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## THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING IN RISK MANAGEMENT RESULTING FROM ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION AND DISCLOSURE

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### ABSTRACT

*Accounting as a profession is a duty to elevate the internal view of any economic unit and to develop information that clarifies its role within its environment and its contribution to providing appropriate information for decision making, which is the optimum utilization of resources and the preservation of the environment and the prevention of danger. The researcher was interested in this subject researchers and their various medical, engineering, biological and legal, each in accordance with his competence and his point of view. Accounting was not immune to this problem, as long as it is its duty to analyze the data and provide information and develop systems for reports and work plans for different units. Therefore, taking environmental accounts into account, especially environmental costs, will make the accounting profession able to provide more relevant and relevant information to the administrative decision makers, especially in productivity where the problem lies in the lack of information resulting in the adoption of incorrect decisions that contributed to the deterioration of the state of the environment rather than addressing it. The management profession in general and accounting in particular must accept an effective role in this field and try to identify and categorize all risks arising from the activities of the unit and make decisions to reduce and address them and work to adopt clean and sound environmental measures on the road. Unity and in line with international requirements for the protection of the environment and society.*

### KEYWORDS

environmental accounting, risk management, environmental pollution.

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Q50, Q52, Q53.

### INTRODUCTION

Accounting as a profession is a duty to elevate the internal view of any economic unit and to develop information that clarifies its role within its environment and its contribution to providing appropriate information for decision making, which is the optimum utilization of resources and the preservation of the environment and the prevention of danger.

The current interest in preserving the environment and avoiding the causes of pollution and the restoration and restoration of the environment has become of great importance to various groups of society. The trend towards protecting the environment and trying to prevent the environmental degradation caused by pollution has become the focus of the concern of the man who is beginning to worry about the future of his life. And efforts are being made to try to reduce its effects, reduce its dangers and eliminate its causes by spreading environmental awareness among all segments of the society, where it has become a social responsibility and a part of business ethics and in our dear country, the environment and its disasters have become one of the biggest threats faced by the community. Which has become the control of this field is completely absent and this is reflected in the large number of epidemics and diseases suffered by members of society in addition to the obvious damage to the natural and the destruction that ensues, all this is the result of the numerous wars and the siege and the effects in various fields this to Besides the causes of other pollution, such as the use of pesticides harmful and excessive, the subject has been interested in this subject researchers and their various medical, engineering, biological and legal, each according to his competence and his point of view was not accounting away from this problem as long as it is its duty to analyze data and provide information and status Organize reports and work plans for different units and follow up the level of compliance with them.

The management profession in general and accounting in particular to accept the receipt of an effective role in this area and try to identify and categorize all the risks arising from the activities of the unit and take decisions to reduce and address them and work to adopt environmental clean and sound.

### RESEARCH PROBLEM

Environmental pollution is one of the most important problems facing the world today because of its health impact on workers and their performance on the one hand, society on the other hand, and nature on the other hand, even those who define the unit's objectives to increase profits in the short term realize that the society's image affects its profits and its ability to generate revenue (Marlin, 1973: 41). Therefore, taking environmental accounts into consideration, especially environmental costs, will make the accounting profession able to provide more relevant and relevant information to decision makers, especially in productivity where the problem lies in the lack of information resulting in the adoption of improper decisions that contributed to the deterioration of the state of the environment rather than treating it.

### RESEARCH IMPORTANCE

- The importance of research is highlighted by the following:
- The adoption of environmental accounting will contribute to the creation of accounting information that is essential for decision makers.
- Disclosure of environmental information is an urgent need for the community in general and for the company in particular.
- Statement of the extent to which the company's position is consistent with the legal principle of "polluter pays".
- To highlight the role of the company in reducing the risks of pollution.

## THE GOAL OF THE RESEARCH

The research aims to show the following:

- The possibility of preparing accounting information reflecting environmental responsibility.
- The role of economic unity in reducing the risks of environmental pollution for employees, members of society and the environment.
- The effectiveness of environmental information, especially accounting, in decision-making that works to prevent or treat the danger by providing the necessary economic and accounting information.

## RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

The research is based on several hypotheses:

- Economic unity can affect environmental protection through accounting disclosure of environmental pollution data.
- Managers' interest in risk management reduces risks to employees and the community.
- The use of a range of methods to account for the environment highlights the contribution of the economic unit to its responsibilities to society.

