Evaluating Sustainability Reporting Practices in Selected Indian Banks: A Study on Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Framework

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KEYWORDS

Banks, Global Reporting Initiative, Sustainability, Standards, Reporting.

ABSTRACT

Purpose: The study examine the Global Reporting Initiative and the Financial Service Sector Supplement (FSSS) framework of the twenty selected Indian banks.

Design/ Methodology/ Approach: The content analysis utilized to assess the sustainability report score of the selected banks from 2017-2021 through sustainability reports and annual reports of the banks and the sustainability indicators were coded using content analysis techniques. Using the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and Financial Service Sector Supplements (FSSS) parameters, a scale for sustainability reporting of selected Indian banks is created based on economic, social, and environmental aspects. In addition, the study used the t-test for independent samples for comparison, which showed that private-sector banks have a higher average score than public-sector banks.

Findings: The results of the study showed that only a small number of banks use and work better in GRI sustainability reporting practices for economic, social, and environmental reporting.

Research Implications: Sustainability reporting should be assessed by regulators, governments and policymakers and banks need to become more transparent in their annual reports as more and more stakeholders become aware of them.

Originality/ Value: Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) reporting framework for Financial Service Sector Supplement (FSSS) is least studied in earlier studies.

Paper type: Empirical paper

1. Introduction

Sustainable development (SD) most important aspects is banking and in recent years, sustainability reporting by banks has become increasingly important. The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards emphasize the importance of environmental, social, and governance considerations in the banking sector. Sustainability reporting by banks has emerged as a critical mechanism for disclosing, environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance, guided by frameworks such as the Global Reporting Initiative (Kumar, R. et al., 2018).GRI provides a comprehensive framework that enables banks to systematically disclose their impacts on sustainability issues, aligning with international standards and best practices (GRI, 2021). The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) has emerged as a leading framework for sustainability reporting across various sectors, including the banking industry. Since its inception, GRI has provided a comprehensive set of guidelines and standards to help organizations systematically disclose their environmental, social, and governance (ESG) performance. Research in this field has examined various aspects of GRI reporting by banks, shedding light on trends, challenges, and outcomes associated with this practice.

As businesses and societies worldwide grapple with the challenges of sustainable development, the applicability of sustainability reporting, particularly in emerging economies like India. A research study was conducted by (Kumar, R. et al., 2018), focusing on sustainability reporting practices in the Indian banking sector, analyzing the approaches of leading banks towards GRI reporting standards. They have evaluated that most of the Indian banks are yet to adopt disclosure and transparency in sustainability practices. The findings of the study provide valuable insights into the level of adoption and implementation of GRI guidelines among banks in India. Similarly, Patel and Patel (2017) conducted a comparative analysis of sustainability reporting practices among Indian banks, with a specific focus on their alignment with GRI standards. Their research contributes to understanding the variations in reporting practices across different banks, and the extent to which they adhere to international reporting frameworks. Earlier studies from the banking industry explored that the pattern of sustainability is inconsistent and concentrated on environmental and social concerns (Sharma, D. & Kumar, P. 2023). Furthermore, (Pawar, D.S. and Munuswamy, J. 2023), conducted an empirical analysis of sustainability reporting in the Indian banking sector, examining the implementation of GRI guidelines and its impact on banks' environmental and social performance. Their study offers valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities associated with GRI reporting and its implications for sustainable development. Sustainability reporting by banks is not limited to India alone. Sarkar and Kar (2018) conducted a content analysis of sustainability reporting in the Indian banking sector, providing insights into the thematic areas covered by banks in their GRI reports. As such, there is increased scrutiny on banks to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable practices and transparency in reporting their impacts. GRI reporting provides banks with a structured approach to communicate their sustainability initiatives, performance, and impacts to stakeholders in a standardized and comparable manner. Moreover, GRI reporting enables banks to align their sustainability disclosures with international best practices and standards, enhancing credibility and trust among stakeholders. By adhering to GRI guidelines, banks can effectively communicate their efforts towards environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and ethical governance, thereby enhancing their reputation and competitive advantage. In recent years, there has been a noticeable shift in the banking sector towards greater transparency and accountability concerning ESG factors. Banks are increasingly recognizing the importance of integrating sustainability into their core business strategies to mitigate risks, enhance reputation, and drive long-term value creation (Lozano et al., 2017). Furthermore, heightened awareness of climate change, social inequality, and corporate governance issues has underscored the need for banks to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable development through transparent reporting (Kumar & Bansal, 2016). This study seeks to provide insights made by banks integrating sustainability into their operations and the extent to which they comply with international reporting standards. The study provide an opportunity to companies to inform about the impacts of their business operations on the various aspects of society (Sethi et al., 2017).

