Corporate Governance and Environmental Sustainability of Gig Platforms in India: An SDG 13 Perspective

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Abstract:

With the rapid development of the GIG economy through digital labour platforms in India for activities such as transport, delivery and logistics, the employment model has shifted and how urban services are delivered has also changed dramatically. Therefore, this paper proposes a conceptual framework that describes how corporate governance can promote environmental sustainability for digital labour platforms operating in the gig economy in India, with an emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goal No. 13 (Climate Action) as established by the UN.

The study is conceptual and has been informed by a systematic review of the literature relating to governance of the GIG economy, sustainability, ESG practices and the corporate responsibility of organisations regarding SDG goals. The paper consolidates theoretical insights derived from the three theories of corporate governance, stakeholder theory and sustainability governance to define the key governance mechanisms that have an effect on the environmental impacts associated with gig-based business models.

Introduction:

The gig economy is growing rapidly with the help of technological advancements, which has changed the way individuals access work globally. Digital labour platforms that facilitate short term, task-based and on-demand employment have established themselves as the primary way to connect service providers with consumers. In India, the gig economy has also grown rapidly over the last few years thanks to an increase in the number of people using smartphones, the introduction of digital payment methods, urbanisation, and changing preferences in employment. Many of these platforms are rapidly becoming a significant part of India's urban and semi-urban employment landscape, including services that offer ride hailing, delivery of food, logistics, or freelance digital work. In addition to the creation of new job opportunities and diversification of income, the gig economy has also raised many important issues related to workers' rights, the social security system, regulation of the gig economy and the sustainability of gig jobs. To date, much of the literature related to the gig economy in India has focused heavily on informal work, protection of gig workers, irregular and unstable pay, and legal classification of gig workers. However, as most of these platforms are primarily digital in nature, little attention has been given to the environmental impact of gig-based business models and the role corporations play in corporate governance with respect to environmental concerns.

Environmental Sustainability is now a common theme in today's economy, particularly in developing countries, such as India, that is transitioning from subsistence agriculture to urban and industrial economies. The boom in digital platforms to connect passengers and delivery service providers to the transportation and delivery industry has a direct and dramatic impact on fuel usage and carbon emissions from transportation systems, as well as contributing to traffic congestion and urban pollution. However, while the growth of gig worker platforms presents a challenge for environmental sustainability, there also exist many opportunities for these platforms to make significant contributions to climate solutions through their use of electric vehicles, implementation of green logistics practices, improvement of route navigation, and implementation of environmentally responsible operational practices. How much of this potential is achieved is largely dependent upon the governance structure, strategic focus of leadership, and accountability of platform firms. The importance of Good Corporate Governance is essential to government leaders when developing policies regarding Gig Workers and other aspects of the Digital Economy. Corporate governance consists of the rules, regulations, policies, and procedures that determine how an Organisation is governed, as well as the accountability and transparency associated with all business-related activities. Historically, Most of the History of Good Corporate Governance has been focused on providing protection to Shareholders regarding the Board's performance and the way the Company provides disclosures related to finance and the potential for Risks to the company. However, in recent years, especially in developed countries, corporate governance frameworks have grown to incorporate ESG factors, which reflect a broader definition of the corporate responsibility of businesses towards all of their stakeholders.

The gig economy platforms' corporate governance model is very influential on how they achieve their sustainable results. The way in which the corporate governance system operates including oversight at the board level; the expectation of a level of accountability for the environment; the level of disclosure; and the method in which companies engage their stakeholders affects how each company in this sector approaches their commitment to addressing climate-related issues. Gig platforms differ from traditional companies because they operate on a decentralised workforce and asset-light model, making for an added complexity of environmental ownership and regulatory scrutiny, thereby making it essential to have governance-driven sustainability strategies to ensure that platforms perform in accordance with their environmental objectives.

The significance of environmental sustainability for the gig economy platform companies is amplified by using the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set

forth by the United Nations. The SDGs contain 17 goals, with goal 13 (Climate Action) calling for urgent action to address the issues related to climate change and the impacts of climate change. To be able to accomplish this goal, it will be necessary to engage the public and the private sectors, as well as civil society, in achieving the goals. Countries like India, which will be impacted heavily by climate change and face significant urbanisation and environmental challenges, will need to rely heavily on their private sector partners to deliver the energy resources and climate solutions needed to realise their SDG goals regarding climate action.

