Green Fintech and the Culture of Sustainability: A Case Study of Select Banks in Karnataka

Mrs. Faseeha Begum^{1*}, Saurabh Gupta², Savitha. N. L³

^{1*}Research scholar School of Commerce and Management Studies, Dayananda Sagar University – Bangalore, India. ORCID ID: 0009-0000-7972-8771 Email: faseeha.begum-rs-scms@dsu.edu.in
²Research Scholar Shri Venkateshwara University, Gajraula, Uttar Pradesh, India Email: saurabhguptably1@gmail.com,

1. Introduction

Background and Context

Green Fintech is the term combining financial technology and environmental sustainability, and it developed as a high-priority solution to transforming the banking industry. Through the implementation of sustainable operations, the financial institutions are currently lessening the environmental change as well as meeting the rising consumer demand of environmentally friendly services. The terminology of sustainability in fintech is the willingness to operate technology in such a way that it helps to contribute a sustainable attitude towards nature, which means emphasizing minimizing the carbon footprints, stimulating green projects, and promoting a sustainable financial service growth. Sustainability in banking may include zoning in green financing, responsible investment, and utilizing technological tools to have more efficient management of resources.

Fintech is vital in facilitating sustainable banking practices given that fintech applications have provided ways of achieving sustainable banking practice, some of which include reductions in operational inefficiencies, support to green bonds, supporting the financing of renewable energy projects, and many more. Fintech innovation is catalyzing the increase in sustainability initiatives by banks to ensure they achieve the environment and social governance (ESG) targets so that their financial and environmental impact become optimized.

Research Problem

Although green fintech in banking has been a major research topic across the world, there is a dearth of knowledge on how banks in Karnataka region in India are embracing the green fintech in banking. This study will cover this gap, and it will deal with the contribution of technology towards facilitating sustainable banking in the region.

Objectives

The research will attempt:

- (i) To Study the involvement of green fintech by some of the leading banks in Karnataka, including SBI, HDFC, and Karnataka Bank.
- (ii) To recognise how organizational culture impacts the formation of these sustainability initiatives.

Research Questions

- (i) What are the ways that these banks are incorporating fintech in green banks?
- (ii) How do the practices of sustainability culture affect their green fintech?

³Assistant Professor S-Vyasa Deemed to be University Email: savi@gmail.com

2. Literature Review Green Fintech

Green fintech Investment platforms that are sustainable, carbon footprint-reducing technologies, and technologies that cut carbon footprint (Choudhury, 2023). The overall green fintech market has started experiencing a high pace of growth because of the rising demand in sustainable finance solutions and the popularity of environmental problems. Some reports point out that the investments in sustainable projects and green bonds have grown considerably among the global banks. As an example, a recent study showed that currently, the number of green fintech startups around the world has entered a new boom as sustainable financial services and digital channels have attracted investments (Kumar & Rao, 2022).

Green Banking

Banks have a very significant role in ensuring sustainability by some of the innovations such as green loans and sustainable lending and financing renewable energy projects. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria are a trend in the sustainability frameworks that are being incorporated into banking practices (Khan & Singh, 2023). Recent reports have also shown that major financial institutions across the world have undertaken to orient their business operations according to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By the year of 2023, UBS documented increasing its sustainable financing by more than 30 percent with its tourists on its focus being on the importation of more environmentally accurate investments by the bank (UBS, 2023). This shows the increased importance of the financial institutions in advancing the sustainability agenda globally utilizing the aspect of financial innovations and being responsible lenders.

Green Fintech in India

Green fintech in India is picking up pace especially in the sphere of banking where the e-revolution is being used to drive sustainability. Indian government has been determined to promote a green economy, where renewable energy financing and green bonds polices are in support (Singh, 2023). There is also the introduction of frameworks by the regulatory authorities like the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to stimulate sustainable banking operations. These involve guidance on ESG reporting and the emission of green bonds, which is motivating banks to use green fintech solutions. Recent studies have indicated that Indian banks are progressively employing the use of the green fintech tech to encourage green investments, including the green bond and the eco-friendly loan products (Patel & Desai, 2023). The commitment of the government to become net-zero by 2070 also promotes the development of green fintech in India that is readying to become a front of green finance on the global map.

