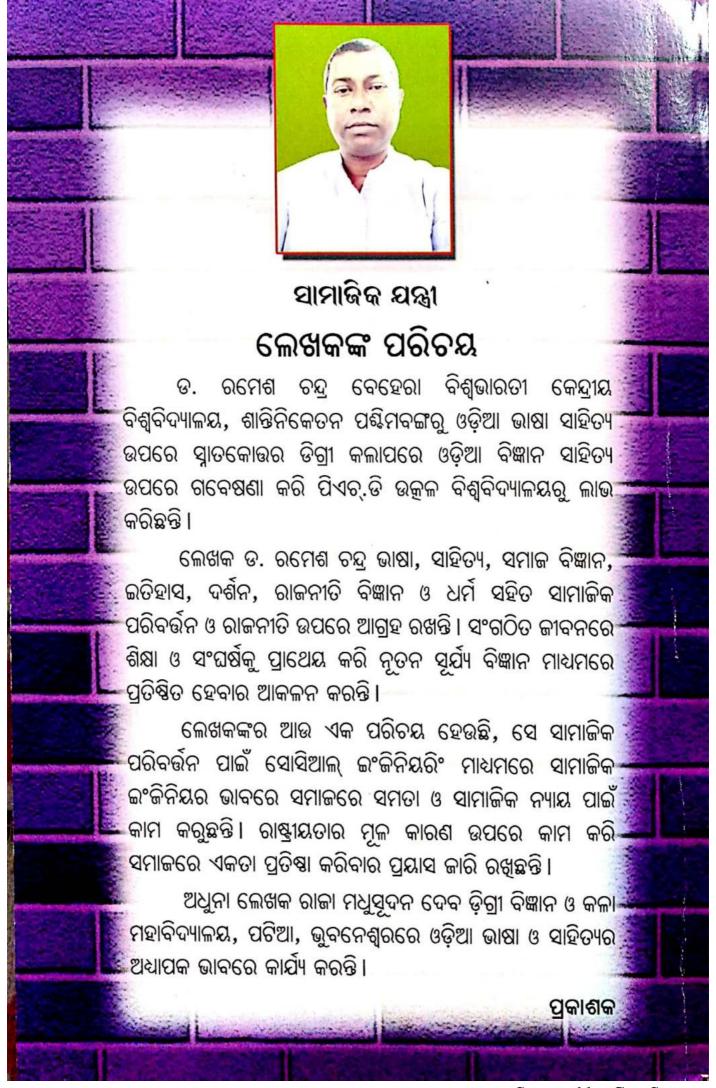


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Chapter 8 A Study on the Impact of Mandatory Provisions on CSR Strategies of Indian Companies



Supriti Mishra and Gargee Banerjee

Abstract CSR encompasses the economic, legal, ethical, and discretionary (philanthropic) expectations that society has of organizations (Carroll 1999). Such mandatory provision has, however, raised several important questions about the way CSR is perceived and implemented. The proposed research intends to look at a few such issues; such as (1) whether such mandatory provisions have diluted the voluntary spirit inherent in CSR, (2) whether there is any difference in the approach adopted by top companies listed in stock exchanges toward CSR after the mandatory requirements came into force (a comparison between the pre- and post-implementation of mandatory provisions is attempted), and (3) whether CSR activities by such companies conform to the set of activities prescribed under Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013. Data on CSR activities, CSR spending, and company details are collected from secondary sources for a sample of 30 companies. Data analysis was carried out to examine the aforementioned objectives. This research intends to establish whether Companies Act 2013 will bring about meaningful changes in the way CSR is perceived and implemented in India by the Indian companies.

Keywords CSR · Mandatory · Schedule VII · Companies Act 2013

8.1 Introduction

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is viewed as a company's commitment to operate in an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable manner, while recognizing the interests of all its stakeholders. CSR encompasses the economic, legal, ethical, and discretionary (philanthropic) expectations that society has of organizations at a given point in time (Carroll 1999). Traditionally, CSR has been carried

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