasiskiene 2019

Theory, methodology, and applications in environmental accounting.

Environmental accounting merges financial and environmental information to direct decision-making, evaluate environmental performance, and share findings with stakeholders, according to the research. This research helps to direct smart legislative and institutional choices by underlining how environmental accounting promotes the sustainable use of resources.

4. L Kalpaja, Varsha Agarwal (2018)

A study of the importance of green accounting.

This study finds that both government policies and corporate efforts are needed to assure successful execution. Investigating how environmental accounting instruction influenced students' environmental consciousness, Ertas and Ozkan (2017) discovered that individuals with such teaching were more aware than those without. These research highlight the educational approach of green accounting in addition to as a useful tool for



businesses to foster environmental responsibility among next generations of experts.

5. SO Alade (2013), SA Adediran

The influence of environmental accounting on the performance of Nigerian companies.

Highlighting the growing international need for consistent reporting standards, the Study in this

Article drew attention to themes including green accounting, CSR, stakeholder involvement, and environmental protection, thereby demonstrating the practical as well as conceptual importance of environmental accounting in boosting company performance and encouraging sustainable actions.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

The study is based on primary data collected from 86 respondents to analyse their demographic profile and awareness regarding environmental accounting.

Variables	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	42	48.8%
	Female	44	51.2%
	Total	86	100
Age	Below 18	3	3.5%
	18-20	21	24.4%
	21-23	44	51.2%
	25 Above	18	20.9%
	Total	86	100
Level of Study	Undergraduate	43	50%
	Postgraduate	43	50%
	Total	86	100
Study of Class	First Year	21	24.4%
	Second Year	54	62.8%
	Third Year	11	12.8%
	Total	86	100



Type of Institution	Government college	32	37.2%
	Private College	16	18.6%
	Autonomous College	38	44.2%
	Total	86	100
Studies of Environmental Accounting	Yes	29	33.7%
	No	15	17.4%
	Maybe	42	48.8%
	Total	86	100
Mode of Study	Regular	67	77.9%
	Distance/Correspondence	19	22.1%
	Total	86	100

The gender-wise breakdown reveals that 48.8% of the respondents are male and 51.2% are female. This means that both sexes nearly equally participated in the research. Such fair representation guarantees that the results reflect a neutral academic perspective and are not affected by gender prejudice. The age-wise study shows that 51.2% of the participants are in the 21–23 year range. Following this, 24.4% in the 18–20 years group and 20.9% above 25 years; very few respondents are under 18 years. The data shows that 50% of the respondents are postgraduates and 50% are undergraduates, indicating equal representation from both academic levels. Most respondents (62.8%) are from the second year, followed by 24.4% from the first year and 12.8% from the third year. According to the research, 44.2% of respondents belong to private institutions, 37.2% to public institutions, and 18.6% to autonomous colleges. Studied environmental accounting earlier, 33.7% answered 'Yes', 17.4% responded 'No', and 48.8% replied 'Maybe'. Method of research Regular students make up 77.9%; distant learners make up 22.1%.

Hypothesis Testing:

Below are the hypotheses developed from the study and tested using the results of the questionnaire data collecting.

H01. Between male and female business students, there is little to no awareness of environmental accounting.

H11: Male and Female trade students show great environmental accounting knowledge.



Sr. No.	Particulars	Percentage
1	Majority of the Male respondents have strongly Agree and Agree that they are Aware of Environmental Accounting.	47.7%
2	Majority of the Female respondents have strongly Agree and Agree that they are Aware of Environmental Accounting.	48.8%

H02. There is no Significant Difference Awareness of Environmental Accounting between Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students.

H12. There is a Significant Difference Awareness of Environmental Accounting between Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students.

Sr.No.	Particulars	Percentage
1	Majority of the Undergraduate respondents have strongly Agree and Agree that they are Aware of Environmental Accounting.	48.8%
2	The majority of the Postgraduate respondents have strongly Agree and Agree that they are Aware of Environmental Accounting.	47.7%

Findings and Conclusions:

The study examines environmental accounting awareness among commerce students, focusing on two comparisons: (1) male vs female students, and (2) undergraduate vs postgraduate students. The analysis presents empirical percentages and interprets their implications for the stated hypotheses H01/H11 and H02/H12.

Findings:

1. Male awareness: 47.7% of male students strongly agree/agree they are aware of environmental accounting.
2. Female awareness: 48.8% of female students strongly agree/agree they are aware of environmental accounting.
3. Gender difference: 1.1% higher awareness among females than males.

4. Undergraduate awareness: 48.8% of undergraduates strongly agree/agree they are aware of environmental accounting.
5. Postgraduate awareness: 47.7% of postgraduates strongly agree/agree they are aware of environmental accounting.
6. Education-level difference: 1.1% higher awareness among undergraduates than postgraduates.
7. Overall awareness: All groups show high and closely similar awareness levels with minor 1.1% differences.

Conclusion:

Based on the percentage analysis, the study reveals that there is no significant difference in the level of awareness of Environmental Accounting among commerce students on the basis of gender as well as educational level (undergraduate and postgraduate). The responses of male and female students, and undergraduate and postgraduate students, show only



marginal variation, indicating a similar and uniform level of awareness across all groups. Therefore, the null hypotheses are accepted and the alternative hypotheses are rejected, confirming that awareness of Environmental Accounting does not significantly differ among commerce students.

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