2.Literature Review

Traditionally, corporations mainly focused on financial measures to evaluate their performance. However, growing demands for transparency and accountability have spurred the incorporation of non-financial disclosures into corporate reporting frameworks (Bhatia, A., & Tuli, S. 2018). In India, the adoption of GRI guidelines provides organizations with a structured approach to evaluate, quantify, and disclose their sustainability performance, aligning with global best practices (Nurhayati, R., et al., 2016; Singhania, M., & Saini, N. 2023). This study analyzed the sustainability reporting frameworks adopted by these banks, offering a thorough examination of their methods and disclosures (Laskar, N., & Maji, S. G. 2016). In a comparative analysis, this study delves into sustainability reporting practices among Indian banks. It investigates variations in reporting practices across different banks, shedding light on their strengths and areas that need improvement (Jan, A. A., et al., 2023). Through empirical analysis, this explores sustainability reporting practices in the Indian banking sector. It provides valuable insights into the current status of sustainability reporting, highlights, key trends, challenges, and opportunities for enhancement. Concentrating on content analysis, this study examines sustainability reporting practices in the Indian banking sector. Using content analysis, this research examines the sustainability reporting practices of Indian banks. It provides a detailed evaluation of the content of sustainability reports, focusing on the comprehensiveness and quality of disclosures (Dissanayake, 2021). The study assesses the extent to which Indian banks comply with GRI guidelines in their sustainability reporting practices (Mougenot, B., & Doussoulin, J. P. 2024). As one of the world's fastest-growing economies, India faces significant challenges such as environmental degradation, social inequalities, and governance deficits (Bhatia, A., & Tuli, S. 2018). Numerous studies have emphasized the importance of sustainability reporting, highlighting its role in enhancing corporate transparency, reputation, and long-term value creation (Dilling, P. F. 2010). Sustainability reporting plays a critical role in promoting responsible business practices, improving corporate governance, and driving sustainable development outcomes in India (Dash, S., & Dey, S. K. 2023).

3. Research Gap

To the best author’s knowledge, earlier literature which available on sustainability reporting in the context of Indian banks is limited. Garg & Gupta (2021) and Maurya and Singh (2022) elaborated that sustainability reporting is a concept that is still emerging in the banking sector. Indian banks have yet to adopt the sustainability reporting disclosure practices (Kumar et al.; S., 2018). Moreover, the authors have also explored limited literature available on the vast categorization of GRI, such as universal standards, general standards, and topic-specific standards. The present research has examined the sustainability reporting practices of selected banks according to GRI G4 and financial service sector supplement, which assess the quality and comprehensiveness of sustainability disclosures and evaluate the effectiveness of GRI adoption in enhancing corporate sustainability performance and stakeholder engagement. In conclusion, sustainability reporting represents a fundamental paradigm shift in corporate accountability and transparency (Singhania, M., & Saini, N. 2023).

3.1 Objectives Of The Study:

- To study the GRI101-foundation disclosure index
- To comparatively analyse the GRI-FSSS reporting by public and private banks.

4. Data Collection and Data Nature

The study carried out on secondary data for the period 2017-2021. The study contains qualitative data. The current research has intensively categorized as descriptive research.

5. Source and Size of data

Data for the study is collected from the annual reports, capitaline, moneycontrol and prowess database. It includes top twenty Indian banks based on market capitalization. The study carried out on the top twenty Indian banks based on of market capitalization.

6. Research Methodology

This study compares the performance of the top ten Indian banks on sustainability reporting based on their asset size (Mani, M., 2022). In the study, the top twenty banks, which comprise the top ten public and private banks based on the market capitalization for five financial years from 2017-2021, are selected. To keep the sample size unbiased and prevent sampling, the sample size of twenty banks is considered to execute content analysis. The banking sector (PSBs and private sector banks) has been chosen in the present study for the the integration of sustainability in banking has become imperative for ensuring sustainable growth in any country (Jeucken, M., 2001). Content analysis is a technique used to objectively and systematically analyze textual material on some predetermined criteria to draw quantifiable inferences (Kumar & Prakash, 2020). This study used the secondary data sources as a data-collection technique. This study uses, content analysis to codify qualitative information and to explore sustainability reporting based on GRI standards.