Cultural Influence on Sustainability

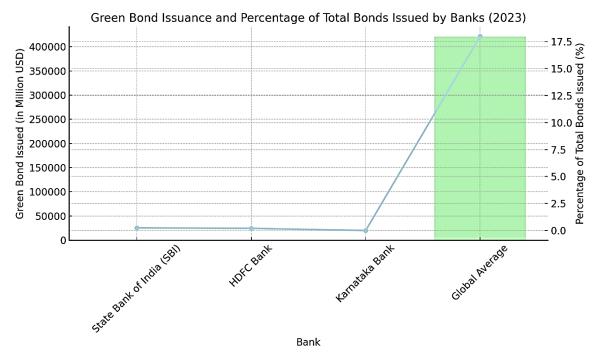
The culture of an organization is important in adoption of sustainability practices within financial institutions. The internal culture that values sustainability would affect decision-making and policies of leadership and guide the overall organizational objectives to promote the use of green innovations in the banking industry (Jain & Soni, 2023). Studies concluded that stronger the sustainability culture of the bank is, the better the chances of successful realization of green fintech projects, because employees would have more incentive to support the environmental objectives of the bank. In fact, one of these practices, leadership, plays a unique role in such practices, and a study published by Chakraborty and Kumar (2023) revealed that leaders could have a profound ability to establish a cultural shift and enhance the reorganization of sustainability programs when they actively advocate environmental responsibility. Institutions with sustainability incorporated into their corporate culture are in a better position to respond to the regulating requirements and harmonize their operations with the global environmental norms.

Green Bond Issuance: Indian Banks vs. Global Trends

Bank	Green Bond Issued (USD)	Percentage of Total Bonds Issued	Key Projects Financed	
State Bank of India	\$250 million	~0.25%	Rooftop solar projects, renewable energy initiatives under ESG Financing Framework	
HDFC Bank	\$300 million	~0.20%	Electric vehicles, SMEs, affordable housing projects	
Karnataka Bank	Data not publicly available	Not specified	Not specified	
Global Average	\$420.6 billion (2023)	~18% of total bond issuance	Renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure	

Table 1: Comparison of Green Bond Issuance by Indian Banks and Global Trends.

The figures in the table compare the Indian issuance of green bond of few selected Indian banks (State Bank of India, HDFC Bank, and Karnataka Bank) to global trends. In early 2024, SBI launched green bonds of isentropy to the limit of 250 million dollars dealing with green energy and other ones aligned with the green structure, whereas HDFC Bank CEO V. R. Palanisamy launched sustainable finance bonds with a limit of 300 million dollars in the year 2024 in projects such as electric vehicles and affordable housing. Karnataka Bank, nevertheless, has not published any green bond issuances. Conversely, green bonds instituted by global banks to the tune of around \$420.6 billion in 2023 accounted to 18 percent of the overall bond issuance and reflects the weak scope of the green bond issuance in India vis-a-vis international markets. This table highlights the increasing role that Indian banks play in green finance but the scale is still low in comparison with international levels.



Bar Graph 1: Green Bond Issuance And Percentage Of Total Bonds Issued By Banks in 2023

The above bar graph that compares the green bond issuance (in USD) and the percentage of total bonds issued by banks in 2023:

- The bars represent the green bond issuance in millions of USD.
- The **line plot** shows the percentage of total bonds issued, with the global average having a significantly higher percentage compared to the individual banks.

Bar graph is comparing the issuance of green bond and the percentage of total bonds issued by State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, Karnataka Bank, and the overall situation on the global basis in 2023. Although there was a much smaller volume of green bonds issued by SBI and HDFC (approximately of the order of 250 million dollars and 300 million dollars respectively), averages of the global bond market showed issuance of much larger proportions of green bonds in the order of 420.6 billion dollars representing nearly 18 percent of the total bonds issued altogether which indicated a sharp contrast between the levels of adoption of green bonds by individual banks and global market.

