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A STUDY OF CSR TRENDS IN AUTOMOBILE COMPANIES WITH REFERENCE TO TATA MOTORS, MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA AND HONDA LTD.

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Abstract

This study aims to analyse the CSR performance within the automotive industry, which has recently undergone significant changes with an increased focus on CSR. Major corporations, such as Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra and Honda have integrated CSR into their strategic agendas, with initiatives covering education, healthcare, and community development, demonstrating a dedication to social welfare.

The research scrutinized the adoption of sustainable manufacturing and the advancement of electric and hybrid vehicles as pivotal to the automotive industry's sustainability efforts. Honda excels in green mobility, whereas Tata Motors and Mahindra emphasize environmentally conscious production. The study examined the amalgamation of corporate social responsibility, illustrating an industry-wide shift towards addressing to promote societal progress. Additionally, the findings highlight the sector's dedication to ensuring a sustainable future through alignment of commercial objectives with socio benefits.

Key Words: CSR initiatives, automobile sector, ethos

Introduction

The automotive industry has been experiencing significant growth in recent years, not only in developed nations but also across the globe. With the increasing market demand worldwide, automobile manufacturers are actively engaged in production processes and achieving high sales figures. However, these manufacturers are encountering dual challenges. Firstly, they must adhere to the environmental regulations of the respective countries to promote sustainable development. Secondly, they need to ensure the long-term performance of their companies. The primary obstacle faced by these manufacturers is controlling carbon emissions. The stringent environmental regulations have led to increased costs and complexities, prompting firms to invest heavily in research and development to create products that have minimal or nonegative impact on the environment (McKinsey and Company, 2013).

According to a recent survey, it was discovered that 92% of buyers prioritize fuel efficiency when considering a vehicle, while 73% of customers take into account the ecofriendliness of products. Additionally, 47% of customers express a desire for cars that utilize alternative fuel technologies (KPMG, 2014). In the Indian automobile sector, consumers are willing to pay a slightly higher price if it means saving money on fuel or opting for alternative fuel options such as LPG (Liquified Petroleum Gas), CNG (Compressed Natural Gas), and Battery-powered vehicles. As a result, the current trend in the Indian automobile industry shows

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that many companies are placing a greater emphasis on eco-friendly cars and successfully attracting customers. Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd and Honda Ltd., has been actively engaged in CSR initiatives aligning its business operations with environmental and social responsibilitygoals.

Tata Motors Ltd.'s Pioneering Role in CSR:

In corporate responsibility, Tata Motors Ltd. excels, embracing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and sustainability. The firm's dedication to social and environmental efforts is integral to its ethos, showcasing a commitment to sustainable business.

CSR Initiatives at Tata Motors Ltd.:

Tata Motors has shown a steadfast commitment to social welfare, directing its resources into education, healthcare, and community development. These efforts represent a strategic investment in creating a brighter, more sustainable future, beyond mere obligation.

- 1. Educational Outreach Initiatives: Tata Motors has embarked on a commendable series of initiatives designed to augment educational prospects for children from underprivileged backgrounds. The corporation has committed to fostering educational excellence by furnishing foundational support to schools, endowing scholarships, and channeling investments into the educational infrastructure. These endeavors are instrumental in guaranteeing the availability of high-quality education within communities that are often sidelined. Such strategic support is aligned with the firm's philosophy of contributing to the social fabric, as documented in the Tata Motors Corporate Social Responsibility Report of 2021.
- **2. Community Development Endeavours**: In a concerted effort to cultivate and enhance the fabric of local communities, Tata Motors actively engages in a spectrum of community development endeavours. The spectrum of these initiatives spans the fortification of local infrastructure, the provision of skill development programs, and the elevation of opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. The underlying conviction at Tata Motors is that the empowerment of community members is a cornerstone of enduring progress and societal advancement. This commitment to social upliftment is detailed in the Tata Motors Community Development Impact Assessment report released in 2022.
- **3. Healthcare Commitments:** In alignment with its corporate ethos of fostering community well-being, Tata Motors has made significant inroads in the healthcare sector. The company isat the forefront of orchestrating medical camps, instituting healthcare facilities, and advocating for health-awareness initiatives. These concerted efforts are aimed at ameliorating the generalhealth standards and well-being of those residing in proximity to the company's operational hubs. By instituting these measures, Tata Motors envisions a healthier and more thriving community, a vision which is underscored in the Tata Motors Healthcare Initiatives report of 2021.

Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd.'s CSR

Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) leads in sustainable business, deeply committed to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and eco-friendly projects. Besides making automobiles, the company fosters a culture of responsibility, aimed at generating positive social change.

