Environmental Reporting Practices of Licensed Banks in Sri Lanka

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This study investigates the level of disclosure of environmental reporting practices by banking sector in Sri Lanka. The level of environmental reporting practices is measured using the dimensions of material, energy, water, biodiversity, emissions, effluents, waste, products and services, compliance, transport and environmental protection. The study is based on secondary data gathered through the annual report of 25 licensed commercial and 09 specialized banks in Sri Lanka over the last three years. Data is measured using the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) G3 guidelines. The data is analyzed using descriptive statistics, one sample t test, independent sample t test and ANOVA test. The study findings show that overall disclosure levels of environmental reporting practices are at low level with its entire dimension in banking sector Sri Lanka. Out of 34 banks, two banks have moderate disclosure level. It is notable that there is no significant improvement in environmental disclosure practices over the past three years. Further, this study did not show any significance difference in environmental disclosure practices between licensed commercial and specialized banks in Sri Lanka. Initiatives have to be taken to improve sustainable reporting practices among banks in Sri Lanka. Mandatory requirements are needed to improve the effective implementation of activities related to environmental well-being.

Keywords: Disclosure level, environmental disclosure, corporate reporting, sustainability reporting

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