Despite the rising attention towards ESG integration and reporting in India, gig platforms vary considerably in their approach to governing Environmental Responsibility. As a result, many of the platform firms have not articulated their environmental strategy, set measurable sustainability targets, or provided any degree of transparency in their disclosures. Furthermore, while India continues to develop the regulatory framework to govern operations of the gig economy, it has yet to make substantial explicit provisions regarding accountability for environmental issues. Consequently, a lack of governance creates a gap that could hinder the gig economy's ability to contribute to India's climate action objectives. Based on this evidence, this paper will provide a conceptual examination of the linkages between corporate governance and environmental sustainability for the gig economy from a perspective by referring specifically to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 within the context of India. The purpose of this paper is to develop a conceptual understanding of how governance mechanisms of platform-based businesses could impact the environmental outcomes. This work synthesizes the current knowledge within Corporate Governance Theory, Stakeholder Theory, and Sustainability, to create a conceptual model that reveals the connections between governance methods and climate actionable initiatives within the context of the Gig Economy.

Conceptual Framework:

This study on the Corporate Governance, Gig Economy, and SDG 13 (Climate Action) in India aims to provide the national discussions supporters with a framework for understanding the conceptual linkages between the environmental sustainability outcomes of corporate governance in the gig economy. Due to the lack of a clearly defined global digital labour platform governance model, particularly in emerging economies, such as India, this work develops a framework that identifies the critical elements of corporate governance that affect climate action from digital labour through support to emerging platform entrepreneurs and policymakers in developing the appropriate governance structure for the environmentally sustainable growth of India's gig economy.

1Constructs of the Conceptual Framework:

The conceptual framework presented above consists of 3 interrelated constructs: Corporate Governance Mechanisms, Environmental Sustainability Practices in the Gig Economy, and Goal 13 (Climate Action) of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs). The framework prescribes that creating environmental sustainability outcomes and achieving SDG 13 in the gig economy are enabled primarily via Corporate Governance.

Corporate Governance Mechanisms for the Gig Economy

A Gig Economy's Corporate Governance Mechanism is different from traditional Corporate Governance Mechanisms in that Gig Economy Platforms' operations are decentralized, platform-based, and technologically enabled. As such, the Corporate Governance Mechanisms relating to Gig Economy Platforms will be conceptualized through the following Corporate Governance Dimensions: The Board's Commitment to Sustainability and its Impact on the Corporate Strategy and Corporate Environmental Objectives By having the Board commit to sustainability and prioritizing corporate environmental objectives in their corporate strategy, ESG-focused Committee and Climate-related Oversight will ensure enhanced accountability in the boardroom for the environment.

The Transparency of Corporate Governance Mechanisms through Reporting, Disclosure, and Communication of Sustainability Corporate Governance Mechanisms will provide a transparent view of a Gig Economy Platform's role in creating and sustaining environmental outcomes through ESG and Sustainability Reporting, ESG disclosures, Environmental Impact, etc. Stakeholders will be able to assess how they hold the Gig Economy Platform accountable for its environmental impacts based on transparent and timely information. Stakeholder Focused Corporate Governance Mechanisms the Gig economy is comprised of various stakeholders (gig workers, consumers, regulators, urban communities, and investors) and, therefore, Corporate Governance Mechanisms that are inclusive in nature should provide the opportunity for all stakeholders to have the ability to consider and address environmental externalities. Corporate Governance Mechanisms Transfer of Ethics and Responsibility for Technology Utilization, Algorithmic Management, and Operational Efficiency the Gig Economy has emergent business models that will present new ethical issues concerning the way we use technology, the way algorithms are used for managing and controlling workers, and the manner in which Operational Efficiency is attained in Logistics and Mobility services.

In summary, the collective influence of governance mechanisms found in the gig economy will determine the strategic direction of gig-based platforms toward achieving environmental sustainability.

Environmental Sustainability Practices (ESP) in the Gig Economy

ESP within the gig economy is operationalised at the platform level and not at the worker level. The framework depicts the following ESPs that take place at the platform level:

1. Electric Vehicle/Low Emission Vehicle Adoption - Providing opportunities or advantages to gig workers to operate electric vehicles as part of the gig economy will lead to decreased CO2 pollution in cities.

2. Green Logistics/Route Optimisation – Using technology to enable delivery logistics to use less fuel, thereby reducing CO2 levels from diesel vehicles.

