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Corporate Social Responsibility and Water Security in Western Rajasthan: A Study of Selected Renewable Energy Companies

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Abstract

The western parts of Rajasthan experience water scarcity owing to the arid nature of the climate and low amount of rainfall in the area. As such, the CSR programs of renewable energy companies have immense importance in conserving the water resources as well as uplifting the rural population. This research analyzes the water-based CSR initiatives of Suzlon Energy Limited and Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) in western Rajasthan. Using the descriptive research methodology, the paper is based only on corporate annual reports and any other available corporate public reports. The analysis is conducted by classifying and examining company's interventions in pond construction, desilting, and construction of water infrastructure. It is found that both the companies have carried out many water projects; however, type of activities and places have varied in different financial years. Furthermore, it is found that there is a serious lack of information in the corporation's reports, especially about the number of beneficiaries and project viability in the long run. It is concluded that the water projects by CSR programs have great potential to increase water security of rural areas provided they are monitored constantly.

***Keywords**: Corporate Social Responsibility, Water Conservation, Renewable Energy, Western Rajasthan, Suzlon Energy Limited, Adani Green Energy Limited.*

Introduction

In today scenario Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has become an important practice by corporates, through which these corporates can contribute to multidimensional development like social, economic and environmental. In India, CSR has gradually moved beyond the traditional concept of philanthropy and has become strategic and sustainable development oriented, focusing on eradicate social issues and problems. Under the company act 2013, CSR was made mandatory for those companies that fell within the scope of its rules and regulations. Activities such as education, healthcare, livelihood development, environment protection, and sanitation and water management were included in csr practices.

As the significance of sustainable development goals continue to rise, the importance of CSR activities undertaken by renewable energy companies has increased even further. Most renewable energy companies in India are active in backward areas that lack infrastructure, natural resources and basic services leaving the local people to struggle with these challenges. Consequently, CSR activities

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undertaken by these companies will not only help in sustainable development, but they will also significantly improve the wellbeing of communities living in backward areas. Among various development concerns, water availability and management is a critical issue.

Water is a vital and essential resource for humans, animals, and rural livelihoods. Western Rajasthan, which is characterized by low and irregular rainfall, high temperatures and extensive arid areas, faces considerable challenges related to water availability. Rural communities living in this region receive highly limited supply of water from natural sources for their domestic and livelihood related needs. In such situations, CSR initiatives undertaken by companies to promote water conservation, water harvesting, drinking-water access, groundwater recharge and improvement of local water infrastructure etc. are highly relevant and effective for local community development.

Numerous renewable energy companies operating in Western Rajasthan have established their plants in the region and are actively implementing various CSR initiatives for welfare and development of local communities and society. Among these, Suzlon Energy Limited (Suzlon) and Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) have undertaken CSR initiatives in communities associated with their areas of operation. Corporate disclosures, annual reports and sustainability reports of these companies indicate that these renewable energy companies actively participate in diverse CSR initiatives focused on water, sanitation, and broader environmental sustainability. However, the contribution of these companies to water-related community development requires greater systematic examination, particularly at the regional level.

Although previous studies have explored CSR in India from various social, economic, and environmental dimensions, comparatively limited research has focused specifically on water-related CSR initiatives undertaken by renewable energy companies in water-scarce regions. Moreover, systematic evidence regarding the nature of such initiatives, their reported outcomes, and the communities benefiting from them in Western Rajasthan remains relatively scarce. Existing literature predominantly examines CSR at the national level or addresses broader aspects of social development, with limited emphasis on company-specific water initiatives implemented in rural communities of Western Rajasthan. This relatively underexplored area provides a significant research gap and highlights the need for further investigation.

This study seeks to address the gap by investigate and analyze the localized water-related CSR interventions undertaken by Suzlon and AGEL enterprises operating in Western Rajasthan for the period of six year from 2021-2026. This study aims to identify and comparatively analyze the primary water-centric initiatives executed by the two selected corporations, documenting their documented impacts and target beneficiaries, utilizing data from annual reports and official corporate disclosures. The focus of the study is on water-related CSR activities of renewable energy companies and examines how these initiatives help address local water problems in Western Rajasthan.

Thus, the study enriches the existing CSR literature by integrating multiple dimensions of CSR, renewable energy companies, water initiatives and rural development within the specific geographical context of Western Rajasthan.