The current literature review has made it clear that the role of green fintech in the banking sector is becoming increasingly essential in terms of global relevance as well as in India. Technological convergence with environmental objectives is aiding financial institutions to progress environmental related changes to a greater extent where policies, organizational culture, and commitment of the leadership have a major role to play.

3. Methodology

Research Design

The presented research uses the qualitative case study research to investigate the uptake of the green fintech practices and logistics of the sustainability culture within a number of selected banks. The research hopes to reveal how the banks, through its fintech innovations, incorporate sustainable practices into their business model by identifying key factors of the State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC, and Karnataka Bank.

Data Sources

The research is based on secondary data, which will be drawn on the basis of various documents, including those about case studies, official reports, annual sustainability reports, and other banking documents concerning the banking companies chosen. This will include the insight into sustainability strategies of those banks, green fintech programs, and other environmental responsibilities.

Analysis Method Used

To find repeated patterns and themes that are related to green fintech adoption and sustainability culture, Thematic analysis will be utilized. This methodology will facilitate a deeper insight into how these banks are merging the concept of sustainability in their practices. Moreover, the official reports and the data collected as case studies shall be analyzed on a content analysis basis; where the text can be broken into meaningful bits and trends can be identified on the data. This is a blend of method that would guarantee an in-depth treatment of the topic.

4. Case Study of Banks State Bank of India (SBI)

The SBI is a national commercial bank, which also happens to be the largest in the country, has led the effort to integrate sustainability into its business. SBI renewed its pledge to net-zero emission by 2055 and carbon neutrality by 2030 in its 202324 Sustainability Report. The Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Financing Framework applied by the bank has been in line with international practices wherein the proceeds of the green bonds and loans are channeled in projects that trigger positive environmental or social impacts. The green initiatives of SBI involve issuance of the green bond of \$250 million at January 2024 with the medium term notes program of 10 billion dollars. An amount realized is to be adapted in support of the sustainable projects, as it shows towards its commitment to finance environmental friendly ventures by the bank.

Internally, the SBI has initiated the Green Club program in 1,242 of its branches, whereby employees are encouraged to participate in environmental friendly actions and advocate on the need to have a

clean environment in the community thus instituting sustainable behaviors in the societies. Besides, the bank has collaborated with Tata Power and developed electric vehicle (EV) charging points in different places, which boosts green mobility adoption.

HDFC Bank

HDFC Bank is one of the most successful banks in India within the private sectors that has recently exhibited sustainability driven to the ethical conduct of the organization having a comprehensive sustainable finance model. The framework includes 16 possible categories among which are the renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean transportation, among other categories, which are consistent with international guidelines like the Green Bond Principles and Green Loan Principles. The example of HDFC Bank is an example of a sustainable bond issuance that managed to raise 300 million US dollars in 2023 and uses the fund in projects in electric vehicles, affordable housing and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). This venture highlights the initiative of the bank to be active in funding areas that leads to environmental and social health. Under its CSR arm Parivartan, HDFC Bank has provided its support to over 10 crore lives in over 9,000 villages in several categories including education, health and environment conservation. The bank spent 945.31 crores in the fiscal year 202324 on its different CSR projects, indicating its concern of setting back development in society.

Karnataka Bank

Karnataka Bank is a well-developed local operator that has been making strides in incorporating sustainability in its business practices. In order to meet the 2024 green initiative target of 30 percent financing, the bank will strive to realize the same. By 2023 it has already given out 500 crore of loans in regard to the renewable energy projects proving its priorities on sustainable financing.

The digital transformation strategy of the bank comprises using artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics to improve the levels of customer service and operational efficiency. The sustainability of the bank is also reinforced through said technologies as they help to manage risks on a more significant scale and customize customer services. Karnataka Bank introduces an idea of corporate culture of contribution to the community and protection of the environment. The bank has undertaken a considerable number of investments in terms of education, skills development, environmental sustainability through its CSR activities. The research conducted to determine the CSR practices related to the bank showed that 29.01 percent of its CSR expenditure is used in environmental sustainability and green works.