3. Reducing Environmental Externalities – Measures take to control the traffic congestion and noise pollution caused by gig economy services. 4. Integration of Environmental Objectives within Corporate Strategy - Environmental sustainability objectives are part of corporate strategy and create a continuing commitment to sustainability in the future. These practices are the positive mediators between the Governance mechanisms of Gig Based Platforms and their performance against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Linkage to UN SDG 13 (Climate Action)

The fourth and final facet of the Framework connects Education and Skills Provision services (ESPs) with UN Sustainable Development Goal 13 Climate Action, which promotes urgent and immediate action necessary to mitigate CC and its consequences.

The collaboration between public and private sector actors will be required to support UN SDG 13 by addressing CC within High Impact sectors such as Urban Transport (including Urban Logistics), located in India. The gig economy, through historically poor corporate governance practices, has benefited significantly in implementing governance-driven environmental initiatives to the fullest extent of expectancy by governments and regulators. This allows for the development, production, and marketing of the gig economy, and continues a trend of collaboration among and between multiple stakeholders.

The gig economy is transforming into a platform economy aligned with the UN SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), and therefore, in addition to transforming how mobile platform companies will be positioned to achieve sustainable environmental, social, and governance (ESG) objectives and accountability expectations, the gig economy will benefit from increased financial growth.

The conceptual framework provides a comparison of the components and key concepts of the gig economy in alignment with the UN SDGs; this comparison allows for effective measurement of incremental progress made against the gig economy's contributions to meeting these governmental objectives.

The gig economy operates under rapidly evolving regulatory environments, coupled with increasing environmental concerns associated with the growth and urbanization of the economy. This conceptual framework provides a systematic means to evaluate how to improve and strengthen the governance of gig platforms to ultimately be held accountable to meet the government's overall environmental and climate change objectives. Through the use of improved corporate governance practices and governance mechanisms in the gig economy, the gig economy's contributions to meeting SDG 13 and achieving climate action can be quantified and measured more easily. As such, measuring the extent to which gig platforms contribute to achieving SDG 13 will continue to play an important role in determining how the gig economy uses its technological capabilities to conduct business in the future.

Theoretical Underpinnings

In order to understand the Links Between Corporate Governance and Environmental Sustainability within the context of a Gig Economy, it is critically important to develop a strong theoretical base, especially in light of how unique the characteristics associated with digital labour platforms are (e.g., Decentralised Work Structures, Algorithmic Management Systems as well as Asset-Light Business Models). Moreover, it is necessary to extend upon traditional

perspectives towards Governance to include sustainability, as well as Stakeholder Factors. This Study uses three theoretical lenses that complement each other (Agency Theory, Stakeholder Theory & Sustainability Governance Theory) to explain how Corporate Governance impacts Climate Change Outcomes on Gig Economy Platforms.

Agency Theory & Corporate Governance

Agency Theory views Corporate Governance as an Instrument to resolve conflicts between Principals (Shareholders) & Agents (Managers). Agency Problems arise when Managers concentrate on short-term financial goals to the detriment of longer-term value creation. Within the Gig Economy, Agency Issues become further complicated due to the need for platforms to manage decisions that have an impact both directly on to a Workforce of Gig Workers that are working from a remote location as well as to create additional Social & Environmental Externalities on their behalf.

Agency Theory from an Environmental Sustainability Perspective indicates that Platform Managers will likely neglect investing in climate-related initiatives as a result of their perceived affordability and uncertainty surrounding the return associated with investments made today. Potential solutions include Board Oversight, Aligning Incentives, and Accountability Mechanisms which can mitigate many Agency-related issues if Environmental Objectives are integrated into Strategic Decision-Making, Board Oversight, Aligning Incentives, and Accountability Mechanisms will help to ensure that Environmental Objectives are implemented into the strategic decision-making process. Corporate Governance then becomes the mechanism for overseeing and controlling Gig Economy Platforms to help them internalise their Environmental Responsibilities, instead of externalising their Environmental Costs.

Stakeholder Theory and Corporate Governance

expands the definition of Corporate Governance beyond just the Shareholders to also include other groups that are affected by Corporate Actions including Employees, Customers, Suppliers, Communities, and Regulators. Gig Economy Platforms operate in very complex Stakeholder Environments that involve multiple groups including Gig Workers, Consumers, Urban Communities, Municipal Regulators, and Environmental Regulators. Environmental Sustainability issues such as air and water pollution, emissions from vehicle traffic, composite pollution, urban traffic congestion and Urban Pollution have a significant impact on many of these Stakeholder groups directly.