Review of literature

- **Conceptual Foundations of CSR**

(Carroll, 1979) explained CSR through economical, legal, ethical, and philanthropic obligation of corporates, while (Elkington, n.d.) introduced the Triple Bottom Line framework, integrating social, economical and environmental dimensions. . In India,(Goverment of India, 2013) the Companies Act, 2013, particularly Section 135, established a statutory framework for CSR, encouraging eligible companies to contribute to social and environmental development. (Hole et al., n.d.) Highlighted the importance of transparency, community participation, and effective monitoring in CSR implementation. (V. Gupta & Mathur, 2025) further discussed the role of CSR to promoting economic growth, enhancing corporate performance, and supporting sustainable development. (Gahlot & Verma, 2026) highlighted CSR's contribution towards Viksit Bharat @2047 by emphasizing rural development, sustainable environment and renewable energy initiatives and the importance of assessing CSR through its long-term impact rather than expenditure alone.

- **CSR and Sustainable Water Management**

(Lambooy, 2011) highlighted corporate responsibility for sustainable water use, particularly in water-scarce regions. (Aimar, 2019) and (Sojamo & Rudebeck, n.d.) Emphasized corporate participation, stakeholder collaboration, and collective action in sustainable water governance. (Zhang et al., 2021)

examined voluntary corporate water disclosure and found that water policies, initiatives, and performance influence companies' willingness to disclose water-related information. (Silva, 2024), through a systematic review of 33 studies, identified the contribution of CSR to water resource conservation, water management, responsible supply chain practices, and awareness-building through water education. While highlighting challenges related to costs, resources, and monitoring. (Peng et al., 2025), reviewing 105 studies, identified regulatory, organizational, and stakeholder factors influencing corporate water responsibility management and emphasized concerns regarding data accuracy and transparency. (H. Gupta, n.d.) reported that major Indian companies, including ITC, HUL, Marico, Nestlé, and Godrej, adopted water conservation and rainwater-harvesting initiatives. (Narayanamurthy et al., 2015) examined the Water Shop model for providing safe drinking water to rural communities, while (Mishra, 2021) linked CSR initiatives with the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. (Mittal & Kumar Singhal, 2025) discussed CSR interventions such as rainwater harvesting, safe drinking water, sanitation, and watershed management, emphasizing community participation and long-term planning. (Kumar, 2024), in a case study of Tata Power DDL's RO water plants, examined corporate-supported drinking-water infrastructure for economically disadvantaged communities. (Sati & Ramani Nayyar, 2024) highlighted the contribution of CSR to sustainable water management and sanitation in India, particularly in relation to SDG 6.

- **Rural Development and Rajasthan-Specific Evidence**

Community-based rainwater harvesting in Rajasthan was explored by (Cochran & Ray, 2009), with an emphasis on aspects of equity, benefit sharing, and community involvement. (Garg, 2019) talked about the role of CSR in socio-economic development of the rural areas. (Sekhon & Kathuria, 2020) focused on CSR activities of Dabur India, which included the Desert Bloom project of Dabur in Newai, Rajasthan, where rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, pond construction, and plantation were done. (Singh & Kumar, 2019) explained the soil and water conservation work undertaken by Suzlon, which included water harvesting programme in Jaisalmer. (Grewal, 2025) mentioned about rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge programme supported by SRF in 35 villages of Alwar. (Temkar, 2026) pointed out some major areas of CSR in Rajasthan such as water conservation, safe drinking water, sanitation, and rural development.

The reviewed literature primarily highlights the role of CSR in water conservation, sustainable water management, rural development, and community welfare. However, limited research has been conducted on water-related CSR initiatives undertaken by renewable energy companies, particularly in water-scarce regions such as Western Rajasthan. To address this research gap, the present study examines the water-related CSR initiatives undertaken by two major renewable energy companies, Suzlon and AGEL in Western Rajasthan.

Objectives

The research focuses on the following objectives:

- To identify and document the water-related CSR initiatives undertaken by selected companies in Western Rajasthan during the selected study period.
- To examine the nature and types of water-related CSR interventions.
- To analyze the year wise geographical coverage of the reported water-related CSR initiatives across the study area.
- To examine the reported beneficiaries and outcomes of these initiatives.
- To analyze the similarities and differences in the water-related CSR initiatives and their disclosures by the two selected companies.