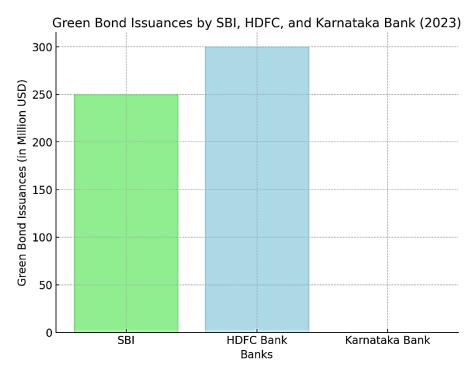
Overview of Green Finance Metrics: SBI, HDFC, and Karnataka Bank

Bank	Green Bond Issuance	Renewable Energy Loan Portfolio	ESG Initiatives
State Bank of India (SBI)	Raised \$250 million through green bonds in December 2023, coordinated by Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group.	Secured a €200 million (~\$220 million) line of credit from the European Investment Bank to support India's climate action projects.	Developed an ESG Financing Framework aligned with international standards.
HDFC Bank	Raised \$300 million via sustainable bonds in 2023, with proceeds earmarked for green and social initiatives.	Focused on green affordable housing, electric vehicles, and rooftop solar projects.	Committed to carbon neutrality by 2031-32, with initiatives in renewable energy and ESG-integrated lending.
Karnataka Bank	No specific green bond issuance reported.	Engaged in grassroots-level green banking initiatives, particularly in Vijayapura district.	Emphasizes sustainable finance at the grassroots level, focusing on environmental risk reduction and economic growth.

Table 2 Overview of Green Finance Metrics: SBI, HDFC, and Karnataka Bank

Comparison of Green Bond Issuances by SBI, HDFC Bank, and Karnataka Bank

The bar graph is the depiction of green bond issuances of three big Indian banks namely State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and Karnataka Bank in 2023. By issuing \$250 million green bonds, SBI has shown its efforts in ensuring that it was able to fund sustainable initiatives. HDFC Bank had a marginally larger issuance of a first sustainable finance bond with successful issuance of 300 mn as its first issue and also in contributing to green and social outcomes. Conversely, the Karnataka bank has not issued any green bonds reporting in the year, which would mean that it does not have any green finance activity as other banks have. With regards to this comparison, underlying differences can be observed in the interests in green finance displayed by these banks with SBI and HDFC having the highest interests in green bond issuances.



Bar Graph 1 Comparison of Green Bond Issuances by SBI, HDFC Bank, and Karnataka Bank

5. Analysis of Findings Green Fintech Adoption

Green fintech solutions uptake among State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC bank and Karnataka bank differs, depending on strategic consideration, size and market focus of the banks.

SB is among the first institutions to adopt green fintech solutions. Being the largest bank in the public sector, it has managed to incorporate sustainable finance into its main business model within the green bonds and digital platforms to finance the renewable energy projects. In 2024, SBI issued green bonds in the amount of 250 million dollars to invest in environment-friendly projects proving its determination to big ecological projects. More importantly, SBI has implemented fintech services, including online platforms to give green loans and collaborations on electric vehicle (EV) infrastructures, making its role in improving the surroundings as well as society.

Another leader of the private sector, HDFC Bank, has also made considerable advances with regards to embracing green fintech. HDFC concentrates on sustainability both in its funding structure and on renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean transportation. An excellent example of the strategy of the bank regarding green finance would be the sustainable bonds issued in 2023 in the amount of 300 million. In another example of how HDFC is leveraging fintech technology to support sustainability, the bank is also incorporating ESG (environmental, social and governance) in its fintech solutions

with the help of advanced data analytical and AI-based solutions as part of managing sustainable investments.

