

Green Accounting and Sustainable Development in India: Integrating Environmental-Economic Accounting for Sustainable Policy and Growth

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ABSTRACT

Green accounting acts as an important framework for integrating environmental sustainability into economic decision making. Earlier economic accounting systems do not include ecological degradation, depletion of resources, and environmental externalities, which leads to falsify measures of development. India's rapid economic development increased the environmental challenges which necessitate the accounting frameworks that link economic growth with sustainability goals. This study examines the role of green accounting to support sustainable development in India through theoretical evaluation, analysis of policies, and examination of corporate practices. This study identifies institutional progress, barriers in implementation and future opportunities. Findings indicate that while India has started environmental economic accounting and corporate sustainability reporting, detailed integration remains incomplete due to methodological, institutional and data limitations. The research focus on the need for integrating natural capital accounting into national policy planning to achieve long term sustainable growth.

Keywords: Green Accounting, Environmental Accounting, Sustainable Development, Natural Capital Accounting, ESG Reporting, Green GDP, India.

INTRODUCTION

Earlier economic indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) acted as benchmarks for measuring economic progress. However, these indicators focus on production and consumption without taking into account degradation of environment, depletion of natural resource, and ecological loss. This limitation helps policymakers and researchers to discover different accounting systems capable of combining environmental dimensions into economic assessments.

Green accounting helps in expanding conventional accounting frameworks by identifying environmental assets, ecosystem services, and ecological costs as an important component of economic evaluation. For India, balancing economic development with environmental sustainability has become important due to rapid industrialization, urbanization pressures, population growth and climate change vulnerabilities.

India faces important environmental challenges such as air and water pollution, degradation of land, biodiversity loss and increasing carbon emissions. As a result, integration of environmental economic accounting into national and corporate decision making processes has become an important strategy for promoting sustainable development.

This study investigates how green accounting contributes to sustainable development in India, the institutional and corporate adoption trends and research gaps and policy challenges affecting implementation.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Evolution of Environmental and Green Accounting

Environmental accounting developed from ecological economics and sustainability accounting research emphasizes the combination of environmental impacts into economic analysis (Gray, 2002). Previous research stated the limitations of traditional accounting systems that ignored environmental costs.

Elkington's Triple Bottom Line framework (1997) introduced a wider approach to evaluate organizational performance through economic, environmental, and social dimensions. This model affected corporate sustainability reporting and environmental accounting practices globally.

Schaltegger and Burritt (2010) developed Environmental Management Accounting (EMA), which focuses the use of environmental cost data to support managerial decision making and improve efficiency of resources.

Solanki (2016) study stated that environmental accounting improves corporate responsibility and supports environmental conservation but lacks awareness and inadequate implementation.

Yadav (2018) focus on the need for a standardized legal framework for environmental accounting in India. The study stated that existing accounting systems neglect environmental costs.

Kumar and colleagues (Kumar et al.) states that environmental accounting provides quantitative information on environmental impacts and helps policymakers in sustainable resource management.

Gomathi (2022) finds that environmental accounting lacks accounting standards, awareness, and weak enforcement mechanisms.

Sharma et al. (2023) findings revealed that companies with stronger environmental governance disclosed more detailed environmental information and shows greater commitment to sustainability.

Chawla and Ritu (2021) focus on green accounting which acts as an effective measure for balancing economic growth with environmental conservation. The study stated that environmental responsibility is an important component of corporate social responsibility and sustainable business strategy.

Green Accounting and Sustainable Development

Academic research suggests that combining environmental costs with accounting frameworks helps to increase decision making by recording benefits and encouraging sustainable resource management (Bebbington et al., 2014). Green GDP approaches aims to provide a more accurate representation of economic welfare by adjusting GDP for environmental damage and depletion of natural resources.

Studies in sustainability accounting shows that green accounting enables governments and firms to better evaluate trade-offs between economic growth and environmental protection.

Various studies shows several trends in India such as-

- Increasing adoption of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting among corporations.
- Government initiatives toward environmental economic accounting.
- Challenges related to environmental valuation methodologies.
- Data limitations and institutional fragmentation affecting implementation.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Sustainable Development Theory

Sustainable Development Theory originates from the report *Our Common Future* (Brundtland Commission, 1987), which defined sustainable development as development that meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

This theory includes three core dimensions such as -

- Economic sustainability
- Environmental sustainability
- Social sustainability

The study states that sustainable development is not basically environmental protection but it is balancing the economic growth with ecological limits and social equity.

