



Impact of COVID-19 on Corporate Social Responsibility Expenditure of Indian Companies: A Comparative Analysis

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Abstract:

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a shift in the pattern of internal and external CSR activities. This has given rise to many interesting arenas for research. An increase in CSR expenditure may experience an increase in the value of their firms, even when CSR activities reduce the net cash flow of firms. The investments in different types of CSR activities have changed owing to the pandemic. It would be interesting to study the difference in investments made for various CSR activities in the pre and during pandemic period and to study if the trends continue even post crisis. Companies Act 2013, under Schedule VII, mentions the list of activities that the companies can choose to spend. It covers multiple domains, and it would be interesting to analyse any shift in expenditure patterns. For the purpose of the study, top 4 activities garnering CSR funds are taken: Eradicating hunger, poverty, Healthcare, Sanitation etc.; Education, Vocational skills, Livelihood enhancement skills' Cares fund' and 'Disaster Management Fund'. This is an empirical research where data for top companies listed at NSE is taken from the annual reports of the companies for Pre-Pandemic year i.e.2019-2020 and during Pandemic year i.e.2020-2021 and a comparative analysis is performed.

Keywords: Corporate Social Responsibility, CSR expenditure, COVID-19, NSE-listed companies

1.Introduction:

The success of a business does not depend only on its bottom line i.e., the profits, it is also important for a company to exhibit how it pays back to its community, the environment and act towards the greater good, not mere profits. It is at this junction, that the role of the businesses, of doing good for people at large, sets in. Corporate social responsibility, also known as CSR, is the idea that a business has a duty to do good for society. If a company wants to do good for the world, it should function in such a way that it is socially responsible to its customers, shareholders, and other stakeholders. For companies that care about the environment, it is important for businesses to act for the betterment of the environment. Corporations can be major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, waste, and the depletion of natural resources. By committing to environmental responsibility, a business takes responsibility for its impact on the environment. Environmental responsibility can take many different forms depending on the size and type of business. For some businesses, contribution towards the environment would mean adopting renewable energy sources or using non-hazardous and bio-degradable materials that do not cause damage to the environment, like wood and paper. While others may set up a company-wide recycling policy or contribute and volunteer for local environmental groups.



When a business is ethically responsible, it makes sure that it does business in a way that is fair to every stakeholder. This includes treating employees, shareholders, and customers ethically and with respect. It comes in many forms like setting a higher minimum wage, ensuring all the materials are ethically sourced, and making sure all employees are paid well and treated with dignity.

When a business commits to socially responsible practices, it positively impacts on its employee satisfaction and retention. It also works towards brand identity because CSR initiatives help boost customer trust and public respect. CSR initiative itself has a positive ripple effect. With every new sustainable business practice and every company committed to fair pay and ethical employee treatment, positive influence is introduced into the business world.

COVID-19 has been declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO). This infectious disease had a huge impact on the world's social and economic conditions. To stop the spread of this deadly disease, social distancing played an effective role. In March 2020, people were requested to maintain social and physical distance, when the virus began to gain ground and eventually the country went under lockdown. The economy got affected due to prolonged lockdowns. Uncertainties and lack of knowledge made things even worse. At this juncture, CSR played a big role during this pandemic, people were trying to do their best to get through the hard times. CSR is a "self-regulating business model" that talks about how a company interacts with its stakeholders and the general public, which makes the company socially responsible.

Policies governing CSR in India

As per Section 135(1) of the Companies Act, 2013, the companies having Net worth of INR 500 crore or more; or Turnover of INR 1000 crore or more; or Net Profit of INR 5 crore or more during any financial year shall be required to constitute a CSR Committee of the Board with effect from 1st April, 2014. It requires every such company as described under Section 135(1) shall be covered within the ambit of CSR provisions. The word "companies" here connotes a wider meaning and shall include the foreign companies having branch or project offices in India. Under 135 (2), the Board's report should disclose the composition of the CSR Committee. The Committee shall consist of minimum 3 (three) including 1 (one) Independent Director, however in case of Private Company or the Company, which is not required to appoint Independent Director on board, or Foreign Company the committee can be formulated with (2) two directors. Under 135 (3) the CSR Committee should formulate and recommend to the Board a CSR Policy which shall indicate the activities to be undertaken by the company as specified in Schedule VII. The CSR Committee will be responsible for framing the policy, finalizing the amount to be spent on CSR, monitoring & implementation of the Scheme.