Research Methodology

The research follows a descriptive research approach to systematically document and examine the water-related CSR initiatives undertaken by selected renewable energy companies in Western Rajasthan. The study specifically focuses on Suzlon and AGEL, and examine their documented water related CSR initiatives over a six-year period from FY 2020-21 to 2025-26, considering their significant presence in the renewable energy sector and their involvement in communities located in water-scarce regions of Western Rajasthan. The study focuses exclusively on the Western Rajasthan, particularly the districts and project locations for which relevant water-related CSR interventions are documented in the companies' official disclosures. The study is entirely based on secondary data.

Data were collected systematically from authentic public disclousers, including company annual reports, ESG reports, CSR reports, and other official corporate disclosures. For the purpose of study, information related to water conservation, water harvesting, groundwater recharge, restoration or rejuvenation of ponds and other water bodies, drinking-water access, water-storage infrastructure, and community-based water management was identified from the available corporate disclosures. Only water related CSR initiatives for which documentary evidence was available in the identified corporate disclosures were considered for analysis.

For systematic analysis, the table were organized according to Company name, financial year, geographical location, water-related CSR initiatives, reported beneficiaries and reported outcome. The initiatives of Suzlon and AGEL were first documented separately to establish company-specific evidence. After that, a comparative review was made in order to know about the common features or differences in the nature and scope of these companies' water CSR activities. It is purely descriptive in nature and does not aim at any ranking of the companies or finding out the better performing company among them. Special emphasis was made on the importance of these activities in relation to water scarcity, water conservation, sustainable water management, and rural/welfare of community in Western Rajasthan. The collected data is summarized through tables for each company individually and also collectively, followed by descriptive analysis of the main trends found in water CSR activities in Western Rajasthan.

Table 1: Suzlon's Water-Related CSR Initiatives in Western Rajasthan, FY 2020–21 to FY 2025-26

Financial year	Location	Water-related CSR Initiative	Reported Beneficiaries	Reported outcome
2020-21	Jaisalmer, Rajasthan	De-silting of ponds in	8 villages of Jaisalmer	8350 m³ additional water-conservation
2021-22	Fatehgarh–Toga, Jaisalmer	De-silting of an existing village talab/pond under Suzlon CSR	Approx. 10000 animals, 6 nearby villages access water through tankers	Pond capacity doubled; year-round water availability, reduced tanker dependence and saved 2500rs. Per family
2022-23	Chhatrail, Jaisalmer	De-silting of a village nadi/pond	300 house hold and 15000 animals, cattle from 5 nearby villages	Water availability extended to approximately 8 months; tanker water cost reportedly reduced from ₹1,000 to ₹500
2023-24	Mokla, Jaisalmer	Public pond construction	Local village communities and neighboring villages	Pond area approximately 10,000 m³ water-bearing capacity approximately 25 lakh cu. litres
2023-24	Chhatrel, Jaisalmer	Rooftop rainwater-harvesting structures	Local village communities and neighboring villages	Nearly 250 tankas fitted; approximately 3–4 months of water supply could be stored for household and agricultural use
2024-25	Motisar and bhikhsar villages, Rajasthan	Water conservation through pond de-silting, rooftop rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge through borewells, check-dam development, and the rehabilitation of agricultural ponds	2000-3000 villagers,	6-8 months of water retention, 18000 to 20000rs. Annually savings by reduced dependency of tankers, 29,820 m³ water positivity of 1.38 times across 15 OMS sites of Rajasthan
2025-26	Rajasthan	No specific water related CSR initiative in western Rajasthan reported	Not reported	Not assessable due to lack of project specific evidence

Data analysis and Interpretation

As indicated by the above table, Suzlon carried out various Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects related to water in Western Rajasthan during FY 2020-21 to FY 2025-26. During FY

2020-21 to FY 2022-23, the organization mainly undertook pond de-silting and rejuvenation activities in Jaisalmer that helped in increasing the capacity and availability of water.

During FY 2023-24, Suzlon increased its scope by constructing ponds in Mokla and undertaking rooftop rainwater harvesting in Chhatrel. In FY 2024-25, some of the reported CSR activities were pond de-silting, recharging of ground water, check dams, and rainwater harvesting.