## RESEARCH FINDINGS

### THE THEORETICAL BASIS OF RESEARCH

#### THE CONCEPT OF RISK MANAGEMENT

The researchers did not agree to define a uniform definition of risk. It is a puzzling concept with many interpretations. These interpretations stem from knowledge branches that may use such a concept and danger in language. Risk is the probability that a direct or indirect threat will prevent the achievement of goals (Pritsker & Sigal, 1983: 352). Malians view risk as a deviation from expectations (Amiri, 1995: 176). In management, Ensuring the continuation of a particular work and the possibility of different outcomes than planned or disappointing (Moorheud, 1995: 238).

Risk management refers to processes that involve identifying, identifying and analyzing risks, proposing activities to reduce them, and the main objective of risk management is to prevent the occurrence of danger in one form or another. This requires all actions required to avoid danger, protection,

And in accordance with the principle of reservation, which does not make the accountant does not recognize revenue until the moment of occurrence. The expected income is not taken into account, but in terms of obligations are taken into account and therefore works reserves and allocations and so long as the risk is an unexpected event and expected to occur and must be calculated for As long as the activities carried out by the unit are environmentally polluting, under the law the unit expects that it will incur additional costs in the future, either to eliminate or reduce the effects of pollution. This increases the financial burden of economic unity.

#### THE CONCEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING

The accountants' attention to the environment began a few years ago, and the negative aspects of the exploitation of the environment and work on the disclosure of these aspects or describing their effects as a result of the human exploitation of the environment or the exercise of its activities have emerged.

- A) Green Accounting.
- B) Environmental Accounting for Sustainable Development.
- C) Environmental and economic accounting.

Whatever the term, it means the integration and integration of accounting and economic measurement and disclosure of activities and programs that affect the environment and are exercised by economic units to meet the needs of different parties in society. Others elaborate on the concept of environmental accounting Veron as "identifying and measuring the costs of environmental activities and using that information in decision making Environmental management with a view to reducing the negative environmental impacts of environmental activities and regulations and removing them under the principle of polluter pays "(Al-Tikriti et al., 1999: 34).

#### THE ROLE OF ACCOUNTING IN THE FIELD OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE LIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL LAWS AND LEGISLATION

Accounting as a profession is the task of developing information that highlights the role of the unit and its contribution to the society represented in the optimal utilization of resources and the preservation of the environment and the fair distribution of profit, that the problems resulting from the exclusion of accounting when studying the environment is no longer a new problem has written many accountants about that relationship as organized National Association of Accountants and the American Association of Accountants have held several meetings to conduct research in environmental accounting between 1970-1975 (AAA, 1975-53-89). The current interest in accounting for the environment and the restoration of the environment has created a new case for the accounting profession to accept the delivery of an effective role in the cost of pollution. The essence of applying traditional accounting to production costs is based on the assumption that the cost of reducing the damage to the environment is only the cost of production, Costs incurred in relation to production activities must be treated as such. Costs incurred to reduce future environmental pollution should be sent and carried over to future productive activities. Costs associated with the environmental damage remediation process Moustafa that occurred in the past is considered to be special for the previous period and is corrected by income of the previous period.

This issue was received after the accumulation of burdens placed on the society with the attention of international bodies, humanitarian organizations, global societies and environmental protection groups. At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in 1993, paragraph (64) of the Agenda (Al-Arafi, 1997: 1) National economy, economic activities and environmental accounts, including all cash and material flows, which ensure the interrelationships between economic activity and the environment.

In addition to the above, there are several factors that contributed to the attention to this aspect: (Nur, 1999: 30)

1. Changing the prevailing trend towards the view that the unit should bear the cost of preserving the environment after it was treated as social costs not borne by the unit and thus are processed through the accounting function.
2. The need to include reports and financial statements on environmental activities, which will lead to confidence in the accounting data in addition to meeting the needs of the community of information on environmental activities.
3. Contribute to the preparation of reports on the costs of environmental pollution at the national level, which helps in obtaining indicators to enable the monitoring of pollution resulting from various activities of units and conduct the necessary studies.

Finally, individuals have a greater role to play in managing the threat posed by the activities of the Unit and to address them by understanding all possible positive and negative aspects of all factors affecting economic unity.