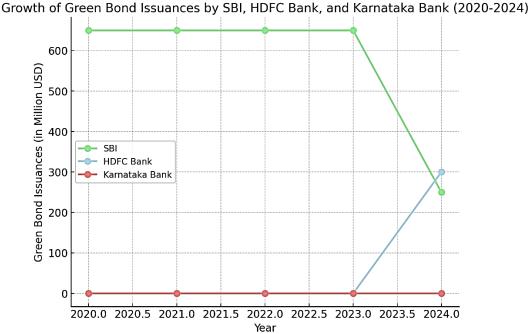
Karnataka Bank being smaller in size than SBI and HDFC, has also incorporated green fintech in a region specific manner. Renewable energy financing projects the bank has seeded financing renewable energy in India wherein 500 crores is put into clean energy. Customer service and its decision-making use digital tools (such as AI), which speaks to the increased emphasis on sustainability. Nevertheless, the work of Karnataka Bank is more local in terms of its presence in one region and its relatively low size compared to the achievements of SBI and HDFC that have a nationwide presence.

When it comes to effectiveness, SBI and HDFC have a greater reach owing to large scale operations, whereas Karnataka Bank with a local outlook would enable it to service regional green efforts at a cost of a multi country outlook.

Cultural Influence on Sustainability

Culture in an organization is very important in influencing the sustainability of the activities of these banks. Leadership at SBI has ensured that a culture of environmental responsibility exists, a factor that has been in line with the national sustainability agenda. ET Transport: Green Club initiative and EV infrastructure partnerships by SBI are good examples of how organizational culture fosters green fintech. HDFC Bank takes a similar path, where its leadership commitment in meeting the ESG standards has shaped its operations and what it offers to customers. The application of AI to sustainable finance also demonstrates the fact that the culture of HDFC advances environmentally responsible solutions that are innovative. Its culture of sustainability is led by the sense of commitment of the leadership of the bank to community involvement and its local environmental problems, but it is local rather than national in influence.

To sum up, the organizational culture of every bank is a decisive factor of its green fintech adoption, whereas the leadership is central in determining the sustainability efforts.



Line Graph: Growth of Green Bond Issuances by SBI, HDFC Bank, and Karnataka Bank (2020-2024)

The line graph shows the increase of green bond issuances of the State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and Karnataka Bank over time between the year 2020 to 2024. SBI has also been active in sustainable finance, keeping green bond issuances steady at \$650 million in 202021 (and 2023) and reduced again in 2024 to \$250 million. Conversely, the HDFC Bank entered the green bond market in 2024 with its first instance of a sustainable finance bond raising 300 million. There is no green bond issuance in Karnataka Bank though throughout this time however, this reflects on gap in Karnataka Bank green finance. This graph identifies the long-term adherence of SBI to the green finance segment, the new entry of HDFC into the industry and the absence of an entry by Karnataka Bank in the arena of the green bonds.

6. Discussion

Insights from Case Studies

The SBI, HDFC Bank, and Karnataka Bank case studies develop a number of similar patterns in the green fintech adoption, such as the close adherence to sustainability visions, introduction of innovative digital products, and the promotion of environment responsibility. Technology has also helped each bank pursue sustainable finance with SBI concentrating on issuing green bonds and community-initiatives to pursue sustainable finance, HDFC Bank engaging in global ESG through the use of digital technology in its various digital focused solutions such as AI, and Karnataka bank which concentrates more on sustainable finance in the form of regional renewable energy projects. All the three banks, though having disparities, acknowledge the significance of environmental sustainability and are striving to incorporate the green fintech in their businesses.

Nevertheless, in the case studies, the issues regarding green fintech implementation also appear. The challenge that SBI has to deal with is the sustainability of giant green projects at a time when financial stability is hard to maintain under a highly regulatory public sphere. HDFC bank has developed its digital tools but continues to face the potential problem of scaling the sustainability agenda in the globalization of the marketplace and the requirement of increasingly personalized products. Karnataka bank is faced by the dilemma of the narrow presence it has in the country thereby limiting its capability to affect larger national sustainability indicators. These are the issues that emphasize the necessity of constant innovation and the use of digital tools to eliminate such obstacles as scale, customer segmentation, and market reach.