7. Results and Findings

GRI 101-Foundation disclosure index

Table 7.3: Foundation Disclosure Index

0	Core element not disclosed
1	Core element disclosed with little information
2	Core element disclosed with vast information

7.1 GRI-101(Foundation): The universal standards includes those important principles which are used while preparing a report.

1. **Axis Bank**: The following figure show the reporting principles of Axis bank as outlined in the GRI-101 standards from the 2017-2021.Axis bank performing better in reporting of balance, clarity, completeness, materiality and in stakeholder inclusiveness while the other principles are less reported.

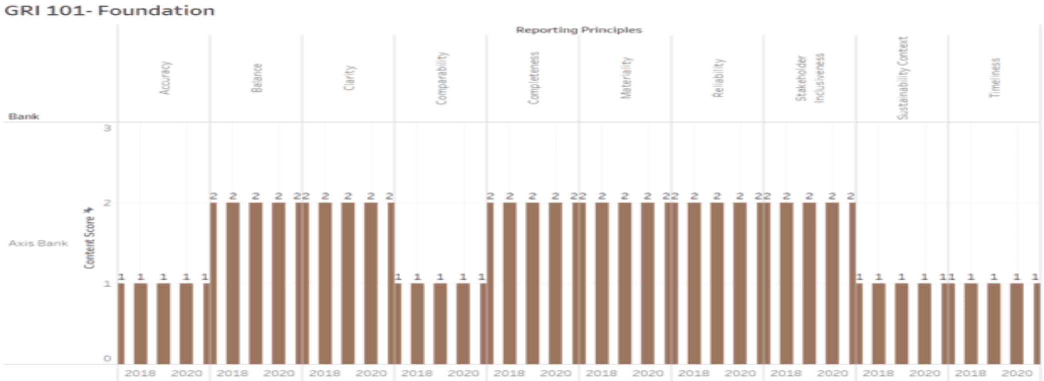

Figure 7.1: Axis Bank
***Source**: Researcher Calculations*

2. **HDFC Bank:** The following figure show the reporting principles of HDFC bank as outlined in the GRI-101 standards from the 2017-2021.HDFC bank performing better in reporting of balance, materiality, reliability, stakeholder context and in stakeholder inclusiveness while the other principles are less reported.

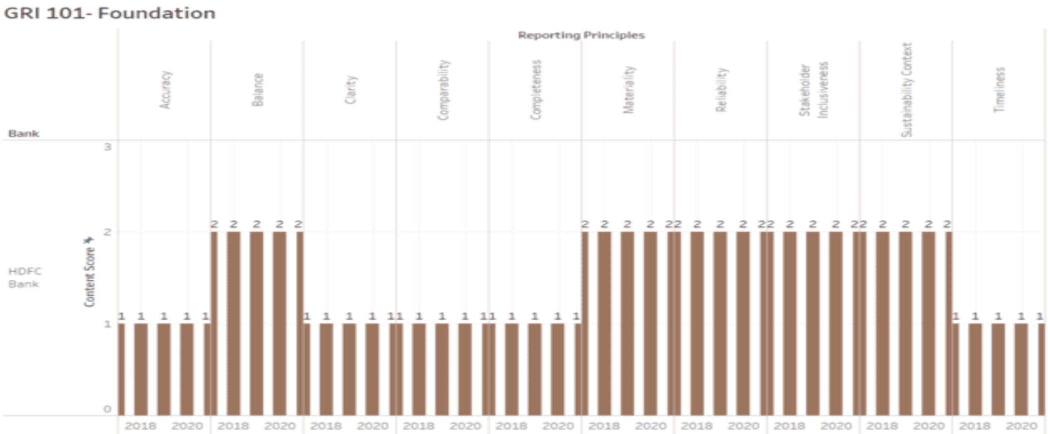

Figure 7.2: HDFC Bank
Source: Researcher Calculations

3. **YES Bank:** The following figure show the reporting principles of Yes bank as outlined in the GRI-101 standards from the 2017-2021.Yes bank performing better in

reporting of stakeholder context and stakeholder inclusiveness while the other principles are less reported.