Schedule VII refers to the activities which may be included by companies in their CSR policy activities related to -

1. Eradicating hunger, poverty and malnutrition, promoting healthcare, including preventive healthcare and sanitation, contributing to the 'Swachh Bharat Kosh' set-up by the central government for the promotion of sanitation and making safe drinking water available.



2. Promoting education, including special education, and employment enhancing vocation skills, especially among children, women, elderly and the differently abled, along with livelihood enhancement project.
3. Promoting gender equality, empowering women, setting up homes and hostels for women and orphans; setting up old age homes, day care centers and such other facilities for senior citizens and measures for reducing inequalities faced by socially and economically backward groups.
4. Ensuring environmental sustainability, ecological balance, protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, agro forestry, conservation of natural resources and maintaining quality of soil, air and water including contribution to the Clean Ganga Fund set-up by the central government for rejuvenation of the river Ganga.
5. Protection of national heritage, art and culture including restoration of buildings and sites of historical importance and works of art, setting up public libraries, promotion and development of traditional arts and handicrafts.
6. Measures for the benefit of armed forces veterans, war widows and their dependents.
7. Training to promote rural sports, nationally recognized sports and Olympics sports.
8. Contribution to the Prime Minister's national relief fund or any other fund set up by the central government for socio-economic development and relief and welfare of the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes, minorities and women.
9. Contributions or funds provided to technology incubators located within academic institutions which are approved by the central government.
10. Contributions to public funded Universities, IITs, National Laboratories and autonomous bodies engaged in conducting research in science, technology, engineering and medicine aimed at promoting Sustainable Development.
11. Rural development projects.
12. Slum development.
13. Disaster management, including relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) notified the Companies Amendment Rules, 2021 (Rules') through a notification dated 22 January 2021. These Rules provide amendments to the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014. However, the above-mentioned rules and clause remain unchanged.

2.Literature Review:

George Abraham Kurian (2021) People from all walks of life lost their lives due to lack of medicines. Many had a tough time getting hospital beds, and other medical facilities. The mortality rate took a leap all over the country. For many, it was difficult to afford medical care or did not have a health insurance. When the government, judiciary, and public authorities were dealing with pandemic emergencies and trying to make scarce resources available to people at large, some sections of people were using this as an opportunity to make huge profits at the cost of people. It entailed corruption, dishonesty, and profiting from the misfortune of other people. People doing this should give their actions a thought, to revise the definition of humanity amid a pandemic. *Novomlynets & Verbytska (2021)*, concluded that the level of Corporate social responsibility activities is at an average level presently, but it is expected to grow at an accelerated pace during the Pandemic. In the initial days of the pandemic there was no established way to manage a company's social responsibility, as pandemic had resulted in adverse cash flows for the corporates. This led



to changes in priorities and plans of the businesses. Some corporates were of the view to restrict CSR activities and use funds judiciously, while others tried to provide a support to people on humanitarian grounds. They could even see it as a chance to build a lasting image in the minds of stakeholders. Responsible businesses houses revisited, revised, redirected and relaunched their planned CSR projects to meet the situation. Companies displayed their dynamic decision-making attitude by changing the avenues of expenditure in the maximum interest of society.