#### MANAGING RISK AS PART OF THE CULTURE OF ECONOMIC UNITY

Risk management is an essential part of the strategic management of any economic unit. The procedures of these units are structured to address the risks associated with their activities. In order to achieve the benefits of each activity, the primary focus of risk management is to identify these risks and to find appropriate solutions to address them. For all unit activities.

Risk management helps to understand the possible positive and negative aspects of all factors that may affect the unit. It increases the probability of success and reduces the probability of failure and uncertainty about achieving the overall objectives of the unit. Therefore, risk management activities should be continuous and continuous. In a systematic manner with all the risks that surround the activities of the unit at all times and circumstances. In addition, risk management must be integrated with the culture of unity through an effective policy and program managed by the senior management after responsibilities are defined within the unit for each manager and officer responsible for Wara risk as part of the job description for their work in order to determine responsibility and performance evaluation and the granting of bonuses, which enhances the effectiveness of the work between all administrative levels.

A few years ago, the attention of administrators and accountants began to study the negative aspects of the activities of economic units and try to disclose them or describe their effects. Most studies have dealt with the relationship of environmental variables to accounting.

**1. STUDYING SCOVILL (ABDEL SALAM, 1999:6)**

This study dealt with the problems of assessing environmental obligations in addition to the accounting disclosure about the environmental performance costs of some companies.

**2. STUDY OF LINOWES (LINOWES, 1973: 32-40)**

This study is based on providing information about the impact of the activities of the unit on the society and all the parties that need it. This model consists of three sections, each section related to one of the cost areas that have the effect:

- A. Staff Area.
- B. Environment.
- C. Product area.

**3. STUDYING ESTES (ESTES, 1976: 91-107)**

This study is based on the society's view as a basis for preparing the model it proposed, which lacks the information provided by traditional accounting in terms of its preparation from the economic point of view. The costs resulting from the negative effects of the Unit's activity according to the Estes view reflect the sacrifice and damage caused by the unit to society.

**ACCOUNTING DISCLOSURE FOR ACCOUNTING INFORMATION RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT****ACCOUNTING DISCLOSURE OF ACCOUNTING INFORMATION RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Disclosure is one of the main and important pillars on which accounting thinking is based. The concept of disclosure generally refers to showing something so that it is clear and known (Chetkovich, 1960: 86).

The main objective of the disclosure is to provide information that benefit the different communities in making decisions and to keep pace with the accounting development in all branches of knowledge should not be limited to the traditional disclosure of the economic activity of the unit, but extends to include the effects of the activity of the unit on society and give a clear picture so that These studies assess the effects of unity on society as well as its economic performance. Most of the research has indicated that the published reports should include information about the activities of the unit towards society as this information falls within the business ethics of economic unity. Increased attention in the global media environment and the preservation and held so special international conferences led to the emergence of an important area accompanied by a major interest in the units together with the unit and its impact on the activities of community managers. Research has shown an increase in the disclosure of cost data arising from environmental and community-based activities carried out by economic units in recent years. The main objective of most of these researches was to assess the extent to which these units are committed to society. (Mobley, 1970: 762). The studies and research on the responsibility of units towards society were subsequently followed. Most of these studies confirm that this development is needed and the units should be encouraged to include data on the environmental activities of their units in their published annual reports For the analysts, the community or the management itself, the reasons for interest in the disclosure of data on environmental activities are as follows: (Benjamin, 1978: 24)

1. Most of the data resulting from the environmental activities of the economic unit is of a quantitative and financial nature, thus affecting the assets, expenses and obligations of the unit.
2. Accounting as an organized body has the responsibility to maintain the internal view of economic unity and to provide information that clarifies its role and contribution to society and should lead to decisions that enable the efficient use of resources and environmental protection and load the unit costs. (Muhammad, 1984: 217)
3. As is well known, accounting is one of the social sciences and in order to evolve, it is required to meet the needs of the new society, information about the effects of its activities towards society.
4. As a result of the broad interest in the environment and the impact of the activities of the units on the environment, accountants are required to contribute to the provision of information that helps officials to identify these effects and ways to address them.
5. To ask the scientific societies and bodies of the economic units to disclose data on environmental activities to meet the objectives of the society and its new needs.