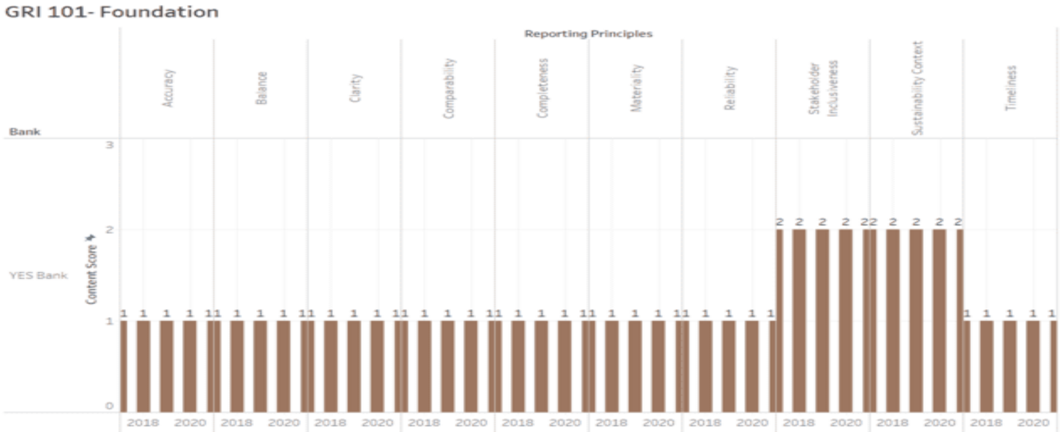

Figure 7.3: Yes Bank
Source: Researcher Calculations

4. **Induslnd Bank:** The following figure show the reporting principles of Induslnd bank as outlined in the GRI-101 standards from the 2017-2021.Induslnd bank performing better in reporting of balance, clarity, completeness, materiality, stakeholder inclusiveness and stakeholder context while the other principles are less reported.

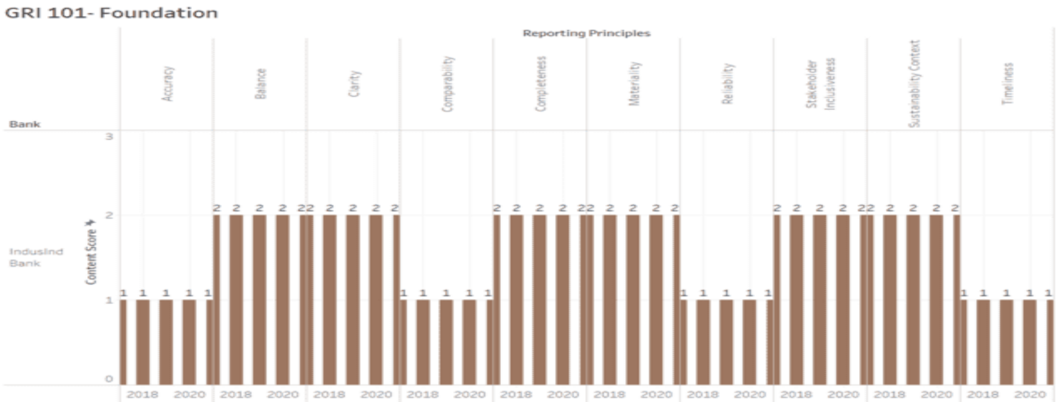

Figure 7.4: Induslnd Bank
Source: Researcher Calculations

5. **State Bank of India:** The following figure show the reporting principles of State bank of India as outlined in the GRI-101 standards from the 2017-2021.SBI performing better in reporting of balance, materiality, reliability, stakeholder inclusiveness and stakeholder context while the other principles are less reported.