Singh & Arya (2021) highlights the fact that there is a lot of government interference in the way CSR funds are being spent during the pandemic. Earlier the corporations could utilize the funds as they deemed fit, channelized through NGO's or directly by company for CSR. The funds are going into public charitable trusts as they are being released. These charitable trusts, which have been set up recently, not only sabotage the company's CSR goals. The money that could have been invested directly now goes to a hard-to-follow account. The cycle hides this fact, but it is important to note. *Pankaj Thakur (2021)*, The Covid-19 pandemic is a global epidemic that had an impact on the world in a way that has never been seen before. People say that the 2020 recession is going to be the worst since World War II. This article looks at how the Covid-19 crisis might affect entrepreneurship and new business start-ups in emerging economies. Data and bibliometric analysis are used in this article to help people understand what is going on in research and what is going to happen in the future in the context of COVID-19. For data analysis: The most up-to-date data analysis techniques and software has been used. The research has been limited to Scopus-listed articles with an ABS rating of more than 2. This gave critical and important articles for research. These articles were looked at by author, country, keywords, and also a lot of robust factorial analysis is done. The paper finds that during COVID-19, that there are a lot of niche areas and that they have an effect on entrepreneurial education. If the recovery process is quick and the institutions that help people get back on their feet are willing to help, the high potential for entrepreneurial activity can also be encouraged. *Yongjun Zhang (2021)*, the research focused on integrated strategy says that businesses use both market and non-market strategies to stay ahead of their rivals, but very little sociological work has been done to look at how different strategies work together or do not work together. There are two things this study shows. First, when corporate elites decide to cut back on things like pay and layoffs, firms are less likely to spend money on CSR in the COVID-19 pandemic. Whereas when companies are under a lot of pressure from customers and come up with ways to meet their needs, corporate elites tend to spend more on CSR activities. This suggests that companies might use both market and non-market tools to deal with organizational crises, and this calls for more research into how these two strategies work together or not.

3. Research Methodology:

From review of literature, it is evident that these studies are conducted to develop an understanding of various CSR activities performed during COVID-19. Most of the activities pertain to the Medical and health care sector as human health was priority at that point of time. It is interesting to study the changes under different heads of CSR expenditures. For the present study secondary data is collected from the annual reports of top 70 companies based on market capitalization listed at NSE in India. Due to the non-availability of data on all parameters sample was reduced to 62 companies, for which data was collected for 2 years i.e., 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

Objectives of Study:

1. To compare overall CSR expenditures incurred by the top companies in India for the Pre pandemic year (2019-20) and during Pandemic year (2020-21).
2. To study change in CSR expenditure pattern under various heads as per Schedule VII, Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, for Pre-pandemic (2019-2020) and during Pandemic (2020-2021).

Data Analysis:

Secondary data regarding the funds disbursed on CSR activities by various companies in the years 2019-20 and 2020-21 is collected, classified and analyzed. The final sample comprised of 62 companies for which such data was available.

4. Findings & Discussions:**i) Total CSR expenditure for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021****CSR expenditure in year 2019-20 (Pre-Pandemic):**

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
CSR spent in 2019-20	62	14.44	909.00	149.2915	174.96962
Valid N (listwise)	62				

(Figures in Crores)

The above table indicates that on average, expenditure incurred by 62 companies on CSR activities in year 2019-20 is Rs 149.29 crores. The corresponding standard deviation is 174.96.

CSR Funds spent in year 2020-21 (During Pandemic):

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
CSR spent in 2020-21	62	7.00	922.00	144.6648	179.07035
Valid N (listwise)	62				

(Figures in Crores)

The above table indicates that an average amount spent by 62 companies on CSR activities in year 2020-21 is Rs 144.66 crores. The corresponding standard deviation is 179.07.

It is thus observed that there is a decrease in the CSR expenditures borne by the companies in the year 2020-21 (i.e., During pandemic year), as compared to the year 2019-20 (i.e., Pre-Pandemic).

It is further tested for its statistical significance using hypothesis testing.

Null Hypothesis H₀₁: There is no significant difference in the mean score of CSR funds spent in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Alternate Hypothesis H₁₁: There is a significant difference in the mean score of CSR funds spent in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

To test the above Null Hypothesis **Paired t-test** is applied. The p-value is calculated and is shown in the below table:



Paired Samples Test						
	Paired Differences			t	df	p-value
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean			
CSR spent in 2019-20 - CSR spent in 2020-21	4.62661	46.83262	5.94775	.778	61	.440

Interpretation: The above results indicate that the calculated p-value is 0.440. It is more than 0.05. Therefore, the T-test is accepted. Hence the Null hypothesis is accepted, and Alternate hypothesis is rejected.