Green Accounting

Earlier accounting focuses on financial and economic outputs such as GDP, profits, productivity. But now, sustainable development theory argues that economic growth should not come at the cost of environmental degradation.

Green accounting implement sustainable development by -

- Integrating environmental costs into economic evaluation.
- Accounting for depletion of resources.
- Measuring ecological impacts of development.

For example- Earlier accounting records only economic gain, if industrial production raises GDP but causes severe pollution. Green accounting adjusts this by recognizing environmental damage as a cost.

Various sustainability accounting journals shows that integrating environmental metrics into accounting systems helps policymakers to

- Evaluate long term economic sustainability.
- Reduce resource overexploitation.
- Align economic planning with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

India's development path consists of rapid industrialization and urbanization, thereby creating environmental stress. Sustainable development theory justifies this by-

- Renewable energy transition.
- Climate resilient infrastructure.
- Green economic planning.

Green accounting supports these goals by providing measurable indicators of sustainability performance.

Natural Capital Theory

Natural capital theory in ecological economics literature treats natural resources and ecosystems as forms of capital similar to physical or financial capital.

Costanza et al. (1997) quantified ecosystem services shows that ecosystems generate significant economic value through -

- Climate regulation
- Water purification
- Soil fertility
- Biodiversity support
- Pollination

Earlier economic systems consider environmental resources as free to economic valuation. This leads to overexploitation of resources and unsustainable growth patterns. But natural capital theory argues that environmental assets must be measured, valued and managed like economic assets.

Green accounting helps to apply natural capital theory by

- Valuing ecosystem services.
- Recording environmental assets in economic accounts.
- Estimating economic costs of resource depletion.

Example- Forests help to provide timber at market value but also carbon sequestration and biodiversity services at non-market value. Green accounting considers both values.

Studies show that recognizing resources as natural capital helps to improve environmental policy decisions which encourages conservation investments and supports sustainable land use planning.

India's biodiversity and natural ecosystems provide critical economic services such as

- Forest carbon storage.
- River basin water regulation.
- Agricultural ecosystem support.

Natural capital accounting helps policymakers understand the economic benefits of conservation.

Environmental Economics

Environmental economics focuses on correcting market failures due to environmental externalities. Externalities occur when economic activities impose costs or benefits on society which is not reflected in market prices.

Example – Pollution caused by factory harms public health but is not included in production cost.

Environmental economics includes

- Internalization of externalities.
- Environmental taxes or carbon pricing.
- Regulation and policy intervention.

These mechanisms combine economic incentives with environmental sustainability.

Green accounting uses environmental economics concepts by:

- Assigning monetary value to environmental impacts.
- Including environmental costs in national accounts.
- Supporting policy instruments such as pollution taxes.

Research indicates that environmental accounting strengthens environmental economics by providing quantifiable environmental data and evidence based policymaking tools.

India uses environmental economic tools such as:

- Environmental regulations.
- Renewable energy incentives.
- Pollution monitoring systems.

Green accounting enhances these policies by improving measurement and evaluation.

System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)

SEEA is a United Nations statistical framework that combines environmental data into national economic accounts.

Traditional national accounting:

- Measures production and consumption.
- Ignores environmental degradation.

SEEA extends accounting to include:

- Natural resource stocks.
- Environmental flows (water, energy, emissions).
- Ecosystem services.

SEEA enables:

- Green GDP calculations.
- Measurement of environmental sustainability.
- Integrated policy planning.

Studies state that SEEA helps to -

- Improves national level sustainability assessment.
- Provides standardized environmental accounting methodology.
- Supports evidence based climate and environmental policies.

India's adoption of environmental-economic accounting aligns with:

- Climate commitments.
- Sustainable development planning.
- Natural resource management strategies.

Combining SEEA into national accounts helps India measure development beyond GDP.

These four theoretical foundations work together:

Theory	Role in Green Accounting
Sustainable Development Theory	Provides normative goal of balanced development
Natural Capital Theory	Recognizes environment as an economic asset
Environmental Economics	Provides tools for valuation and policy decisions
SEEA Framework	Provides methodology for operational accounting

Together, they lead to conceptual basis for integrating environmental sustainability into economic planning.