The application of stakeholder theory within the gig economy underscores the need for inclusive, responsible governance structures and systems that consider all stakeholders. Corporate governance mechanisms that include stakeholder interests are more likely to encourage environmentally sustainable practices. Considering urban communities and regulators will lead to creating a demand for green mobility products, thus motivating gig platform providers to implement green mobility solutions. Additionally, demonstrating transparency to consumers will ensure there is a market for environmentally sustainable services. Therefore, the concept of stakeholder-oriented governance provides institutions with a normative basis to consider climate action as part of their platform strategies.

Sustainability Governance Theory

The theory of sustainability governance is focused on how organisational structure, policies, and decision making affects long-term environmental goals and social objectives. Sustainability Governance Theory is different from traditional governance theories, which focus on creating profit; the focus of sustainability governance is on the integration of ESG,

ethical responsibility, and intergenerational equity. Sustainability Governance Theory has been created for the gig economy since it is one of the fastest-growing sectors, and as such, it will have an enormous impact on the environment. Sustainability governance theory focuses on how the organisational structure, policies, and decision-making processes support long-term sustainable environmental and social objectives. Unlike traditional governance, where maximising profits for shareholders is the focus, sustainability governance emphasises integration of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), ethical responsibilities and inter-generational equity. Sustainability Governance Theory is particularly relevant for the gig economy due to the rapid growth of this sector and the significant environmental impact that the gig economy has. The sustainability governance perspective of corporate governance is seen as a strategic contributor to the sustainability results. Examples of governance tools that institutionalise environmental responsibility within an organisation are Board-level sustainability committees, ESG reporting frameworks and climate risk assessments. For gig platforms, a sustainability governance model can help facilitate the adoption of climate-friendly innovations such as electric vehicle integration, energy-efficient logistics, and reduced emissions due to data-driven approach to reduce emissions.

Integration of Theory and the SDG 13 (Climate Action) Framework Agency Theory,

Stakeholder Theory and Sustainability Governance Theory combined provide a holistic framework to link corporate governance with the SDG 13 Framework for Climate Action provided by the United Nations. Agency Theory justifies the mechanisms of corporate governance; Stakeholder Theory provides a foundation for the moral and ethical responsibilities associated with being a corporate citizen of the world; and Sustainability Governance Theory provides corporate strategies that integrate environmental objectives. The proposed conceptual framework as defined by the collaboration of the above three Theories suggests that through effective Corporate Governance, businesses operating within the Gig Economy have an opportunity to incorporate Climate Change initiatives into their business growth strategies. As such, Due to the fact that the Regulatory Framework for the Gig Economy in India is still evolving, Governance Reforms will need to be based upon Theory in order to protect both the environment and the growing Gig Economy.

Theoretical Contributions to the Study

This study provides new conceptual insights into the area of platform governance and sustainable development by combining various theoretical perspectives. The study extends traditional Corporate Governance Theories to the Gig Economy and shows that, as India

develops, the need for Governance that is aligned with the SDG 13 Framework will continue to be necessary.

Review of literature:

The rise of GIG Economy and highlights the growing occurrence of nonstandard employment arrangements facilitated by digital platforms the study distinguishes between crowd work and app-based work and urges that GIG workers are often misclassified as independent contractors despite significant platform control. It emphasises vulnerabilities related to labour protection, social security and collective rights. The paper concludes that stronger regulatory and governance frameworks are necessary to address the accountability gaps in platform mediated work.(Stefano, 2016)

It provides a conceptual framework to define sharing economy as consumer-to-consumer temporary access to underutilise physical assets. The authors distinguish the sharing economy from second hand product service and on demand economics clarifying common definitional ambiguities. The study critically evaluates its economic social and environmental impacts highlights the issues of inequality, regulatory gaps and uncertain sustainability outcomes. While sharing platforms may reduce the transaction cost and create economic benefits their environmental and social effects remain complex and require further empirical investigation.(Frenken & Schor, 2017)

This paper examines the impact of corporate sustainability on organisational process and long-term performance. Using a matched sample of US firms the study distinguishes between highly sustainability and low sustainability companies based on early adoption of environmental and social policies. The findings shows that sustainability forms exhibit the stronger governance structure deeper stakeholder engagement enhance non-financial disclosure and a long term strategy orientation. Importantly these forms significantly outperform their counterparts in both stock market and accounting performance over the long-term suggesting that sustainability integration can create competitive advantage.(Eccles et al., n.d.)