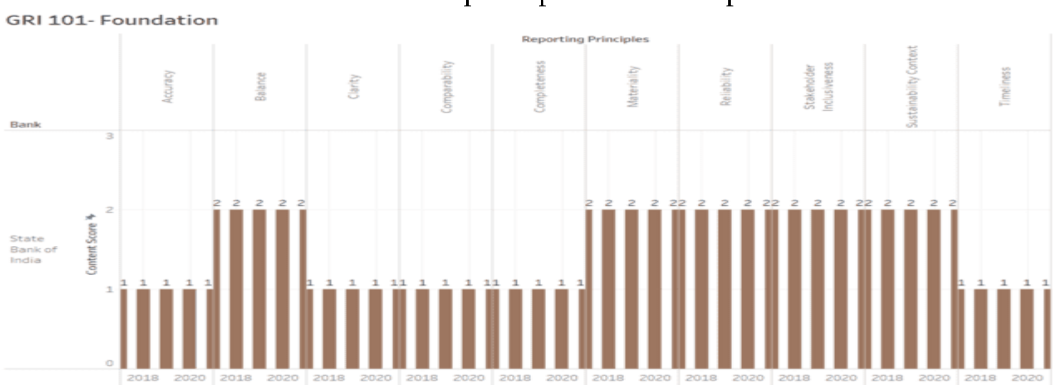

Figure 7.5: State Bank of India
Source: Researcher Calculations

6. **ICICI Bank:** The following figure show the reporting principles of ICICI bank as outlined in the GRI-101 standards from the 2017-2021.ICICI bank performing better in reporting of balance, clarity, completeness, materiality, stakeholder inclusiveness and stakeholder context while the other principles are less reported.

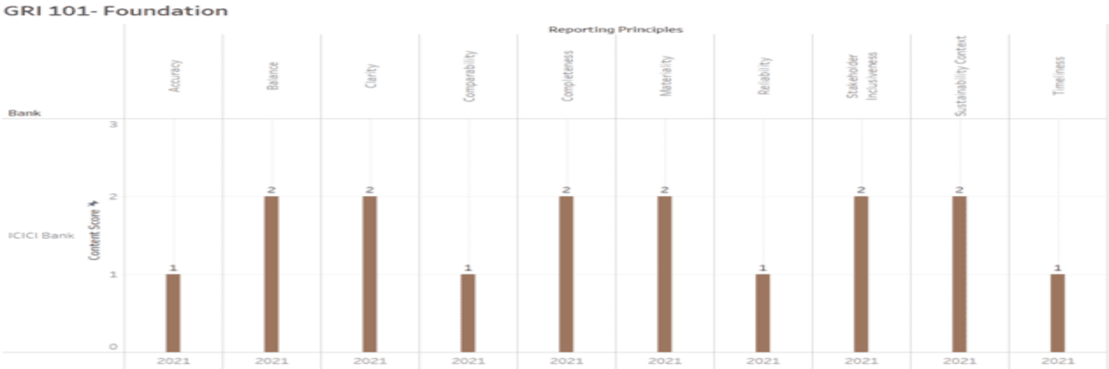

Figure 7.6: ICICI Bank
Source: Researcher Calculations

Results revealed that the GRI-101 contains a total of ten reporting principles as outlined in the GRI standards which are bifurcated into two categories one is reporting principles for defining report content and other is reporting principles for defining report quality and out of selected banks only six banks are actively engaged in addressing dimensions of sustainability. These six bank publishes an annual Business Responsibility & Sustainability Report, which aligns with GRI Standards and SEBI, BRSR framework for the time frame 2017-2021.

7.2 Find out the GRI (Financial Service Sector Supplements) disclosure by select banks GRI Sector -Specific Standards:

The GRI sector-specific standards provide authoritative information on the topics that represent the most significant impacts of an industry from a sustainable development perspective and help organizations prepare reports to improve transparency and accountability.

Disclosure of GRI Financial Service Sector Supplement by Banks in India

Table 3: GRI FSSS disclosure

Sector Aspect	FSSS	Financial Service Sector Disclosures	Public	Private
ManagementApproach	FS1	Policies with specific environmental and social components applied to business lines.	10	10
ManagementApproach	FS2	Procedures for assessing and screening environmental and social risks in business lines.	1	6
ManagementApproach	FS3	Processes for monitoring clients' implementation of and compliance with environmental and social requirements included in agreements or transactions.	1	3
ManagementApproach	FS4	Process for improving staff competency to implement the social and environmental policiesand procedures as applied to business lines.	1	2
ManagementApproach	FS5	Interactions with clients/investees/business partners regarding environmental and social risk and opportunities.	10	2
PerformanceIndicator	FS6	Percentage of the portfolio for business lines by specific region, size (e.g. micro/SME/large).	0	7
PerformanceIndicator	FS7	Monetary value of products and services desig ned to deliver a specific social benefit for each business line broken down by purpose.	1	6
PerformanceIndicator	FS8	Monetary value of products and services designed to deliver a specific environmental benefitfor each business line is broken down by purpose.	1	8
PerformanceIndicator	FS9	Coverage and frequency of audits to assess implementation of environmental and social policies and risk assessment procedures.	1	2
PerformanceIndicator	FS10	Percentage and number of companies held in the institution's portfolio with which the reporting organization has interacted on environment or social issues.	0	6
PerformanceIndicator	FS11	Percentage of assets subject to positive and negative environmental or social screening	1	6
PerformanceIndicator	FS12	Voting policies applied to environmental or social issues for shares over which the reporting organization holds the right to vote shares or advises on voting.	0	2
Society Performance Indicator	FS13	Access points in low-populated or economically disadvantaged area s by type.	0	6
Society Performance Indicator	FS14	Initiatives to improve access to financial services for disadvantaged people.	10	10
Product Responsibility Performance Indicator	FS15	Policies for the fair design and sale of financial products and service	7	6
Product Responsibility Performance Indicator	FS16	Initiatives to enhance financial literacy by type of beneficiary.	10	10