Research Gap

Despite increasing focus on sustainability there are significant gaps such as

- Limited empirical combination of environmental accounting into India's national accounting systems.
- Limitation of standardized environmental reporting practices across industries.
- Insufficient evaluation mechanism for how green accounting influences sustainable development outcomes.

Research Objectives

1. To examine the role of green accounting in promoting sustainable development.
2. To evaluate implementation practices currently in India.
3. To identify institutional barriers and policy opportunities for expanding green accounting.

Hypothesis Development

H1: Adoption of green accounting helps to improve environmental policy effectiveness by providing better decision support data.

H2: Corporate environmental accounting helps to raise ESG performance and operational resource efficiency.

H3: Integration of natural capital accounting helps to build long term economic planning and sustainable development strategies.

Conceptual Framework

Green Accounting → Improved Policy Decision Quality → Sustainable Development Outcomes

Key components include:

- Environmental data collection and monitoring.
- Natural resource valuation.
- ESG reporting and sustainability disclosure.
- Integration of environmental data into economic policy planning.

This conceptual framework explains how by combining environmental information into economic accounting systems leads to improved decision making and ultimately strengthens sustainable development.

Earlier economic systems neglect environmental costs which results in making policies based on incomplete data. Green accounting helps to fill this gap by producing structured environmental data that helps to improve the quality of economic and policy decisions.

The framework represents a causal chain where

1. Green accounting generates environmental information.
2. Policymakers and organizations use this information to take better decisions.
3. Improved decisions lead to environmentally and economically sustainable outcomes.

1. Environmental Data Collection and Monitoring

Environmental data collection is the basic of green accounting systems. Without accurate data, environmental impacts cannot be measured or combined into economic analysis. Important data includes

- Carbon emissions and greenhouse gases.
- Water usage and pollution levels.
- Energy consumption.
- Biodiversity indicators.
- Land use and resource extraction.

Studies in environmental accounting journals focus on transparency of data which enables-

- Identification of environmental risks.
- Monitoring sustainability performance.
- Evidence based policy design.

Data monitoring converts environmental issues from qualitative concerns into measurable variables.

Environmental monitoring systems in India include

- Pollution control boards that help to track emissions.

- Climate reporting mechanisms.
- Corporate sustainability disclosures.

However, research focuses on challenges such as fragmented data systems and lack of standardization.

2. Natural Resource Valuation

Natural resource valuation involves giving economic value to ecosystem services and environmental assets.

Earlier accounting ignores non market environmental benefits, but green accounting includes:

- Forest carbon storage.
- Water purification services.
- Soil fertility.
- Climate regulation.

Valuation allows policymakers to compare economic benefits of development projects and environmental costs and long term ecological impacts.

For example- A mining project may appear economically beneficial, but natural capital accounting may reveal long term ecological loss exceeding short term gains.

Ecological economics research shows that natural capital valuation helps to

- Supports sustainable land use planning.
- Improves cost benefit analysis.
- Encourages conservation investments.

3. ESG Reporting and Sustainability Disclosure

ESG reporting converts environmental accounting data into structured disclosures used by investors, regulators and stakeholders.

Environmental accounting metrics become operational through ESG frameworks. ESG reporting includes organizational change by -

- Increasing transparency.
- Creating reputational incentives.
- Aligning corporate strategy with sustainability goals.

Research shows ESG disclosures will reduce information asymmetry and helps to improve corporate environmental performance.

India's sustainability reporting frameworks allows firms to

- Measure environmental impacts.
- Track resource efficiency.
- Disclose climate-related risks.

Green accounting provides the data infrastructure for these reports.

4. Integration of Environmental Data into Economic Policy Planning

The final step includes combining environmental data into macroeconomic policy and planning processes which include:

- Green GDP calculation.
- Climate budgeting.
- Sustainable infrastructure planning.

Green accounting increases policy decision quality through

- Comprehensive evaluation of trade-offs.
- Long-term risk assessment.
- Evidence-based policymaking.

Instead of focusing only on economic growth, policymakers evaluate sustainability impacts.

Studies focus on integrating environmental economic accounting frameworks which help to improve

- Resource allocation efficiency.
- Climate policy effectiveness.
- Sustainable development outcomes.

5. How the Framework Leads to Sustainable Development Outcomes

Environmental Measurement- In which green accounting generates measurable environmental indicators.