In addition, despite the increasing number of economic units that disclose information about their environmental activities in developed countries, there is a much lower awareness in developing countries in this regard, which reduces the disclosure of such costs in reports published in such countries As these units are not aware of the importance of the need for such disclosure on the one hand, and of the lack of strict laws requiring the units to do so, even though they recognize the negative effects of their units on society.

**THE FACTORS THAT AFFECT THE DEGREE OF DISCLOSURE**

There are a group of the factors that affect the degree of disclosure of information implications for the activities of environmental unit economic, and are these factors in the following: (a Turkish, 1985: 27-30)

1. Environmental factors: vary published reports from state to state for economic reasons, social, political, and other factors due need beneficiaries to further the additional information about environmental changes impact of the units of economic it with a view to the comparison between economic units by the aim of the comparison between economic units between economic units with each and liability arising from its activities.
2. Factors related to the information: affected by the degree of disclosure in financial reporting the information that is disclosed and the availability of a number of attributes to judge the efficiency of the most important of these qualities are:
  - A. Be the information appropriate decisions which will be taking most of the beneficiaries of them. By.
  - B. To be confident in this information when you take advantage of them.
  - C. The possibility to verify or to check and comparison in this respect raised panel accounting standards of America, but the information contained financial reporting is not only tool like any tool Not like any tool ends utility when finished the benefit of it
3. Factors related to the unit economic: this group of factors Associated with the unit economic, such as the size of the unit the nature of the activity practiced. The effect that leave it on the environment. Types of products produced by.

The number of shareholders, to the other factors. Finally, we say that disclosure of information resulting in environmental activities unit of economic and increased. In recent times despite the instability it concept resistance faced by the owners of companies However, the overall impression is a need for attention to this side and formulas specific her and the accountant that contribute to the because this data affect the activity unit economic.

**TRENDS AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF ENVIRONMENT**

Found by studies in this particular that there are three trends and disclosure for data implications for the activities of environmental the unit is.

1. The first trend or direction: separate reports and financial reports, environmental, "how to chapter":
2. Does this trend on the basis of separation between financial information, information and environmental as to their respective achieve goals for different therefore must disclose environmental information in a separate report for financial reports can tab images which represent this trend in the three groups are:

**A. DESCRIPTIVE REPORTS**

This type of report is the simplest and easiest to enumerate. It includes a descriptive account of the activities carried out by the economic unit. This kind of report is based on the following:

1. This type of report is of limited interest.
2. Difficulty tracking the internal performance of the unit.
3. It cannot be used to make comparisons between different units.

**B. REPORTS THAT REVEAL ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE A BEARING ON SOCIETY**

This group discloses activities affecting the community and there are several suggested models for this type of report, such as the Estes model. The pioneers of this trend believe that such reports should be prepared periodically and in line with the financial statements prepared by the economic unit, which they need to demonstrate how well the unit is responsible for the environment and society.

This set of reports is characterized by the following:

1. The possibility of determining the total cost of environmental impact.
2. The possibility of making comparisons between units that operate in the same economic activity and for the same period.

#### C. REPORTS THAT DISCLOSE ONLY ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS

This collection of more analytical reports from its predecessor reflects environmental activities that include environmental costs only. This set of reports is characterized by the following:

1. This collection provides a complete picture of environmental activities.
2. The possibility of determining net surplus or environmental deficit as a result of comparing the total costs incurred by the community with those activities and the benefits achieved by the unit to society as a result of the activities of the unit.

#### DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND INFORMATION ARISING FROM ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES IN ONE REPORT "METHOD OF INTEGRATION"

This trend is based on the disclosure of financial and environmental information in a single report so that environmental impact information becomes part of the financial information and represents the model proposed by Dr. Mohamed Mahmoud Abdel Meguid, the financial and social profit and loss account, and the social financial status list are one of the models in this direction (Abdel Majid, 1986: 97-98).