Source: Annual reports of different banks.

The disclosure practices of environmental and social performance by the Indian banking sector remains understudied. This study provides insights into the extent of sustainability reporting by the banks in India(Kumar & Prakash 2017). Sustainability report of the banks were analysed and coded using content analysis technique against sustainability indicators of GRI G4 guidelines (Kumar & Prakash, 2019).

7.2.1Independent-Sample T-test

This test used to determine if there was a statistically significant mean difference or if there is a difference between two unrelated groups. Based on the mean, made a comparison between the implementation of the FSSS and the GRI framework between public and private banks. The study provides valuable insights into sustainable reporting practices of PSBs and private sector banks operating in India and also adds to the body of knowledge useful for banks (Kumar & Prakash 2017). Sustainability reporting has become a prominent tool for corporate accountability and mitigating the reverse impact of economic development on the environment and communities. Commercial banks play a vital role in the economic development of a country. The study aims to reveal the present sustainability reporting practices prevailing in Indian commercial banks, highlighting the growing importance of sustainability reporting at the global level(Yadav, P., 2016).

Table: 4 Group Statistics

Source: Researchers Calculations based on secondary data

	Sector (Public/ Private)	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
FSSS 1	public	50	1.90	.839	.119
	private	50	2.10	.953	.135
FSSS 2	public	50	.30	.909	.129
	private	50	1.70	1.432	.203
FSSS 3	public	50	.30	.909	.129
	private	50	.70	1.111	.157
FSSS 4	public	50	.30	.909	.129
	private	50	.40	.808	.114
FSSS 5	public	50	1.30	.463	.065
	private	50	.40	.808	.114
FSSS 6	public	50	.00	.000	.000
	private	50	1.40	.926	.131
FSSS 7	public	50	.10	.303	.043
	private	50	.60	.495	.070
FSSS 8	public	50	.10	.303	.043
	private	50	.80	.404	.057
FSSS 9	public	50	.30	.909	.129
	private	50	.60	1.212	.171
FSSS 10	public	50	.00	.000	.000
	private	50	.60	.495	.070
FSSS 11	public	50	.30	.909	.129
	private	50	.60	.495	.070
FSSS 12	public	50	.00	.000	.000
	private	50	.20	.404	.057
FSSS 13	public	50	.10	.303	.043
	private	50	1.80	1.485	.210
FSSS 14	public	50	2.70	.909	.129
	private	50	2.10	.953	.135
FSSS 15	public	50	1.40	.926	.131
	private	50	1.82	1.466	.207
FSSS 16	public	50	1.30	.463	.065
	private	50	2.10	.953	.135

This study investigates the relationship between the level of sustainability reporting and banks and financial services performance across regions. The study highlighted that ESG differently affected regions (Buallay et al., 2023). The study examine the sustainability disclosure framework to assess sustainability reporting of two global systemically important banks.(Hummel & Festl-Pell, 2015). The study show the extent of sustainability reporting by the commercial banks in India in line with major sustainability-related standards & guidelines. This study contribute to banking sector and all the stakeholders in understanding more about the sustainable reporting in India (Kumar & Prakash, 2019).The above results show the mean value comparison between the implementation of the GRI framework between public and private banks, which indicates that private sector banks are higher than the mean scores of the public sector and the private sector banks implement the GRI practices better (Dash, S., & Dey, S. K. 2023).

