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Sustainable Finance: Investing for a Greener and Responsible Future

In recent years, the concept of sustainability has become increasingly important in the world of finance. Investors, companies, and governments are now focusing not only on financial returns but also on environmental and social responsibility. This approach is known as sustainable finance, which aims to promote investments that support long-term environmental protection, social development, and ethical governance.

Sustainable finance has gained global attention as climate change, environmental degradation, and social inequality continue to affect economies worldwide. Financial institutions and investors are now recognizing that responsible investment decisions can contribute to both economic growth and sustainable development.

Understanding Sustainable Finance

Sustainable finance refers to financial activities that consider environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors in investment decision-making. ESG criteria help investors evaluate how companies manage risks related to environmental impact, social responsibility, and corporate governance.

For example, environmental factors may include a company's efforts to reduce carbon emissions, manage waste, and use renewable energy. Social factors focus on issues such as employee welfare, community development, and consumer protection. Governance factors relate to transparency, ethical management practices, and accountability within an organization.

By integrating these factors into financial decisions, investors can support companies that operate responsibly and contribute positively to society.

Importance of Sustainable Finance

Sustainable finance plays a crucial role in addressing global challenges such as climate change, resource scarcity, and social inequality. Financial markets can influence corporate behavior by directing capital toward environmentally and socially responsible businesses.

One important development in sustainable finance is the growth of green investments. Green investments focus on projects that promote environmental sustainability, such as

renewable energy, clean transportation, and sustainable agriculture. Governments and financial institutions are increasingly encouraging these investments to support climate goals.

For example, international organizations such as the United Nations have promoted sustainable development through initiatives like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals encourage countries and businesses to adopt sustainable practices that improve economic and social well-being.

Growth of Green Bonds

Green bonds have become one of the most popular financial instruments in sustainable finance. A green bond is a type of debt instrument used to raise funds for projects that have positive environmental benefits.

Companies and governments issue green bonds to finance projects such as solar energy plants, wind farms, water conservation systems, and eco-friendly infrastructure. Investors who purchase these bonds not only earn financial returns but also contribute to environmental sustainability.

The global market for green bonds has grown significantly over the past decade as investors increasingly prioritize responsible investment opportunities

-MS. PRIYA KHUNT

(ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, VTCBCSR)

New Labour Code for New India – Biggest Labour Reforms in Independent India

Labour laws are essential for protecting the rights of workers and maintaining a healthy relationship between employers and employees. For many decades, the labour law system in India consisted of numerous complex and overlapping laws that created difficulties for both workers and businesses. To simplify these regulations and modernize the labour system, the Government of India introduced the **New Labour Codes**, which are considered the biggest labour reforms since independence. These reforms aim to promote workers' welfare, encourage industrial growth, and improve the ease of doing business in the country. Before these reforms, there were **more than 40 central labour laws** governing different aspects of employment such as wages, industrial relations, social security, and workplace safety. The existence of so many laws made compliance complicated and often created confusion among employers and employees. Under the leadership of Narendra Modi, the government decided to simplify these laws by consolidating them into **four comprehensive labour codes**, thereby replacing 29 existing laws. The new labour codes are expected to bring significant improvements to the labour market. By simplifying regulations, businesses can operate more efficiently and focus on expansion and job creation. At the same time, workers will benefit from better wage protection, social security, and safer working environments. These reforms also aim to bring more workers from the informal sector into the formal economy, which can strengthen the overall economic structure of the country. The New Labour Codes represent a major milestone in the modernization of labour laws in India. By replacing outdated laws with a more streamlined and comprehensive framework, these reforms seek to balance the interests of workers and employers. If implemented effectively, the new labour codes will contribute to stronger labour rights, improved industrial relations, and sustainable economic growth, making them one of the most important labour reforms in independent India.

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The "Give to Gain" Strategy: Why International Women's Day 2026 Feels Different?????

In 2026, International Women's Day isn't just a celebration—it's a strategy. This year's theme, Give To Gain, reminds us that the fastest way to progress is through active reciprocity. Whether it's sharing a lead, mentoring a peer, or simply advocating for a seat at the table, our collective power grows when we give first.

For years, March 8th followed a predictable script: a flurry of purple-themed emails, a few "inspirational" quotes on my feed, and perhaps a corporate brunch. But as we mark the 115th anniversary of **International Women's Day in 2026**, the air feels different. We've moved past the era of mere "awareness." We are now in the era of Action. **The 2026 IWD theme, Give to Gain, is a call to action, and introspection. It asks us to look beyond the metrics of gender equality and explore the human exchange that inclusion requires.**

To give to gain is to move from competition to contribution, from "mine" to "ours." It means investing time, empathy, and action to build spaces where everyone thrives.

- Giving voice to underrepresented perspectives.
- Giving support through mentorship, sponsorship, and allyship.
- Giving space for authenticity, vulnerability, and difference.
- Giving opportunities that uplift others.
- Giving time to listen, learn, and unlearn.
- Because every time we give, we gain deeper trust, stronger teams, and a more inclusive culture.

The theme for this year, "**Give to Gain**," hits home because it moves us away from the idea of women as a monolith in need of help, and instead positions us as the primary drivers of global progress. It's a reminder that my success isn't a solo flight—it's a relay race. When I "give"—whether that's my time, my network, or my advocacy—the entire community "gains."

The Power of the "Micro-Lift"

We often think that to support other women, we need to be CEOs or have massive platforms. But in 2026, the most effective "giving" happens in the margins of our busy days. I call this the **Micro-Lift**.

Think about the last time you:

- Copied a junior colleague on an email to give her visibility.
- Recommended a woman-owned service to a friend.
- Gave honest, constructive feedback that helped someone pivot their strategy.

These aren't just "nice" gestures; they are economic and social catalysts. When we practice the Give To Gain mindset, we aren't just being kind—we are building a robust, woman-led ecosystem that is finally closing the gap between legal rights and actual justice.

Curating the "Women-Led" Everyday

If the goal is "**Give to Gain**," the easiest place to start is with our wallets and our attention. We often underestimate the power of "voting" with our daily habits. In 2026, supporting women isn't just a political statement; it's an economic strategy that builds a more resilient world for everyone.

For the rest of this month, I'm challenging myself to look closer at the "who" behind my daily routine. It's about moving from passive consumption to intentional support.

How I'm bringing "Give to Gain" into my routine????

- **The "First Look" Rule:** Before I buy a new tool for work or a gift for a friend, I'm checking a woman-owned directory first for being my current obsession.
- **The Amplification Habit:** If I read a great article or see a brilliant project by a woman, I'm not just "liking" it. I'm sharing it with a specific note on *why* it matters.
- **Skill-Swapping:** I'm reaching out to one woman in my network this week to offer a skill I have (like editing or tech troubleshooting) in exchange for learning something from her.

By making these small pivots, we ensure that the "Justice" we talked about on March 8th becomes the "Reality" we live on March 10th and beyond.

The most dangerous thing about International Women's Day is the temptation to tuck our "Give to Gain" spirit back into a drawer until next year. But progress doesn't live in a single calendar date; it lives in the small, consistent choices we make on the "unremarkable" days.

I don't want this post to be just another thing you read today. I want it to be a starting line.

Let's Give to Gain Allyship

- Let's demonstrate curiosity.
- Let's speak up with courage.

- Let's celebrate each other's wins.
- When we give support, we gain trust.
- Let's show up with empathy.
- Let's be vocal about inclusion.
- When we give our voice, we gain connection.

Source: Breath Beings, The Economic Times

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