

## **SOCIAL AUDIT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN RAJASTHAN: A STUDY OF JAIPUR AND ALWAR DISTRICTS OF RAJASTHAN STATE**

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Dr. H. N. Gupta\*

### **ABSTRACT**

Changing role of corporations and public institutions requires evaluation of newly accepted responsibilities in light of socio-economic welfare. In this context, the new concept "social audit" was developed to monitor socio-economic welfare. Social audit is a form of retrospective review of the impact or contribution of a company in the recognized social dimension. Social auditing creates an impact upon governance. It values the voice of stakeholders, including marginalized/poor groups whose voices are rarely heard. Social auditing is taken up for the purpose of enhancing local governance, particularly for strengthening accountability and transparency in local bodies. Social audit is beneficial to the society because it trains the community on participatory local planning, encourages local democracy and community participation, benefits disadvantaged groups, promotes collective decision making and sharing responsibilities, develops human resources and social capital. Improvement in environmental awareness through people's participation is the basic requirement for achieving objectives of environmental policy. Co-ordination among different environmental agencies is also required to achieve objectives of the policy.

**KEYWORDS:** *Socio-economic Development, Social Audit, Social Capital, Human Resources, Accountability.*

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### **Introduction**

The need for management of public policy issues arises out of the changing role of business in society. Throughout its history, the primary responsibility of corporations and public institutions have been to produce goods and services to meet consumer meet , to pay reasonable dividend to shareholders, to meet its debt obligations on time and to make provisions for future growth. After seventies, an additional set of responsibilities was added to this list which includes doing something about cleaning up and eliminating pollution, promoting pollution, promoting equal opportunities for minorities and women, protecting the health and safety of workers, producing product that are safe and similar responsibilities.

William C. Frederick, in his writing in the California Management Review, demands that "business should do something more than its traditional economic functions. The organization should enhance the total socio-economic welfare of the country and resources should be utilized for broad social ends and not simply for the narrowly circumscribed interests of the private persons and institutions". According to Elliot, "social responsibility includes impact of corporate decisions on environmental pollution, the consumption of non-renewable resources and ecological factors". The National Association of Accountants (NAA) Committee on Accounting for Corporate Social Performance described the term "corporate social performance and reflects the impact of the corporation's activities on society".

Changing role of corporations and public institutions requires evaluation of newly accepted responsibilities in light of socio-economic welfare. In this context, the new concept "social audit" was developed to monitor socio-economic welfare. Steiner and Brown described that "social audit is a report of social performance in contrast with the financial report". According to Brown and Evan, "Social audit is

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\* Lecturer in ABST, Government P.G. College, Dausa, Rajasthan.