The study investigates the impact of ride hailing services on vehicle miles travelled dead heading vehicle occupancy and mode replacement using quasi natural experiment in Denver. By combining driver collected day trip data with passenger survey study finds the ride healing generate substantial dead heading of 40.8% and reduces overall transportation efficiency. The results indicate that ride hailing adds approximately 83% of Vehicle Miles Travelled compared to scenario without these services. The study raises concerns regarding

congestion and environmental sustainability, emphasising the need for greater data transparency and policy oversight. (Henao & Marshall, 2019)

The paper conducts a systematic review of 153 studies examining the energy and environmental impacts of ride hailing. The review finds the utmost empirical studies associated dry healing with increased vehicle miles travelled congestion and emissions largely due to dead heading and model substation from public transit. However theoretical studies highlight the potential of emissions reduction through electrification and pulling. The authors conclude that while current ride hailing practises tend to increase the environmental burdens policy interventions and technological ships could significantly improve sustainability outcomes.(Sheldon & Dua, 2024)

The study examines the relationship between ESG disclosure competitive advantage and performance using malicious listed forms. Employing cluster regression analysis of 3966 firm year observations study finds that ESG disclosure is positively associated with Tobin's Q the results further show that competitive advantage significantly moderates this relationship strengthening and positive impact of ESG on performance. The study concludes that ESG integration enhances forms value and support long term sustainability through improved governance and resource efficiency.(Mohammad & Wasiuzzaman, 2021)

The study examines evolving nature of GIG work in India focusing on employment patterns economic security and platform governance. Using qualitative interviews the study finds that while GIG work offers flexibility and income opportunities it is marked as income instability, limited social protection and weak regulatory safeguards. The findings highlight the significant influence of platform policies and algorithmic management of workers financial stability and job security. The study concludes that stronger institutional and governance frameworks are essential to enhance sustainability and worker protection in India's GIG economy.(Sharma & Mathur, 2025)

The study examines the sustainability dimensions of the economy in the Indian context highlighting its rapid extension across industries due to digitalization and globalisation. The study discusses both perceived benefits and structural challenges of organisations and workers, including income volatility, lake of social protection, and weak regulatory safeguards. It emphasises that while GIG work enhances flexibility and cost efficiency, its long term sustainability is questionable without institutional support and governance reforms. The authors conclude that policy intervention and stronger protective mechanisms are essential to ensure equitable and sustainable growth of GIG economy in India.(Ashok et al., n.d.)

The study examines how established companies go on digital platform ecosystem and argue their traditional core periphery governance models are insufficient for incumbents. Based on multiple case study either study purpose a multi-layer governance framework emphasising hierarchical governance of internal business units close governance or core partners open governance of 3rd party developers and conciliatory governance of relationship among ecosystem actors. The study highlights the complexity faced by established firms due to legacy structures, partner networks and organisational clothes. It concludes that a differentiated multi-layer governance approach is essential for balancing control and openness in platform based digital transformation.(Schreieck et al., 2025)

Examines the labour challenge is facing app-based ride healing and courier drivers in California within the involving regulatory context. Using literature review expert interviews and case studies the study analyses the impacts of AB5, proposition 22 and the clean miles standard on driver classification pay benefits and electrification. The findings highlight concerns regarding two income instability limited labour protections and algorithmic transparency and EV adoption barriers. The study concludes that stronger regulatory framework from a minimum pay standards and targeted EV incentives are necessary to improve working conditions and sustainability outcomes.(Shaheen et al., 2026)

The study examine the challenges of GIG workers in Pune through the lens of SDGs 3(Good Health),4(Quality Education), 8(Decent Work) goals. Using primary data from food delivery and transportation workers, the study finds that long working hours, health issues, income instability and limited educational attainment constraint sustainable development outcomes. The findings highlight a trade-off between early workforce entry and continued education weakening prospects for reaping India's demographic dividend the author concludes that stronger social security measures, skill development and institutional support are essential for aligning GIG work with sustainable development goals. (Gore & Annachhatre, n.d.)