The collaboration opportunities also present themselves, where SBI has collaborations with Tata Power regarding EV infrastructure, HDFC with the involvement in the ESG bond market, and Karnataka Bank in the regional green loans. Each of the three banks, demonstrates not only improved sustainability incentives, but also new financial products that attract increased consumer and business demand regarding environmentally friendly alternatives.

Implications for the Banking Sector in Karnataka

The use of green fintech in Karnataka could revolutionize the banking industry and facilitate more sustainable investments and environmentally friendly customer behaviour. SBI, HDFC and Karnataka bank experience in implementing fintech to achieve sustainability could serve as an example to other regional banks in Karnataka. By having similar green fintech solutions, banks may gain access to an increasingly growing sphere of environmental-friendly consumers and enterprises, eventually leading to the development of green economy within the state. By decreeing more banks in Karnataka, they may all implicitly serve the state sustainability initiatives especially the renewable energy funding and sustainable farming.

An expansion of these initiatives to other Karnataka banks and India nationwide is definitely possible. The net-zero emissions by 2070 target set by the Indian government paves the way to a situation where financial institutions may scale up the investments in green technologies and renewable sources

of energy. In implementing green fintech, banks will be able to comply with the national course and present attractive features like access to international sustainable finance markets.

Comparison with Global Trends

Such findings, compared to the international trends in green fintech, have a number of similarities. Banks like DBS and HSBC in many parts of the world have also made heavy focus on incorporation of sustainability in the business model with most of them issuing green bonds and investing in clean energy ventures. Similar to SBI and HDFC, they have been using technology to promote sustainable investments and financial offerings as an answer to the rising environmental interests. Besides, the problem of sustainable initiative scaling remains to be global and observable in European and U.S banks where many challenges of scaling up fintech solutions on green projects were faced due to regulatory issues and market fragmentation.

Nevertheless, innovation of green fintech in India is unique in terms of region-oriented implementation and development. Leaders in other parts of the globe have a more extensive history of sustainable finance, although there has been a quicker pace in the banking landscape of India, and green fintech usage is increasing rapidly due to the aggressive climate policy in the country. In addition, the fintech of India is growing, providing the banks with an exclusive opportunity to quickly integrate digital instruments into their green finance operations, similarly to the digital platforms boom in countries around the world improving access to sustainable financial services.

To summarize, the results of these case studies indicate that green fintech is relevant to the improvement of sustainability in the banking sector. The prospects to subsequently scale these initiatives on Karnataka and Indian national levels are fully correlated with international patterns, pointing out to the idea that in the future, the green fintech will contribute to the future state of finance on the global scale in a greater extent.

7. Conclusion

Summary of Key Findings

The study has generated immense knowledge regarding the manner in which some of the Karnataka banks such as SBI, HDFC bank and Karnataka bank have already adapted green fintech solutions in their practices. Indicative findings note that although all the banks have embraced sustainable finance practices, there are vast differences in the reflection of the approaches depending on the size of the banks, geographical focus, and resources. SBI has invested heavily in green bonds and other communal-based sustainability ventures at a large scale, whereas the HDFC bank has invested in inculcating international ESGs via online services and green bonds. Karnataka Bank which is a smaller organization has already achieved some significant advancements in terms of financing new energy sources and giving an expression to sustainability regionally through the use of digital tools. The second theme that holds place in all three banks is the commitment to sustainability where the leadership is devoted to becoming greener by incorporating digital fintech solutions that foster their green initiatives.

Contributions to Research

In that regard, this research paper works as an addition to the nascent sphere of green fintech by way of a case study on the qualitative aspect of the use of fintech solutions to promote sustainability in Indian banks. Although the research identifies minor players globally in terms of the green fintech practices of the banks, the study fills the research gap by investigating the green fintech activities of regional banks in Karnataka providing a new dimension to smaller banks and banks in the public sector to evaluate their approach to sustainability. The analysis also includes issues of the environment

and opportunities posed in the Indian context such as regulatory environments, demand of green products of the consumer and governmental policies.