Table 5: Levene's Independent T-test

Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
									95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
		F	**Sig.**	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper
FSSS 1	Equal variances assumed	6.310	**.014**	-1.114	98	.268	-.200	.180	-.556	.156
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.114	96.455	.268	-.200	.180	-.556	.156
FSSS 2	Equal variances assumed	48.538	**.000**	-5.836	98	.000	-1.400	.240	-1.876	-.924
	Equal variances not assumed			-5.836	82.975	.000	-1.400	.240	-1.877	-.923
FSSS 3	Equal variances assumed	12.352	**.001**	-1.970	98	.052	-.400	.203	-.803	.003
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.970	94.302	.052	-.400	.203	-.803	.003
FSSS 4	Equal variances assumed	.654	**.421**	-.581	98	.562	-.100	.172	-.441	.241
	Equal variances not assumed			-.581	96.671	.562	-.100	.172	-.441	.241
FSSS 5	Equal variances assumed	8.983	**.003**	6.833	98	.000	.900	.132	.639	1.161
	Equal variances not assumed			6.833	78.031	.000	.900	.132	.638	1.162
FSSS 6	Equal variances assumed	257.250	**.000**	-10.693	98	.000	-1.400	.131	-1.660	-1.140
	Equal variances not assumed			-10.693	49.000	.000	-1.400	.131	-1.663	-1.137
FSSS 7	Equal variances assumed	65.625	**.000**	-6.093	98	.000	-.500	.082	-.663	-.337
	Equal variances not assumed			-6.093	81.219	.000	-.500	.082	-.663	-.337

FSSS 8	Equal variances assumed	8.337	**.005**	-9.800	98	.000	-.700	.071	-.842	-.558
	Equal variances not assumed			-9.800	90.875	.000	-.700	.071	-.842	-.558
FSSS 9	Equal variances assumed	8.337	**.005**	-1.400	98	.165	-.300	.214	-.725	.125
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.400	90.875	.165	-.300	.214	-.726	.126
FSSS 10	Equal variances assumed	1176.000	**.000**	-8.573	98	.000	-.600	.070	-.739	-.461
	Equal variances not assumed			-8.573	49.000	.000	-.600	.070	-.741	-.459
FSSS 11	Equal variances assumed	.334	**.565**	-2.049	98	.043	-.300	.146	-.590	-.010
	Equal variances not assumed			-2.049	75.694	.044	-.300	.146	-.592	-.008
FSSS 12	Equal variances assumed	87.111	**.000**	-3.500	98	.001	-.200	.057	-.313	-.087
	Equal variances not assumed			-3.500	49.000	.001	-.200	.057	-.315	-.085
FSSS 13	Equal variances assumed	540.225	**.000**	-7.933	98	.000	-1.700	.214	-2.125	-1.275
	Equal variances not assumed			-7.933	53.076	.000	-1.700	.214	-2.130	-1.270
FSSS 14	Equal variances assumed	10.612	**.002**	3.221	98	.002	.600	.186	.230	.970
	Equal variances not assumed			3.221	97.783	.002	.600	.186	.230	.970
FSSS 15	Equal variances assumed	68.611	**.000**	-1.712	98	.090	-.420	.245	-.907	.067
	Equal variances not assumed			-1.712	82.705	.091	-.420	.245	-.908	.068
FSSS 16	Equal variances assumed	99.380	**.000**	-5.339	98	.000	-.800	.150	-1.097	-.503
	Equal variances not assumed			-5.339	70.904	.000	-.800	.150	-1.099	-.501