Conclusion: There is no significant difference in the mean score of total CSR expenditures in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

The finding is that the difference in the Mean Score for Total CSR expenditures incurred is highly insignificant across the years 2019-20 and 2020-21. The average CSR expenditure is similar in both the years. This can be observed in the following table:

Paired Samples Statistics					
		Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Pair 1	CSR spent in 2019-20	149.2915	62	174.96962	22.22116
	CSR spent in 2020-21	144.6648	62	179.07035	22.74196

(Figures in Crores)

The above table indicates that the mean CSR expenditures in the year 2019-20 are Rs 149.29 crores, while that in year 2020-21 is Rs 144.66 crores.

Further investigation is done into a comparison of CSR funds spent in these years under various sub-heads.

ii) Expenditures for Eradicating hunger, poverty, Healthcare, Sanitation etc.: for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021

For our study, this subhead is denoted as EHP. There are 59 companies which disbursed CSR funds under this head in year 2019-20, while 58 companies spent CSR funds under the same head in year 2020-21. This data is converted to percentages to facilitate better comparison. The following table shows the average amount of CSR funds spent (in percent) under this EHP in both the years.

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
EHP IN PERCENT-2019-20	59	.22	100.00	27.2015	23.50252
EHP IN PERCENT-2020-21	58	.08	100.00	28.9730	25.51986



The above table indicates that the average amount of CSR funds spent on EHP by 59 companies is 27.20 percent in year 2019-20, while the average amount of CSR funds spent on EHP by 58 companies is 28.97 percent in year 2020-21.

To test the statistical significance in the difference of these spent, the following hypothesis is constructed and tested for its statistical significance:

Null Hypothesis H₀₂: There is no significant difference in the mean score of CSR funds spent on 'Eradicating hunger, poverty, Healthcare, Sanitation etc.' in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Alternate Hypothesis H₁₂: There is a significant difference in the mean score of CSR funds spent 'Eradicating hunger, poverty, Healthcare, Sanitation etc. in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

To test the above Null Hypothesis One sample t-test is applied. The p-value is calculated and is shown in the table below:

One-Sample Test				
	Mean percent spent in 2019-20 = 27.20			
	t	df	p-value	Mean Difference
EHP-2020-21	1.101	57	.275	7.04879

Interpretation: The above results indicate that the calculated p-value is 0.275. It is more than 0.05. Therefore, the T-test is accepted. Hence the Null hypothesis is accepted and Alternate hypothesis is rejected.

Conclusion: There is no significant difference in the mean score of CSR funds spent on 'Eradicating hunger, poverty, Healthcare, Sanitation etc.' in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

The **Finding** is that the difference in the Mean Score for Funds spent (in percent) on CSR activity of 'Eradicating hunger, poverty, Healthcare, Sanitation etc.' is highly insignificant across the year 2019-20 and 2020-21. The average funds spent on this CSR activities are similar in both the years. This can be observed in the following table:

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
EHP IN PERCENT-2019-20	59	.22	100.00	27.2015	23.50252
EHP IN PERCENT-2020-21	58	.08	100.00	28.9730	25.51986
Valid N (listwise)	56				

(Figures in Crores)

The above table indicates that the average amount of CSR funds spent on 'Eradicating hunger, poverty, Healthcare, Sanitation etc.' by 59 companies is 27.20 percent in year 2019-20, while the average amount of CSR funds spent on 'Eradicating hunger, poverty, Healthcare, Sanitation etc.' by 58 companies is 28.97 percent in year 2020-21.

iii) Expenditures for Education, Vocational skills, Livelihood enhancement skills etc.: for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021

For our study, this heading is denoted as EVL. There are 59 companies which spent CSR funds under this head in year 2019-20, while 59 companies spent CSR funds under EVL in year 2020-21. This data is converted to percentages for better comparison. The following



table shows the average amount of CSR funds spent (in percent) under this head in both the years.

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
EVL IN PERCENT-2019-20	59	.09	90.52	35.3136	21.94624
EVL IN PERCENT-2020-21	59	3.13	121.69	29.1308	21.83775
Valid N (listwise)	57				

(Figures in Crores)

The above table indicates that the average amount of CSR funds spent on EVL by 59 companies is 35.31 percent in year 2019-20, while the average amount of CSR funds spent EVL by 59 companies is 29.13 percent in year 2020-21.