No specific water-related CSR initiative in Western Rajasthan was identified for FY 2025–26 in the available data. Overall, the reported initiatives indicate Suzlon's focus on improving rural water availability through traditional water-body restoration and rainwater conservation. However, variations in beneficiary data and the limited availability of project-specific evidence restrict the assessment of their long-term impact.

Table 2: Adani Green Energy Limited's Water-related CSR Initiatives in Western Rajasthan, FY 2020–21 to FY 2025-26

Financial Year	Location	Water-related Initiative	Reported Beneficiaries	Reported Outcome
2020–21	Rajasthan	No specific water related CSR initiative in western Rajasthan reported	Not separately reported	Not separately quantified
2021–22	Fatehgarh and Pokhran tehsil, Jaisalmer	Restoration of 5 water bodies in 3 villages 4 ponds- Chataliya, Nagnechi Mata, Bhomiyaji and Nedan pond	More than 1,100 households	Restoration of community water bodies, capacities of restored ponds were reported 33984 m³
2021-22	Rewari village, Jaisalmer	Gravity based water purifiers installed in schools	435 students	Availability of safe drinking water
2022–23	Jaisalmer	Pond deepening and catchment-area expansion, rejuvenation of four ponds- Chataliya, Noteri, Bhomiyaji and Degrai ponds	Approximately 7,538 people and more than 20,958 livestock across at least four villages	Longer surface-water availability up to 1-2 months and expected groundwater recharge, pond's water capacity reported 37,583 m³
2023–24	Jaisalmer & Barmer	Pond deepening and cleaning, water catchment area expansion, check-dam renovation, development of filtration wells, installation Of water cooler & RO construction of overhead portable water tanks	Local communities	Last longer surface water, ground water recharge, 23 ponds rejuvenated, more than 147,000 m³ additional water-storage capacity
2024–25	Jaisalmer & Barmer	Pond rejuvenation, catchment expansion, check-dam renovation, filtration wells, installation of RO plants and potable-water tanks	Local communities	491,473 m³ storage capacity and 69 ponds reported for the wider programme in both Rajasthan and Gujrat (Rajasthan-specific contribution not separately quantified)
2025-26	Jaisalmer & Barmer	Pond cleaning and deepening, expansion of catchment areas, renovation of check dams, installation of filtration wells, RO plants in schools, and building portable water tanks.	Local communities	2,07,511 m³ storage capacity and 32 ponds rejuvenated for the wider programme in both Rajasthan and Gujrat; (Rajasthan-specific contribution not separately quantified)

Data Analysis and Interpretation

The table shows that there is no specific evidence of water related CSR activities in FY 2020-21 and after that AGEL's water-related CSR interventions in Western Rajasthan expanded progressively from FY 2021–22 to FY 2025–26. In FY 2021–22, the initiatives included restoration of community water bodies in Jaisalmer and installation of gravity-based water purifiers in schools, addressing both water availability and access to safe drinking water.

In FY 2022–23, AGEL focused on pond deepening, catchment-area expansion and pond rejuvenation in Jaisalmer. These interventions reportedly benefited local communities and livestock by increasing water availability and supporting groundwater recharge.

AGEL from FY 2023-24 onwards implemented a wider array of methods for conserving water resources, such as the rejuvenation of ponds, catchment development, maintenance of check dams, filtration wells, RO facilities, and portable water tanks in Jaisalmer and Barmer. The results reported point to enhanced storage and availability of water.

In FY 2024–25 and FY 2025–26, similar interventions continued, covering pond rejuvenation, water harvesting, groundwater-related measures and drinking-water infrastructure. However, the reported storage capacities of 491,473 m^3 and 207,511 m^3, respectively, relate to the wider programmer covering Rajasthan and Gujarat. Therefore, these figures cannot be attributed exclusively to Jaisalmer or Barmer.

Overall, the table reflects a progressive and diversified approach to rural water security, with AGEL moving from individual water-body restoration towards integrated water conservation, groundwater recharge and safe drinking-water infrastructure. However, differences in geographical coverage and beneficiary reporting should be considered when interpreting year-wise outcomes.