Source: Researchers Calculations based on secondary data

This paper examines the extent of GRI and FSSS reporting of selected Indian banks, focusing on stakeholder engagement, credibility, materiality, sustainability etc. The significance value of F is used to make the statistical decision about the assumptions of equal variance. The study identifies and analyzes the sustainability disclosure practices of banks in India, shedding light on the key indicators reported by these banks in alignment with prominent sustainability reporting frameworks such as the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) G4 guidelines (Kumar & Prakash, 2019). This study examines the relationship between sustainability reporting and organizational factors.The study show a positive relationship between sustainability reporting and organization perspective in terms of the level of importance of the GRI indicators (Zharfpeykan & Davood, 2023).The t- statistic measure is used in a t-test to determine whether to support or rejected the null hypothesis. The test carried out based on Levene's test for equality of variances, revealed that the values for all FSSS were significantly less than (0.05), except for the process of improving employees competence to implement social and environmental policies (FSSS-4) and procedures applied to business units and the percentage of assets subject to positive and negative environmental or social screening,(FSSS-11), which means that FSSS-4 and FSSS- 11 are the factors least disclosed by the banks. The study shows that the two data are homogeneous, so the use of data to compare population averages (t-test for Equality of Means) in the t-test must be on the basis of equal variances not assumed. There is a significant difference in firm value between large companies that publish sustainability reports and small companies that publish
sustainability reports (Zam et al, 2023).The banking sector plays a crucial role in driving economic development and shaping societal outcomes. In recent years, there has been a growing recognition among banks worldwide, of integrating sustainability into their business strategies. This shift is driven by various factors, including regulatory requirements, stakeholder expectations, and the need to address emerging ESG risks and opportunities (Orazalin, N. and Mahmood, M. 2020). Several authors have conducted comparative studies of sustainability reporting practices among public and private sector banks in India, highlighting differences in reporting approaches and their alignment with GRI standards (Nial, N and Parashar, P. 2024). This comparative study investigates sustainability reporting practices among public and private sector banks in India. By comparing the reporting practices of these two categories of banks, the study offers valuable insights into the factors influencing sustainability disclosures (Singh & Garg, 2018). (Ehnert, I., et al., 2016) also presented similar results, but the study was conducted on the world's largest companies.

7.Conclusions

The study provides sustainability reporting of the ten Indian public and private banks focusing on stakeholder inclusiveness, credibility, materiality, sustainability etc. on the basis of Financial Services Sector Disclosures framework. The study has an several implications for bankers and policy makers as it provides a broad picture of sustainability practices of the Indian banking sector. Financial Services Sector Disclosures' document streamlined and contains the G4 Guidelines. The banks low on FSSS reporting principles need to expend its strategies. According to the scoring study revealed that out of selected banks, SBI works better in FSSS reporting in public sector, then Bank of Baroda, Central bank, UCO bank, PNB, Indian bank, IOB, Union bank, Canera bank, and BOB respectively followed sustainability reporting practices. And in private sector - HDFC bank works better in sustainability reporting practices in private sector then Induslnd bank, Kotak Mahindra bank, Yes bank, IDFC bank, Axis bank, ICICI bank Federal Bank, Bandhan Bank, IDBI bank. FSSS-2 and FSSS-16 is the highest reported principle by banks and FSSS 4 and FSSS-11 of GRI was the least reported principle by banks as large number of banks not disclosed information. The higher participation by the banking sector could transform the landscape of sustainability practices.

8. Limitations

GRI framework provides general standards that can be applied to various businesses; it cannot cover every particular area of the banking industry. GRI G4 does not address the specific challenges related to data availability in the banking industry. The banking sector is constantly evolving, with emerging risks and opportunities shaping the industry's sustainability agenda.GRI G4 may not adequately address emerging issues, such as climate-related risks, cyber security threats, or financial inclusion challenges, which are increasingly relevant to the banking sector and require proactive management and disclosure.

9. Research Implications

This paper has several implications for bankers and policymakers as it provides a broad view of GRI and FSSS reporting in the Indian banking sector. The 'Financial Services Sector Disclosures' document has been streamlined and incorporates the G4 guidelines. It has been found that a large number of selected banks need to report as per the GRI guidelines. Banks that must catch up with FSSS reporting principles must expand their strategies. Among the selected public banks, only the State Bank of India performs better in GRI reporting. HDFC Bank performs better in GRI reporting on the private sector. Furthermore, private sector banks reported better financial service sector supplements (FSSS). This paper revealed that FSSS-2 and FSSS-16 were the most reported by banks, and FSSS-4 and FSSS-11 were the least reported by banks. If banks start reporting more on sustainability practices, the landscape of sustainability practices will change. SEBI should ensure that sustainability reporting norms are reinforced at the firm level in order to improve the dissemination of sustainability information in annual reports.This study will be beneficial to policymakers at the nationwide and at global levels. As a result of these findings, investors are informed that sustainability disclosures have a significant influence on the market value of enterprises. The sustainability reporting practices in the Indian banking sector between 2017 and 2021, under the GRI frameworks, have led to greater transparency, improved stakeholder engagement, and enhanced alignment with international standards.

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