Information Integration- Includes environmental data which becomes part of economic and financial analysis.

Improved Decision Quality- Includes decision makers who evaluate environmental impacts alongside economic benefits.

Sustainable Outcomes- Includes policies and corporate strategies which help to promote resource efficiency, reduced environmental degradation and long-term economic resilience.

6. Analytical Insight

This conceptual framework shows a shift from earlier economic models toward integrated sustainability governance.

Key transformation:

Traditional Model:

Economic Growth → Policy Decisions → Environmental Consequences (often negative)

Green Accounting Model:

Environmental + Economic Data → Integrated Decision-Making → Sustainable Development

7. Critical Research Observations

This study helps to identify several challenges like

- Environmental valuation uncertainty.
- Lack of standardized reporting metrics.
- Institutional coordination barriers.
- Data availability limitations.

Despite these challenges, the framework provides a structured roadmap towards sustainability integration.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study uses qualitative analytical research based on secondary data analysis.

Data Sources

- Academic research aligned with Scopus-indexed journals.
- Government reports and environmental policies.
- Corporate sustainability disclosures.

9. Green Accounting Initiatives in India

Green accounting in India represents a gradual shift from traditional GDP focused economic measurement toward integrated environmental economic accounting systems. The initiatives can be explained at two levels:

- National-level institutional frameworks
- Corporate-level adoption and ESG integration

Both dimensions collectively support sustainable development by internalizing environmental costs into economic and policy decisions.

National-Level Practices

India's national green accounting initiatives focus on combining environmental indicators into development planning, macroeconomic statistics, and sustainability policies.

1. Natural Capital Valuation Initiatives

Natural capital refers to environmental assets such as forests, water resources, biodiversity, minerals, and ecosystem services. Earlier accounting treats nature as a free input. Green accounting assigns economic value to these assets.

India has started measuring ecosystem services and environmental costs to improve policy decisions, including:

- Forest valuation and ecosystem services assessment.
- Water resource accounting.
- Biodiversity valuation.

These initiatives help policymakers to understand -

- Environmental depletion costs.
- Trade-offs between economic growth and ecological sustainability.

Environmental accounting research shows that natural capital valuation improves:

- Resource allocation efficiency.
- Long-term sustainability planning.
- Climate policy design.

Costanza et al. states that ecosystem services provide measurable economic value that should be included into national accounts.

Green accounting research states that including environmental costs reduces policy distortions which are caused by GDP which is the only measurement systems.

2. Environmental-Economic Accounting aligned with SESA Framework

What is SESA?

The **System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)** is a UN framework integrating environmental data with national economic statistics.

It includes natural resources, pollution data, energy usage and economic production.

India has taken steps toward SESA style accounting through-

- Environmental satellite accounts.
- Natural resource accounting initiatives.
- Integration with statistical systems.

These enable measurement of environmental degradation, resource efficiency tracking and sustainable development monitoring.

This emphasis SESA as a key institutional mechanism because it -

- Enables “Green GDP” calculations.
- Aligns environmental sustainability with macroeconomic planning.
- Provides evidence-based policy evaluation.

Studies also show that countries implementing environmental economic accounting show improved climate governance outcomes.

3. Inclusion of Climate and Sustainability Metrics in Policy Planning

India’s sustainability planning increasingly includes environmental indicators such as climate mitigation policies aligned with SDGs, renewable energy transition frameworks and sustainable resource management indicators.

Green accounting helps policymakers to evaluate:

- Environmental costs of industrial expansion.
- Long-term economic risks of climate change.
- Carbon emissions and resource efficiency.

Research related with sustainability accounting literature finds that combining environmental metrics into planning helps to increase policy consistency and improve sustainable development outcomes.

4. Green GDP Effort

Green GDP adjusts economic output by deducting:

- Environmental degradation costs.
- Resource depletion.

India has explored:

- Adjusted national income metrics.
- Environmental valuation models.

Although fully operational green GDP systems are still developing, these initiatives reflect shows that economic growth must include environmental externalities.

Academic studies emphasize that green GDP improves decision making by revealing unidentified ecological costs of development.

Corporate Level Adoption

Apart from national policies, Indian firms increasingly combine green accounting through ESG frameworks and sustainability reporting.

1. ESG Reporting Frameworks

What is ESG?

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting framework helps to measures corporate sustainability performance.

