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Issues in Social and Environmental Accounting (Issues in SEA)

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JOURNAL INFORMATION

ISEA –Vision and Aim of the Journal

The journal publishes empirical, theoretical, and review papers as well as book reviews. In the journal, prospective authors can raise issues of social and environmental accounting from various perspectives within the accounting field and other fields that directly impact it. ISEA serves as a networking and dissemination platform for the practices and theories of social and environmental accounting for professionals in the field. Issues in Social and Environmental Accounting (Issues in SEA or ISEA) is an international and refereed journal published quarterly (starting 2013) in hardcopy by the International Center for Social and Environmental Accounting Research and Development (ICSEARD). ISEA serves as a networking and dissemination platform for the practices and theories of social and environmental accounting by people concerned with that field. In the journal, prospective authors can raise issues of social and environmental accounting from various perspectives within the accounting field and other fields that directly impact it. The journal publishes empirical, theoretical, and review papers, as well as book reviews.

Subject Coverage

Topics include but are not limited to:

- Environmental accounting
- Social accounting
- Ethical issues in accounting and financial reporting
- Corporate governance and accountability
- Accounting for the Costs and Benefits of CSR-related Activities
- Accounting and Disclosure of Environmental Liabilities
- Corporate Environmental Strategy
- Corporate Social Performance
- Corporate social responsibility and management control
- Corporate social responsiveness
- Triple bottom line performance
- Sustainability issues
- Transparency issues
- Accountability isues

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EDITORIAL NOTES

The Evolving Landscape of Corporate Environmental and Social Responsibility: A Critical Examination

Climate change is no longer a distant threat; it is an immediate reality that poses significant risks to economies, ecosystems, and societies worldwide. In Canada, the implications of climate change are particularly pronounced, with rising temperatures and extreme weather events affecting everything from agriculture to urban infrastructure. A study published by the Canadian Institute for Climate Choices (2021) highlights that climate-related risks could cost the Canadian economy between CAD 21 billion to CAD 43 billion annually by 2050 if no action is taken. These figures underscore the urgency for businesses and policymakers to incorporate climate risk assessments into their strategic planning. Furthermore, the role of financial markets in reflecting these risks is crucial; as investors increasingly seek to understand the long-term viability of their portfolios, companies that fail to address climate risks may find themselves at a competitive disadvantage. This editorial note serves as a call to action for stakeholders to recognise the value relevance of climate change risks in their decision-making processes, thereby fostering a more resilient and sustainable future for all Canadians.

In today's rapidly evolving business landscape, organisations face a myriad of risks, from technological disruptions to global pandemics. The COVID-19 pandemic has starkly illustrated the importance of resilience and adaptability in business operations. According to a report by McKinsey & Company (2020), companies that demonstrated agility and responsiveness during the crisis were able to recover more swiftly and maintain their competitive edge. Developing a culture of resilience involves not only risk assessment but also proactive planning and investment in innovative technologies. For instance, businesses that adopted remote working technologies and digital tools were better positioned to navigate the disruptions caused by the pandemic. This editorial note emphasises the need for companies to embed resilience into their organisational DNA, ensuring they are equipped to manage both current and future challenges in an increasingly dynamic environment.

The intersection of corporate practices and environmental responsibility has garnered significant attention in recent years, particularly through the lens of green criminology. This field examines the ecological harm inflicted by corporations and the societal responses to such actions. A report by the United Nations Environment Programme (2021) indicates that corporate pollution contributes to approximately 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions, raising questions about the legitimacy of capitalist practices that prioritise profit over planetary health. As consumers become increasingly aware of these issues, there is a growing demand for transparency and accountability from corporations. This editorial note highlights the urgent need for businesses to adopt genuine environmental responsibility, not only to mitigate ecological harm but also to align with societal values and expectations in an era where corporate legitimacy is under scrutiny.

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) has evolved from a voluntary initiative to a critical component of corporate governance, particularly in the context of tax practices. A comparative study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2020) reveals that multinational corporations often engage in aggressive tax avoidance strategies that undermine public trust and contribute to societal inequalities. Effective CSR frameworks can play a significant role in mitigating these practices by promoting ethical tax behaviour and enhancing transparency. For instance, companies like Unilever have implemented tax policies that align with their CSR commitments, demonstrating that responsible tax practices can coexist with profitable business models. This editorial note advocates for a stronger integration of CSR principles in corporate tax strategies, highlighting the potential for businesses to contribute positively to society while maintaining their economic viability.

Social entrepreneurship has emerged as a powerful force in addressing complex societal issues, including climate change. Innovative business models that prioritise social and environmental impact alongside financial sustainability are gaining traction. According to a report by the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) (2021), the impact investing market has grown to USD 715 billion, with a significant portion directed towards climate solutions. For example, companies like Ecosia, a search engine that uses its profits to plant trees, exemplify how social enterprises can contribute to environmental restoration while generating revenue. This editorial note emphasises the transformative potential of social entrepreneurship in combating climate change, advocating for increased support and investment in these innovative business models to foster a more sustainable future. (by Hasan Fauzi, Editor-In-Chief)

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