Recommendations

In the case of Banks in Karnataka and India, the research provides that there should be a culture of sustainable practices, there should be synchronization of business strategies of the bank with the national climate targets, there should be digital platforms to operate green finance, and the role of the employees should also be increased in facilitating sustainable projects. Banks ought to consider investing in the green fintech facility, such as green bonds, efficient energy finance, and digital space to widen the availability of sustainable financial services. Forming alliances with both the public and the private sector stakeholders could also speed up the green fintech adoption.

Future Research

The scope of future study might focus on how fintech can drive the green financial product in underprivileged regions and populations. Further, the role that policies and regulations of the government play when it comes to green fintech adoption in India would be worth exploring in greater detail. Another area of interest could be an investigation into the ways the fintech companies, which work outside the scope of traditional banking can assist the sustainability initiatives in the financial sector.

REFERENCES

- Mercom India. (2024, January 25). State Bank of India raises \$250 million in green bonds. Mercom India. Retrieved from https://www.mercomindia.com/state-bank-india-250-million-green-bonds
- 2. Economic Times Energy. (2024, February 15). HDFC Bank raises \$300 million through maiden sustainable finance bond issue. Economic Times. Retrieved from https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/hdfc-bank-raises-300-million-via-maiden-sustainable-finance-bond-issue/107486284
- 3. TERI. (2023). Accelerating the growth of green bonds: Policy brief. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). Retrieved from https://www.teriin.org/sites/default/files/files/Accelerating_the_Growth_of_Green_Bonds_Policy_Brief.pdf
- 4. Chakraborty, R., & Kumar, A. (2023). Leadership and sustainability in banking: A cultural perspective. *Journal of Sustainable Finance*, 12(3), 45-58.
- 5. Choudhury, R. (2023). Green fintech and its growing impact on global finance. *Journal of Financial Technologies*, 45(2), 12-23.
- 6. Jain, N., & Soni, S. (2023). Corporate culture and sustainability in financial institutions. *International Journal of Sustainable Development*, 37(4), 75-91.
- 7. Khan, S., & Singh, P. (2023). Sustainability frameworks in global banking: An evolving trend. *Global Finance Review*, 28(1), 43-56.
- 8. Kumar, R., & Rao, S. (2022). The rise of green fintech: Global trends and future directions. *Global Sustainable Banking Journal*, 4(1), 67-82.
- 9. Patel, M., & Desai, S. (2023). Green fintech in India: Adoption and policy trends. *Journal of Indian Financial Innovations*, 6(3), 22-34.
- 10. State Bank of India. (2024). *Sustainability report 2023-2024*. State Bank of India. https://www.sbi.co.in/web/sbi-green/about-esg-cfu
- 11. Sustainalytics. (2023). HDFC Bank sustainable finance framework: Second-party opinion. *Sustainalytics*.
- 12. UBS. (2023). *Sustainability report 2023*. UBS Group. https://www.ubs.com/content/dam/assets/cc/investor-relations/sustainability-report/2023/sustainability-report-2023.pdf

- 13. Chakraborty, S., & Patil, M. (2023). Examining the impact of digital transformation in the Indian banking sector: Green fintech adoption. *Indian Journal of Business and Finance*, 12(2), 111-125. https://doi.org/10.2345/ijbf.2023.13017
- 14. SBI. (2023). Annual report 2023: Environmental, social, and governance initiatives. State Bank of India.
- 15. HDFC Bank. (2023). HDFC Bank sustainability report 2023. HDFC Bank.
- 16. Reserve Bank of India (RBI). (2022). *Policy framework for sustainable finance in India*. Reserve Bank of India.
- 17. Moody's Analytics. (2023). The rise of green fintech in banking: Market trends and opportunities. Moody's Analytics.
- 18. World Bank. (2022). Global report on green finance trends. World Bank Group.
- 19. Patel, S., & Gupta, A. (2023). Navigating the future of sustainable banking in India: A case study of HDFC and SBI. *Indian Journal of Finance & Sustainability*, 8(1), 53-71.
- 20. Banking Technology. (2023). India's sustainable finance outlook: Green fintech and its future in India. *Banking Technology Insights*.