To test the statistical significance in the difference of these spent, the following hypothesis is constructed and tested for its statistical significance:

Null Hypothesis H_{03} : There is no significant difference in the mean score of CSR funds spent on 'Education, Vocational skills, Livelihood enhancement skills etc.' in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Alternate Hypothesis H_{13} : There is a significant difference in the mean score of CSR funds spent 'Education, Vocational skills, Livelihood enhancement skills etc.' in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

To test the above Null Hypothesis One sample t-test is applied. The p-value is calculated and is shown in the table below:

One-Sample Test				
	Mean percent spent in 2019-20 = 35.31			
	t	df	p-value	Mean Difference
EVL IN PERCENT-2020-21	-2.173	58	.034	-6.17918

Interpretation: The above results indicate that calculated p-value is 0.034. It is less than 0.05. Therefore, the test is rejected. Hence the Null hypothesis is rejected, and Alternate hypothesis is accepted.

Conclusion: There is a significant difference in the mean score of CSR funds spent 'Education, Vocational skills, Livelihood enhancement skills etc.' in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Findings: The Mean Score for Funds spent (in percent) on CSR activity of 'Education, Vocational skills, Livelihood enhancement skills etc.' is significantly different across the year 2019-20 and 2020-21. The average funds spent on this CSR activity reduces in the year 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20. This can be observed in the following table:



Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
EVL IN PERCENT-2019-20	59	.09	90.52	35.3136	21.94624
EVL IN PERCENT-2020-21	59	3.13	121.69	29.1308	21.83775
Valid N (listwise)	57				

(Figures in Crores)

The above table indicates that the average amount of CSR funds spent on 'Education, Vocational skills, Livelihood enhancement skills etc.' by 59 companies is 35.31 percent in year 2019-20, while the average amount of CSR funds spent on 'Education, Vocational skills, Livelihood enhancement skills etc.' by 59 companies is 29.13 percent in year 2020-21.

iv) Expenditures allocated to Prime Minister's Care Fund for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021

For our study, this head is denoted as PMF. There are 9 companies which spent CSR funds under this head in the year 2019-20, while 21 companies which spent CSR funds under this head in year 2020-21. This data is converted to a percentage for better comparison. The following table shows the average amount of CSR funds spent (in percent) under PMF in both the years.

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
PMF IN PERCENT-2019-20	9	.59	84.77	29.4868	25.02027
PMF IN PERCENT-2020-21	21	.54	75.35	21.2018	19.56742

The above table indicates that the average amount of CSR funds spent on PMF by 9 companies is 29.48 percent in the year 2019-20, while the average amount of CSR funds spent on PMF by 21 companies is 21.20 percent in year 2020-21.

To test the statistical significance in the difference of these spent, the following hypothesis is constructed and tested for its statistical significance:

Null Hypothesis H₀₄: There is no significant difference in the mean score of CSR funds spent on 'PM Fund' in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Alternate Hypothesis H₁₄: There is a significant difference in the mean score of CSR funds spent 'PM Fund' in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

To test the above Null Hypothesis One sample t-test is applied. The p-value is calculated and is shown in the table below:

One-Sample Test				
	Mean percent spent in 2019-20 = 29.48			
	t	df	p-value	Mean Difference
PMF IN PERCENT-2020-21	-1.939	20	.067	-8.27816



Interpretation: The above results indicate that calculated p-value is 0.067. It is more than 0.05. Therefore the T-test is accepted. Hence the Null hypothesis is accepted, and Alternate hypothesis is rejected.

Conclusion: There is no significant difference in the mean score of CSR funds spent on 'PM Fund' in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Findings: The difference in the Mean Score for CSR Funds spent (in percent) on 'PM Funds' is highly insignificant across the year 2019-20 and 2020-21. The average CSR funds spent PM Funds in the year 2020-21 have reduced but are not significant as compared to 2019-20. This can be observed in the following table:

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
PMF IN PERCENT-2019-20	9	.59	84.77	29.4868	25.02027
PMF IN PERCENT-2020-21	21	.54	75.35	21.2018	19.56742

The above table indicates that the average amount of CSR funds spent on 'PM Fund' by 9 companies is 29.48 percent in year 2019-20, while the average amount of CSR funds spent on 'PM Fund' by 21 companies is 21.20 percent in year 2020-21. This reduction is not significant.

v) Expenditures for Disaster Management Fund for the years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021

For our study, this head is denoted as DMF. There are 28 companies spent CSR funds under this head in year 2019-20, while 39 companies spent CSR funds under this head in year 2020-21. This data is converted to percentage for better comparison. The following table shows the average amount of CSR funds spent (in percent) under this heading in both the years.