CSR Initiatives at Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd.:

Mahindra & Mahindra's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) endeavours encompass a multitude of sectors, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to fostering societal welfare and facilitating communal advancement. These initiatives have been strategically developed to

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address various domains of social importance, as outlined in the company's published reports.

- 1. Advancement of Rural Economies: In its quest to bolster rural prosperity, Mahindra & Mahindra has emerged as a vanguard in rural upliftment, zealously championing programs that augment the livelihoods of the rural populace. The organization has executed a formidable array of interventions, which include providing robust training programs tailored for farmers, spearheading advanced agricultural research endeavours, and endorsing the adoption of environmentally sustainable agricultural methodologies, thereby ensuring the long-term sustainability of rural livelihoods. This is detailed in the Mahindra and Mahindra CSR Annual Report of 2021.
- **2. Education for all:** Exhibiting an unswerving commitment to education, Mahindra & Mahindra has undertaken the mission of eradicating educational disparity. This isaccomplished through the establishment of educational institutions, the provision of scholarships aimed at mitigating the financial burdens on students, and the fortification of educational infrastructure, particularly in rural and socioeconomically disadvantaged regions. These efforts are devised to enhance the accessibility and quality of education, contributing to the empowerment of individuals and communities. Further insights into these efforts can be found in the Mahindra and Mahindra Education Initiatives report of 2022.
- **3. Enhancement of Healthcare Services:** In the realm of healthcare, Mahindra & Mahindra demonstrates a proactive stance by orchestrating a variety of healthcare initiatives. The company's contributions include organizing medical camps that offer essential healthcare services, bolstering healthcare infrastructure to improve access to medical care, and initiating health awareness campaigns that aim to elevate the understanding of health-related issues within communities located in proximity to the company's operational facilities. The positive implications of such initiatives on community health have been comprehensively assessed in the Mahindra and Mahindra Healthcare Impact Assessment of 2021.

Through these multifaceted efforts, Mahindra & Mahindra articulates its resolve to act as a responsible corporate citizen, diligently working towards the betterment of society and setting a commendable example of corporate accountability and social responsibility.

Honda Ltd.'s Commitment to CSR

In the evolving world of corporate responsibility, Honda Ltd. is a global leader recognized for its iconic automobiles, steadfast commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and green efforts. The article explores how Honda has effectively incorporated environmental sustainability and social responsibility into its fundamental business practices.

CSR Initiatives at Honda Ltd.:

At the vanguard of societal impact, Honda Ltd.'s CSR strategies are meticulously crafted to yield constructive outcomes, particularly accentuating the domains of education, healthcare, and community upliftment.

1. Educational Empowerment: Honda manifests its robust advocacy for education by initiating and supporting a breadth of programs that augment educational prospects for youth residing in the vicinities of its operational zones. These initiatives encompass a spectrum of scholarship endeavours and strategic alliances with academic institutions aimed at bolstering educational infrastructures and creating conducive learning environments. Such commitment is evidenced by the directives outlined in the "Honda Ltd. CSR Annual Report, 2021."

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- **2. Enhancement of Community Well-being:** Honda's proactive involvement in the realm of community advancement is exemplified by its investments in infrastructural enhancement, skills development programs, and amelioration efforts aimed at improving the quality of life. The corporation's philosophy is anchored in the conviction that the empowerment of local communities is a catalyst for engendering enduring economic prosperity and communal harmony, as delineated in the "Honda Ltd. Community Development Initiatives, 2022."
- **3. Healthcare Initiatives:** With a resolute commitment to advancing healthcare availability within its service regions, Honda embarks on an array of initiatives, including the establishment of medical camps, bolstering healthcare infrastructure, and conducting educational campaigns to raise health consciousness. These initiatives aim to significantly improve the health standards of community members, thereby enhancing their overall well-being, as detailed in the "Honda Ltd. Healthcare Initiatives Report, 2021."

Conclusion:

Tata Motors Ltd.'s stands out as a corporate leader that goes beyond its core business. Throughits CSR initiatives the company is actively working towards creating a positive impact on society. Tata Motors fulfils the role as a corporate citizen and also sets a benchmark for responsible business practices.

Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd. demonstrates its commitment to corporate social responsibility through its strong CSR initiatives. By tackling important societal issues and actively promoting sustainable business practices, the company sets a high standard for the automotive industry. As consumer demand for socially and environmentally conscious products continues to rise, M&M's dedication to CSR establishes it as a frontrunner in promoting positive change.

Honda Ltd. demonstrates its strong commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR), highlighting its dedication to making a positive impact on society. By effectively incorporating social responsibility into its business operations, Honda not only meets its ethical responsibilities but also establishes a standard for responsible corporate behaviour. As consumer demand for eco-friendly and socially responsible products continues to grow, Honda's emphasis on CSR positions it as a leading influencer in shaping a sustainable future.

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