Table 3: Comparative Overview of Water-Related CSR Initiatives of Suzlon Energy limited and Adani Green Energy Limited in Western Rajasthan (FY 2020–21 to FY 2025–26)

Dimension	Suzlon Energy Limited	Adani Green Energy Limited
Study period covered	FY 2020–21 to FY 2025–26	FY 2020–21 to FY 2025–26
Major locations in western Rajasthan	Jaisalmer and other project associated areas	Jaisalmer, Barmer, Bikaner and other project associated areas
Nature of documented water-related contribution	Primarily water conservation, harvesting, groundwater recharge and community water-resource management	Water conservation, water-storage enhancement, groundwater recharge and drinking-water access/community water security
Major Water-related CSR initiatives	Restoration/de-silting of ponds/nadi/talab, construction of public ponds, rooftop rainwater-harvesting structures, check dams, recharge wells/bore wells	Pond deepening and cleaning, expansion of catchment areas, check dams maintenance, filtration wells development, installation of RO plants, and building water tanks.
Reported beneficiaries	Local village communities, neighboring villages and livestock	Local communities, students, livestock
Reported outcome	Increased water-bearing capacity of ponds, reduced tanker dependence, longer surface water availability	Availability of safe drinking water, increased water capacity of ponds/talab, longer surface water availability, ground water recharge
Community participation	Community members, local NGOs/Village Development Committees and other stakeholders are involved in CSR implementation.	Community consultation, partnerships and participatory implementation reported in project areas.
Documentary sources	Annual Reports, Sustainability Reports and Suzlon Foundation CSR disclosures.	Integrated Annual Reports, ESG disclosures.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

From the table, it is clear that both Suzlon and AGEL engage in water-related CSR activities aimed at enhancing water security in Western Rajasthan. While Suzlon concentrates on the rehabilitation of ponds and rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge, AGEL focuses on the development of drinking water structures like RO plants and potable water tanks. The activities have had positive outcomes for the local community and cattle, including improved water supply, increased storage, and decreased reliance on tanker water. Community involvement is an aspect of their implementation of CSR.

On the whole, the analysis shows that both companies contribute to rural water security through different types of interventions. Still, the comparison is based on information provided by the companies.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Water scarcity remains a significant challenge in Western Rajasthan due to its arid climate and limited water resources. This study examined the water-related CSR initiatives of Suzlon Energy Limited and Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) in western rajasthan during the period 2020–21 to 2025–26 using secondary data from company reports and disclosures.

The focus of the study is on the nature of initiatives, geographical coverage, reported beneficiaries and reported outcome. Both companies have undertaken a range of water-related interventions in Rajasthan, including pond restoration and de-silting, nadi restoration, rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, catchment improvement, water-storage enhancement and water-related infrastructure.

The reported initiatives have benefited rural households, village communities, farmers and livestock. The companies have also reported outcomes such as improved water availability, restoration of traditional water resources, increased water-storage capacity and water recharge. These findings indicate that water-related CSR activities can address both environmental and community-development dimensions of water scarcity.

The study highlights the importance of traditional and community based water resources as an important component of water conservation initiatives in western rajasthan. They could play an important role in ensuring the availability of water resources at home level and for agricultural purposes.

According to the study, corporations should pay attention to maintaining ponds, nadis, check dams and recharge structures. They need to use good indicators to assess the success of the projects and report their outcomes. The community should participate in the planning, implementation and maintenance of CSR projects. Moreover, such programs should meet the requirements of water scarcity in the area and contribute to the restoration of traditional water sources. Monitoring and independent assessment of the projects' outcomes whenever possible can be useful to analyze the sustainability of water-related CSR initiatives in Western Rajasthan.

However, the study uses mainly secondary information provided by the chosen companies. Hence, the impacts reported in the paper are those presented by the corporations themselves, and they should not be regarded as independent measures of the impacts. Also, due to differences in the format of reporting, the definition of the beneficiaries and impact indicators, comparison of impacts for different years is not always possible.

In general, this study presents a region-specific analysis of water-related CSR initiatives by some renewable energy companies.

Limitations

This study has certain limitations. It is entirely based on secondary data obtained from company annual reports and other relevant public disclosures, limiting the analysis to the availability and accuracy of reported information. The study focuses on only two renewable energy companies, Suzlon Energy Limited and Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), and is geographically restricted to Western Rajasthan, limiting the relevance of the findings beyond the selected companies and region. Furthermore, it examines only the water-related CSR activities of these companies rather than their overall CSR initiatives. Furthermore, the absence of field surveys and beneficiary feedback limits the assessment of the actual impact and differences in corporate reporting practices may also affect comparisons across financial years.

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