This type of report is characterized by the following:

1. The possibility of disclosing information on economic activities and environmental activities in a single list, thus providing a greater scope for comparison between these activities and thus evaluating the performance of the unit properly.
2. This trend helps to integrate financial information and environmental information without the need to make a fundamental adjustment to the traditional accounting system as the environmental activities of the unit affect economic activities and therefore should be reflected in the financial statements.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE ONLY

See the Pioneers of this trend the need to disclose information responsibility for the environment within lists a private went better to the third-party requested by only because the disclosure by the financial statements may generate pressure great on economic unity, which may make it interested in these aspects at the expense of economic aspects of the other this, which may not contribute in the development of resources economic unity. From defects this trend the chances to maximize the profit is no longer ultimate goal who seeks to economic unity at the expense of responsibilities to the community and damage that let go to the environment or employees or on the community in general. Finally, says the disclosure of information various environmental and any image was useful in the following (Bedouin, 2000: 150).

1. To improve the production processes.
2. The negotiation and resolve conflicts with institutions.
3. Effect on the makers decisions.
4. Re-evaluated strategy accounting management practices.

#### PROBLEMS OF DISCLOSURE OF ACCOUNTING INFORMATION RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT

The disclosure process is accompanied by some problems that affect in some way the behavior of the decision makers. These problems can be divided into the following:

##### PROBLEMS RELATED TO INFORMATION DISCLOSED

Reports and financial statements are the main tool for transferring and informing beneficiaries of the information provided by the accountant to assess performance and make decisions and to identify the ability of the unit to achieve its objectives and to meet the needs of these parties for information requires the following:

- A. That such information is appropriate.
- B. Be understood by the beneficiaries.

Given the different objectives and needs of each of the Parties, it is normal for the data to be different for each of them. Some have divided these parties into the following:

##### • INTERNAL PARTIES

These parties are as follows:

- A. Administration.
- B. Employees.

##### • EXTERNAL PARTIES

- A. Share Holders.
- B. Customers.
- C. Investors.
- D. Trade unions.
- E. Government agencies.
- F. Society.

From the foregoing, it is clear that all parties need information and to meet these needs.

The information needs of different agencies require that these data be understood.

Accurate and comprehensive of the activities of the Unit. Some believe that these data should cover the following aspects: (N-A-A, 1974: 40-41)

1. Human resources activities.
2. Activities related to natural resources and environmental contributions.
3. Product-specific activities.
4. Community activities.

#### Problems related to disclosure criteria for environmental liability information

There is no agreement among writers on reliable accounting standards when accounting for the effects of the economic activities of the economic unit

Most attempts were made to provide a sound basis for the provision of data and information

(A-A-1976: 49) The American Association of Accountants considers these criteria as follows:

- A. BASIC CRITERIA:
  1. Appropriate.
  2. Distance from bias.
  3. Understandability.
- B. SECONDARY STANDARDS:
  1. Proper timing.
  2. Viability.
  3. Independent exchange.
  4. Perfect.
  5. Comparability.
  6. Briefness.

**C. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

1. Significance of data.
2. Centralization.
3. Be careful.
4. Acceptance.
5. Right of Objection.
6. Stability.
7. Quantification.
8. Cash measurement.
9. Permanent examination.
10. Ability to evaluate.

**CONCLUSIONS**

1. Intellectual and practical contributions to environmental accounting and risk management are still few compared to the magnitude of the challenge and the impacts associated with environmental pollution.
2. The behavior of the decision-maker with the threats to workers, economic unity and society is one of the important factors for the success of economic unity and its role in protecting the environment.
3. The increase in the number of people working in the economic unit of a particular group of diseases is indicative of high pollution levels.
4. The weak participation of economic units in the protection of the environment in terms of their financial capabilities and administrative expertise owned by these units. This is due to weak supervision on the one hand and the absence of laws and regulations that regulate the work of the units on the other hand.
5. The separation between the economic activities of the unit and environmental activities and their disclosure leads to the improvement of decisions taken by the Department.
6. The existence of an environmental accounting system that helps to provide the management and regulatory bodies with reports and information indicating the extent of damages and environmental contributions to the economic unit and identifying weaknesses in environmental performance.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Protecting and developing the assets of the unit in a manner consistent with the requirements of preserving the environment, workers and society.
2. Develop decision-making, planning and prioritization through a comprehensive and systematic understanding of the Unit's activities.
3. Issuing laws, regulations and instructions that oblige economic units to comply with international standards related to the protection of the environment and society from pollution.
4. The Department seeks to prevent the danger caused by the activities of the economic unit and to take measures to reduce them in order to comply with the international requirements for the protection of the environment and society.
5. Teaching risk management and modern trends within the curriculum of postgraduate studies in the departments of administration and accounting

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