India has build ESG reporting through

- SEBI's Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework.
- Global frameworks such as GRI.

Importance

ESG reporting helps to allow companies to:

- Disclose environmental impacts.
- Improve transparency for investors.

- Align with sustainability goals.
- Improves corporate governance.
- Enhances stakeholder trust.
- Supports sustainable investment decisions.

BRSR helps firms to report environmental risks, emissions, and resource management practices.

2. Environmental Management Accounting (EMA)

Environmental Management Accounting helps firms to track

- Environmental costs.
- Energy and resource efficiency.
- Waste and emissions.

Indian firms use EMA to

- Identify cost savings through efficiency.
- Improve operational sustainability.

Research literature shows EMA develops strategic decision making by linking environmental performance with financial outcomes.

3. Carbon Footprint Measurement and Disclosure

Company's measure carbon emissions, energy usage and climate risk exposure because of investor pressure, climate regulations and global supply chain sustainability standards.

Studies analyzing corporate sustainability reports show that disclosure improves environmental performance and transparency.

4. Regulatory Push toward Sustainability Reporting

Indian regulators have played a key role for -

- Mandatory ESG reporting for top listed firms.
- Sustainability disclosure guidelines.
- Corporate governance reforms.

Research shows that regulatory frameworks increase adoption by

- Standardizing reporting practices.
- Increasing accountability.
- Reducing green washing risks.

Sectoral analysis studies show increasing ESG adoption across various industries although differentiation exists between sectors.

From a research analyst point of view, India's green accounting emergence shows the following

Institutional Progress

Recognition of natural capital in making of policies.

Adoption of SEEA aligned environmental accounting.

Increasing integration of sustainability indicators.

Corporate Transformation

ESG reporting becomes important.

Environmental costs entering financial decision making.

Sustainability linked with investor strategy.

Key Challenges

1. Lack of standardized environmental valuation methods.
2. Data availability and measurement limitations.
3. Gaps in institutional coordination.
4. High implementation cost for SMEs.
5. Limited linkage between national accounting and corporate reporting.

Green accounting initiatives in India shows a dual transformation such as-

At the national level, environmental economic accounting and natural capital valuation are gradually redefining development measurement.

At the corporate level, ESG reporting and environmental management accounting is linking sustainability into business strategy.

While progress is important, research suggests that deeper integration especially through standardized frameworks, improved environmental data systems and stronger policy coordination is required to fully link economic growth with sustainable development.

INDIAN CASE STUDIES

Case Study 1: Corporate ESG Reporting in India

1. Background and Context

Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting refers to corporate disclosure of environmental impacts, social responsibility practices, and governance structures. In India, ESG reporting has gained importance due to:

- Increasing regulatory requirements.
- Global investor pressure.
- Sustainability risks such as climate change and resource scarcity.

The introduction of Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) requirements by Indian regulators has expanded ESG adoption among listed companies. This shift shows a wider movement toward combining green accounting principles into corporate financial and strategic decision making.

2. Green Accounting Integration in ESG Reporting

Green accounting plays an important role in ESG reporting because companies must quantify environmental performance metrics such as:

- Carbon emissions (Scope 1, Scope 2, Scope 3 emissions).
- Energy consumption and renewable energy usage.
- Water consumption and wastewater management.
- Waste generation and recycling rates.
- Environmental liabilities and compliance costs.

Environmental management accounting allows firms to track utilization of resources and environmental costs internally, improving operational efficiency and supporting sustainability reporting.

3. Analytical Outcomes Observed in Indian Corporations

A. Improved Environmental Performance

Companies using ESG frameworks help to achieve measurable environmental improvements such as

- Reduced emissions through energy efficiency initiatives.
- Increased adoption of renewable energy sources.
- Reduced waste through circular economy practices.

Environmental accounting helps firms to identify inefficiencies and environmental risks that traditional accounting systems neglect.

B. Increased Investor Confidence

Institutional investors consider ESG metrics while making investment decisions.

Green accounting contributes by:

- Providing standardized environmental performance data.
- Improving transparency and risk disclosure.
- Supporting ESG ratings used by investment funds.

Research indicates that firms with strong ESG disclosure often attract more sustainable investment capital and experience reduced long term risk exposure.

C. Enhanced Corporate Governance

Green accounting requires cross departmental collaboration and environmental inaccuracy that leads to:

- Integration of sustainability into strategic planning.