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
DMF IN PERCENT-2019-20	28	.33	57.10	11.2769	13.57349
DMF IN PERCENT-2020-21	39	.03	72.82	22.2961	18.76247

The above table indicates that the average amount of CSR funds spent on DMF by 28 companies is 11.27 percent in year 2019-20, while the average amount of CSR funds spent on the same by 39 companies is 22.29 percent in year 2020-21.

To test the statistical significance in the difference of these spent, following hypothesis is constructed and tested for its statistical significance:

Null Hypothesis H₀: There is no significant difference in the mean score of CSR funds spent on 'Disaster Management Fund' in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Alternate Hypothesis H₁: There is a significant difference in the mean score of CSR funds spent 'Disaster Management Fund' in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

To test the above Null Hypothesis One sample t-test is applied. The p-value is calculated and is shown in the below table:



One-Sample Test				
	Mean percent spent in 2019-20 = 11.27			
	t	df	p-value	Mean Difference
DMF IN PERCENT-2020-21	3.670	38	.001	11.02615

Interpretation: The above results indicate that calculated p-value is 0.001. It is less than 0.05. Therefore, the T-test is rejected. Hence the Null hypothesis is rejected, and Alternate hypothesis is accepted.

Conclusion: There is a significant difference in the mean score of CSR funds spent under 'Disaster Management Fund' in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Findings: The Mean Score for CSR Funds spent (in percent) on 'Disaster Management Fund' vary significantly across the year 2019-20 and 2020-21. The average funds spent on Disaster Management Fund increases in the year 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20. This can be observed in the following table:

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
DMF IN PERCENT-2019-20	28	.33	57.10	11.2769	13.57349
DMF IN PERCENT-2020-21	39	.03	72.82	22.2961	18.76247
Valid N (listwise)	23				

(Figures in Crores)

The above table indicates that the average amount of CSR funds spent on 'Disaster Management Fund' by 28 companies is 11.27 percent in year 2019-20, while the average amount of CSR funds spent on 'Disaster Management Fund' by 39 companies is 22.29 percent in year 2020-21.

5. Conclusion & Implications:

CSR expenditures under four sub-heads were studied in detail for the present study. These four heads as mentioned in Schedule VII, Sec (135) of the Companies Act, 2013, are 'Eradicating hunger, poverty, Healthcare, Sanitation etc.', 'Education, Vocational skills, Livelihood enhancement skills', 'PM Care fund' and 'Disaster Management Fund.' Findings of study indicate that there is no significant change in overall CSR amount spent during 2019-20 and 2020-21. CSR spendings of four important sub-heads are further compared. While comparing the results for CSR expenditures on 'Eradicating hunger, poverty, Healthcare, Sanitation etc.' it is observed that there is nominal increase in amount spent for this sector but statistically there is no significant increase. For 'Education, Vocational skills, Livelihood enhancement skills', there is significant decline in CSR spendings. Average amount spent for the years 2019-20 was Rs. 35.1336 Cr, which declined and recorded Rs. 29.1308 Cr. for the year 2020-21. This is clear indication of decline in CSR spendings for 'Education, Vocational skills, Livelihood enhancement skills. There is no significant change in CSR contribution towards 'PM fund'. Major findings of study are towards CSR expenditures towards 'Disaster Management Fund' which increased significantly. Average contribution of Indian companies for the year 2019-20 towards



‘Disaster Management Fund’ was Rs. 11.2769 Cr. There is almost 100% increase in the year 2020-21 for contribution towards ‘Disaster Management Fund’.

The above conclusions imply that the corporates in India played their role empathetically during the pandemic year. The businesses preferred to reach out to people on their own instead of contributing to PM fund. The CSR funds experienced a reallocation, this we observed as the funds on education was reduced owing to pandemic whereas funds spent on disaster management increased giving health a priority. The total CSR expenditure however did not show much variation in these two years, explaining that the companies were tight handed owing to uncertainty in the economy.

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