The study critically examines GIG work as a manifestation of short-termism that undermines sustainable development objectives. The study links the platform-based employment practises to broader economic social and environmental sustainability concerns, drawing on the UN sustainable development goals. It argues that precarious GIG work weekends labour protection accelerates inequality and hinders long term social justice. The paper advocates for holistic regulatory reform grounded in collective worker voice and Justice transition principles to align geek work with sustainable development.(Novitz, 2021)

The study critically examines the labour implication of GIG economy particularly crowd work and app based on demand work. The study argues that while digital platforms

enhance flexibility and market efficiency the intensify the commodification of Labour and blur traditional employment relationships. It highlights the risk related to worker misclassification, limited social protection and weakened access to fundamental labour rights. The paper concludes that existing labour regulations must adapt to ensure adequate protection without promoting deregular relation in platform based work arrangements. (Stefano, 2016)

Research Gap

The review of literature review highlights several full stock first league economy has been widely studied from Labour and employment perspective. Its environmental sustainability, implication remain unexplored, particularly in India. Second corporate governance research has paid limited attention to GIG economy platforms as distinct organisational forms with unique governance and sustainability challenges. Third there is lack of conceptual studies linking corporate governance mechanism, environmental sustainability practises and SDG 13 in the context of the Indian GIG economy. Addressing these gap present study develops a conceptual framework to explain how corporate governance can enable GIG platforms to contribute effectively to climate action.

Objectives:

- To examine the environmental sustainability challenges associated with GIG economy platforms in India particularly in sector such as transportation delivery and logistics.
- To analyse the role of Corporate Governance mechanisms including board oversight, transparency accountability and ESG integration in promoting environmental responsibility practises in GIG platforms.
- To conceptually link Corporate Governance practises of GIG economy platforms with Sustainable Development Goals 13 (Climate Action) in Indian context.
- To identify governance gaps and limitations that delay the effective adoption of environmental sustainability initiatives by GIG economy platforms in India.
- To develop a conceptual framework explaining how corporate governance can enable environmental sustainability and climate action in GIG economy.
- To suggest policy-oriented governance measures that can enhance the contribution of GIG economy platforms towards environmental sustainability and Indias climate action commitments.

Hypothesis :

- H1: Strong corporate governance mechanisms in GIG economy platforms are positively associated with the adoption of environmental sustainability practises.

- H2: Board - level oversight and ESG integration significantly influence the environmental accountability of GIG economy platforms in India.
- H3: Transparency and sustainability disclosure practises of GIG platforms positively contribute to their alignment with SDG 13 (climate action).
- H4: Stakeholder oriented governance practises enhance the effectiveness of climate friendly initiatives in GIG economy platforms.
- H5: Environmental sustainability practises mediate the relationship between Corporate Governance and the contribution of GIG platforms to SDG 13.
- H6: Weak governance frameworks limit the ability of GIG economy platforms in India to contribute effectively to climate action.

Research Methodology:

Nature of the study

The present study is conceptually in nature and adopts a qualitative and descriptive research design. It does not involve primary data collection of statistical analysis. Instead, the study aims to develop a theoretical understanding of the relationship between Corporate Governance and Environmental Sustainability in the GIG economy with specific reference to SDG13 (Climate Action) in the Indian context.

Research Design

The research design is based on conceptual analysis and theoretical synthesis. The study integrates inside from corporate governance theory, stakeholder theory, sustainability, governance theory, and SDG literature to construct a conceptual framework explaining. How governance mechanism influences environmental sustainability practises in GIG economy platforms.

Sources of data

- The study. Reliance exclusively on secondary data sources which includes:
- Peer reviewed academic journals and conference papersBooks and edited volumes on corporate governance and sustainability.
- Reports published by international organisations such as United Nations.
- Policy documents and regulatory guidelines related to ESG and sustainability.
- Published literature on GIG economy and digital platforms in India.
- These sources were selected to ensure theoretical depth and relevance to the Indian context.

Method of Analysis

The study employs a thematic literature review and conceptual analysis approach. Relevant studies for systematically reviewed to identify recurring themes related to Corporate Governance mechanisms, environmental sustainability practises, ESG integration, Climate Action and SDG13

The identified themes were synthesised to establish the conceptual linkage and to develop a proposed framework.

Development of conceptual framework.

Based on literature review and theoretical foundations, a conceptual framework was developed to illustrate the relationship between Corporate Governance mechanism (independent variable), Environmental Sustainability Practises (Mediating Variable) and contribution to SDG13 (Dependent Variable). The framework. serves as a basis for formulating hypothesis and guiding future empirical research.

