



EXAMINATION OF SUSTAINABLE BANKING PERFORMANCE OF THE INDIAN BANKING SECTOR

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Abstract

Sustainable banking performance is essential for developing ESG sustainability. This study examines how Indian banks are implementing sustainable banking practices. Analysing the sustainability reports, corporate social responsibility reports, business responsibility reports, and annual reports from fiscal years 2016-17 to 2023-24, we assessed the banks' performance against sustainability indicators identified from existing literature. This research is one of the first to explore the extent of sustainable banking performance among commercial banks in India. The findings indicate that Indian banks have slowly adopted sustainable banking practices. Prioritised sustainability issues for these banks are mainly linked to their core business operations, such as financial inclusion, financial literacy, and energy-efficient technology. However, most banks have largely neglected environmental sustainability indicators. The study also reveals a notable disparity between public and private sector banks in their approach to sustainable banking, with private sector banks generally performing better.

This research aims to provide valuable insights for the banking sector and its stakeholders, highlighting the current limitations in implementing sustainable banking practices in India. By understanding these challenges, stakeholders can work towards more effective strategies and policies to promote sustainability in the banking industry.

Keywords: ESG, Sustainable banking performance, CSR, sustainability etc.

Introduction

In the contemporary financial landscape, sustainable banking has gained significant traction, driven by the increasing recognition of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors as critical components of financial performance and risk management. As stakeholders—from investors to customers—demand greater accountability and ethical conduct, banks must integrate sustainability into their core operations and business strategies. This article delves into the comparative analysis of banks' sustainability practices, evaluating their efforts across various ESG indicators. This article systematically assesses public and private sector banks based on their performance in key sustainability domains. By employing a detailed evaluation framework, this

analysis highlights the strengths and weaknesses of individual banks, providing a comprehensive overview of their commitment to sustainable banking. Through this rigorous evaluation, the article aims to identify the leaders and laggards in sustainable banking, offering insights into best practices and areas for improvement. The performance reflects sustainable banking practices' current state and is a benchmark for future progress. By highlighting exemplary performance and pinpointing gaps, this analysis encourages all banks to enhance their sustainability efforts, aligning their operations with global sustainability goals and stakeholder expectations. In the article, we will present a detailed comparative analysis of banks, discussing the methodology used for ranking, the scores achieved by each Bank, and the implications of these findings.

Literature Review

Sustainability involves ensuring long-term business success while contributing to economic and social development, maintaining a healthy environment, and fostering a stable society. In the economic system, banks play a crucial role as intermediaries between borrowers and lenders. They are the most significant intermediaries, focusing on coordinating savings and investments. As financial intermediaries, banks have four primary functions: transforming money in terms of size, duration, place and time, and risk. Lending credit is one of the key activities of banks, and it carries significant environmental risks. Although these risks often do not receive adequate attention, various methods are available to assess the environmental risks associated with businesses. This article helps in understanding the importance of achieving sustainability in banking by incorporating all types of risks, including financial and environmental ones. Bouma et al. (2001) assert that sustainability secures long-term business success while fostering economic and social development, a healthy environment, and a stable society. Within an economic framework, banks serve as crucial intermediaries between borrowers and lenders. They play a pivotal role by coordinating savings and investments. Banks perform four key functions as financial intermediaries: transforming money in terms of size, duration, place or time, and risk. Lending credit is a major activity of banks, which involves significant environmental risks. Despite often being overlooked, various methods exist to assess the environmental risks of businesses. This article aids in understanding the diverse roles banks play as intermediaries. Jeucken and Klinkers argue that every bank should adopt a sustainable banking policy, as customers, lobbyists, politicians, and shareholders would otherwise question its absence. Leading banks have robust sustainability programs, but even smaller banks in developing economies can make a difference with modest initiatives. For a bank to thrive commercially, it should adopt a holistic approach that benefits consumers, the economy, society, and the environment. Banks operate within complex human, social, and environmental ecosystems, making it in their self-interest to maintain these systems. Sustainable banking aligns self-interest with altruism, proving they are not mutually exclusive. The best way for bankers to promote their interests is by acting in the best interests of their customers and stakeholders. This paper primarily aims to highlight the challenges faced by sustainable banking, which involves integrating consumer, supplier, and shareholder demands while minimizing the impact on the world's resources. It also outlines a strategic approach to seizing opportunities and realizing benefits as the strategy progresses. This article underscores the challenges banks face in achieving sustainable banking by aligning customer interests with self-interest and altruism. Winters (2015) emphasizes that sustainability is a priority and commits to promoting economic and social development in the markets served, adhering to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles on human rights, labour standards, environment, and anti-corruption. SWED Bank (2016) aims to foster a sustainable economy by enhancing the long-term

