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CORPORATE DISCLOSURE PRACTICES OF INDIAN COMPANIES: EVIDENCE FROM BANKING SECTOR

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Abstract

Corporate disclosure is a process through which a corporate entity communicates business and financial information to their stakeholders. The study is an attempt to study the recent developments and their extent of disclosure in the annual reports of the banking companies in India. The study was based on the secondary data. The corporate annual reports of all the banking companies from the SEP CNX Nifty were analyzed by using a disclosure index. The present study revealed that all the selected firms the disclosure level of Indian banks were very poor. The main reason behind that was due to the voluntary nature of disclosure. But the increased rate of voluntary disclosure will increase the transparency of the annual reports published by companies. Thereby it will enhance the confidence of the stakeholders and the value of the firm. Therefore, the companies should be making aware of the benefits of improved voluntary disclosure. The reformers should also try to improve disclosure by converting some important voluntary disclosure items to mandatory.

1. Introduction

Corporate disclosure is a process through which a corporate entity communicates business and financial information to their stakeholders. A strong, informative and transparent system of corporate disclosure is of very important for the efficient and effective allocation of resources as well as integrity of financial markets. Corporate reporting has a very important role in the growth and development of every business and economy of all nations. Nowadays corporate disclosure has assumed greater importance as the after effects of global financial crisis and more retail and

institutional investors entered in the annual reports of companies which are listed in the stock exchange. The recent developments in corporate financial reporting indicate a greater emphasis on better voluntary disclosures by the companies regarding their performance and state of affairs. Many new areas have been included in the annual reports of the major Indian companies recently.

Corporate disclosure may be defined as communication of published financial statements and related information from a business organization to the external parties such as