Scope of the study

- The scope of the study is limited to:
- Gig economy platforms operating in India
- Environmental sustainability aspects related to climate action
- Corporate governance and ESG practices.
- The study does not empirically evaluate individual firms or major environmental performance.

Limitations of the study

As a conceptual study the research has certainly limitations.:

Absence of primary or empirical data.

Reliance on existing literature and second resources.

Paintings are indicative and require empirical validation.

However, these limitations do not undermine the theoretical contribution of the study.

Results and discussions

As this study is conceptual in nature, the results are based on careful review and interpretation of existing research, rather than on numerical data or surveys. The discussion explains how corporate governance can influence environmental sustainability in gig economy platforms and how these relationships support SDG 13 climate action in India.

Corporate governance and Environmental responsibility

The analysis shows that Corporate Governance plays a key role in shaping how the GIG platforms respond to environmental issues. When the platforms have clear governance systems

such as responsibility leadership accountability and ethical decision making, they are more likely to adopt environmental friendly practises. In contrast weak governance often leads platforms to focus mainly on growth and profits while ignoring the environmental impacts like pollution and emissions this supports idea that better governance encourage better environmental practises in GIG economy.

Importance of board oversight and ESG focus

The discussion highlights that company leadership and board oversight are important for environmental sustainability. When boards actively support sustainability and ESG goals platforms are more likely to invest in clean technologies reduce emissions and adopt greener operations. In India many GIG platforms mention sustainability in principle but only a few have clear ESG strategies. He suggests that strong leadership and ESG commitment can significantly improve the environmental accountability.

Transparency and climate action

T ransparency such as sharing the information about environmental impact, helps build trust and accountability. The literature shows that many GIG platforms in India do not clearly report their environmental performance, especially regarding the emissions created through the delivery and transportation services. These discussions supports the view that transparent reporting helps platform align better with SDG 13 (Climate Action) as promoted by United Nations.

Governance challenges in Indian GIG economy

Despite growing awareness, several challenges limit the sustainability in India's GIG economy. These include weak regulations, lack of clear environmental guidelines, and limited enforcement. Because of these gaps many platforms do not fully take responsibility for environmental impact. This suggests that weak governance limits the contribution of GIG platforms in climate action

Overall discussion

In summary, discussion shows that corporate governance influences environmental sustainability which turn affects how GIG platforms contribute to climate action. Governance act as a bridge between business operation and sustainability goals. Strengthening governance can help ensure that growth of the GIG economy in India supports environmental protection and sustainable development.

Conclusion:

The GIG economy has become an important part of India's modern workforce an urban service system. Digital platforms in areas such as transportation delivery and logistics have created new employment opportunities and improved service efficiency. However alongside these benefits the rapid expansion of GIG platforms has also raised serious environmental concerns including increased carbon emissions, traffic congestion and energy consumption. Addressing these challenges is essential for achieving sustainable development.

This conceptual study examined the role of Corporate Governance in promoting environmental sustainability in GIG economy platforms in India with special reference to SDG 13 (Climate Action). The paper argued that Corporate Governance Act as key enabling mechanism that shapes how GIG platform responds to environmental responsibilities. Governance elements such as board-level oversight, transparency, ESG integration and stakeholder oriented decision making were identified as critical driver of environmentally responsible platform behaviour.

The study concludes that the GIG platforms have a technical capacity to support climate friendly practises such as electric mobility, green logistics and emission reduction. Their actual contribution to climate action largely depends on the strength of their governance framework. Weak or fragmented governance structure limits the environmental accountability and allow the platforms to externalise environmental costs. In contrast strong and responsible Corporate Governance can align the business growth with sustainability goals and climate commitments. By developing a conceptual framework linking Corporate Governance, Environmental Sustainability practises, and SDG 13(Climate Action). This paper contributes to the emerging literature on sustainable platform governance in developing economies. The findings highlights the need for governance reforms, clearer regulatory guidelines and stronger ESG orientation to ensure that the growth of the GIG economy in India supports environmental sustainability.

In conclusion, study emphasis that the future of GIG economy in India should not be viewed only through the lens of employment and innovation but also through its responsibility towards climate action. Strengthening the corporate governance in is essential for transforming GIG platforms into active contributors to sustainable development and environmental protection.

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