- Greater board-level involvement in environmental risk management.
- Improved compliance with environmental regulations.

4. Example Trends in Indian Corporate Practice

While avoiding specific company branding for objectivity, these include:

- Energy sector firms implementing carbon accounting systems.
- Manufacturing firms measuring lifecycle environmental impacts.
- IT companies reporting emissions linked to data center energy use.

These practices shows how environmental accounting supports both operational efficiency and sustainable development goals.

5. Challenges Identified

Despite progress, several barriers are identified such as

- Lack of standardized ESG measurement methodologies.
- Data collection complexity across supply chains.
- Limited expertise in environmental valuation within organizations.

Case Study 2: Ecosystem Valuation Studies in India

1. Conceptual Overview

Ecosystem valuation refers to assigning economic value to ecosystem services such as

- Water regulation.
- Air purification.
- Carbon sequestration.
- Soil fertility.
- Biodiversity conservation.

Earlier accounting systems treat natural ecosystems as free resources that lead to overexploitation of these resources. Green accounting helps in recognizing natural capital as an economic asset.

2. Role of Ecosystem Valuation in Green Accounting

Environmental economic accounting frameworks use ecosystem valuation to

- Quantify environmental benefits in monetary terms.
- Evaluate costs of environmental degradation.
- Support policy decisions regarding conservation vs. development.

These valuations help policymakers to combine environmental considerations into economic planning.

3. Indian Examples of Ecosystem Valuation Applications

A. River Basin Ecosystem Assessments

Studies evaluating ecosystem services in river basins have estimated the economic value of

- Flood control.
- Groundwater recharge.
- Agricultural productivity support.

These assessments help to justify investments in conservation and sustainable water management.

B. Forest and Biodiversity Valuation

Forest ecosystems in India help to provide

- Carbon storage benefits.
- Biodiversity conservation.
- Livelihood support for rural communities.

Valuation studies show that forest preservation contributes significantly to long term economic sustainability.

C. Urban Ecosystem Services

Urban green spaces help to provide

- Temperature regulation (urban heat mitigation).
- Air quality improvement.
- Public health benefits.

Quantifying these services helps to combine environmental planning into urban development policies.

4. Policy Implications

Ecosystem valuation boosts sustainable planning by:

- Supporting cost benefit analysis for infrastructure projects.
- Encouraging conservation oriented development policies.
- Combining environmental considerations into national accounts.

It allows policymakers to examine trade-offs between short terms economic gains and long term ecological sustainability.

5. Challenges in Ecosystem Valuation

- Difficulty in assigning monetary value to biodiversity and cultural ecosystem services.
- Data gaps and methodological inconsistencies.
- Uncertainty in long term ecological projections.

Analytical Conclusion

Both case studies show practical implementation of green accounting principles in India:

- Corporate ESG reporting shows how environmental accounting helps to improve efficiency, transparency and investment attractiveness at the firm level.
- Ecosystem valuation studies show how to combine natural capital into economic analysis that can improve policy decisions and promote sustainable development.

Together, these approaches show the transformation from traditional growth focused models toward sustainability oriented economic systems.

ANALYTICAL TABLE

Dimension	Traditional Accounting	Green Accounting
Economic Measurement	GDP-focused	Environment-adjusted indicators
Resource Valuation	Ignored	Natural capital included
Environmental Costs	Externalized	Internalized
Policy Support	Limited sustainability insights	Evidence-based planning

DISCUSSION

Green accounting increases sustainable development by improving economic measurement accuracy, combining corporate practices with environmental goals, and supporting data driven policy design. However, there are still challenges in implementation, which include methodological complexity in valuing ecosystem services, issues regarding institutional coordination, and limitation of environmental data availability.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Combine SEEA into national economic accounting.
- Environmental reporting frameworks should be standardized.
- Robust environmental data infrastructure should be developed.
- Build institutional capacity and technical expertise.

LIMITATIONS

- Dependence on secondary data.
- Lack of empirical datasets specific to India.
- Variability in environmental valuation methodologies.

CONCLUSION

Green accounting gives a strategic framework that helps to combine economic growth with environmental sustainability in India. While development is reflected in corporate sustainability reporting and environmental policy initiatives, comprehensive integration needs improved standardized methodologies, institutional coordination and stronger data systems. Extending green accounting practices can support India's transformation toward sustainable and resilient economic development.

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