competitiveness of banks and customers, avoiding significant credit impairments and operating losses, focusing on long-term profitability, building lasting relationships with customers and employees, and maintaining strong balance sheets. The bank also aims to support open, stable, and honest markets. Care (2018) stresses the importance of developing innovative sustainable products and services that ensure environmentally friendly business activities and promote sustainable development. The negative environmental impact of clients' activities affects banks' returns, asset quality, and other aspects, thus banks should proactively consider ecological factors in their financing and lending. Zoëlle van Bommel (2024) explores sustainable finance within financial institutions, particularly banks, and examines its impact on their economic performance. Using a systematic literature review methodology, 44 articles were analysed to highlight the importance of ESG factors in financial decision-making and their effect on the economic performance of banks. This research provides insights into balancing sustainability and profitability, the advantages and disadvantages of ESG factors, and alternative methods, contributing to a deeper understanding of sustainable finance.

Purpose of the study

The primary objective of this study is to examine the sustainable banking performance of public and private sector banks in India. In addition, the study attempts to answer the following research questions;

- Which public sector bank is the top performer, and what is the score difference between the top and lowest performers?
- Which private sector bank is the top performer, and what is the score difference between the top and lowest performers?

Methodology and data collection

The study examines public sector banks (PSBs) and private sector banks operating in India. It reviews sustainability reports, business responsibility reports, corporate social responsibility reports, and annual reports from these banks for the financial years 2017–18 to 2022-23. Using content analysis, key indicators from these reports were analysed. The banking sector was chosen for this study due to the critical role that sustainability integration plays in ensuring sustainable growth within any country (Jeucken 2001; Achua 2008). Although numerous studies have addressed nonfinancial reporting in developed and developing economies across various sectors, there is a lack of research on the sustainability disclosure practices of banks in developing economies (Khan et al. 2009; Jain et al. 2015). Environmental and social performance disclosure practices within the Indian banking sector are particularly understudied (Kumar & Prakash 2017). This study offers insights into the sustainable banking performance of banks in India, contributing to the literature on sustainable performance in the Indian context and potentially accelerating progress in the sector.

Analysis and findings

This section shows the results of a sustainable banking performance for India's thirty-three PSBs and private sector banks.

Table 1: Performance score of public sector banks.

Name of the Bank	Environment sustainability indicators	Social sustainability indicators	Governance sustainability indicators	Generic Financial sustainability indicators	Sustainable product & service development (SPSD) indicators	Sustainability code of ethics, reporting, ESG indicators	Score (out of 420)	Percentage
Bank of Baroda	27	19	8	6	12	6	78.00	18.57
Bank of India	31	44	6	6	6	6	99.00	23.57
Bank of Maharashtra	19	13	5	6	18	6	67.00	15.95
Canara Bank	41	28	18	6	12	7	112.00	26.67
Central Bank of India	11	18	10	6	12	6	63.00	15.00
Indian Bank	22	30	18	6	13	7	96.00	22.86
Indian Overseas Bank	18	28	23	9	12	6	96.00	22.86
Punjab And Sindh Bank	20	24	18	6	12	3	83.00	19.76
Punjab National Bank	32	46	23	16	17	6	140.00	33.33
State Bank of India	48	77	42	24	72	24	287.00	68.33
Uco Bank	26	31	27	6	12	12	114.00	27.14
Union Bank	32	35	27	6	15	9	124.00	29.52

Source: Secondary data analysis.

Table 1 evaluates various sustainability indicators for selecting banks. The indicators are grouped into categories: environmental sustainability, social sustainability, governance sustainability, generic financial sustainability, sustainable product and service development (SPSD), and sustainability code of ethics reporting ESG indicators. Each Bank is scored on these factors, with a total score calculated out of 420 and a corresponding percentage. Bank of Baroda achieved a total score of 78, corresponding to 18.57%. It scored highest in the environmental sustainability indicator with 27 points, followed by 19 points in social sustainability. Other categories had lower scores, with governance at 8, financial sustainability at 6, SPSSD at 12, and ethics reporting at 6. Bank of India scored 99 points (23.57%), excelling particularly in social sustainability with 44 points. Environmental sustainability was also a vital area with 31 points. The Bank's scores in other categories were relatively modest, with governance at 6, financial sustainability at 6, SPSSD at 6, and ethics reporting at 6. Bank of Maharashtra had a total score of 67, translating to 15.95%. This Bank's highest score was in SPSSD with 18 points, followed by 19 points in environmental sustainability and 13 in social sustainability. The other scores were governance at 5, financial sustainability at 6, and ethics reporting at 6. Canara Bank achieved a higher total score of 112 (26.67%). It performed best in environmental sustainability with 41 points and governance with 18 points. Social sustainability scored 28, financial sustainability 6, SPSSD 12, and ethics reporting 7. Central Bank of India had a total score of 63 (15.00%). Its environmental sustainability indicators were 11, social sustainability 18, governance 10, financial sustainability 6, SPSSD 12, and ethics reporting 6. Indian Bank scored 96 points (22.86%), with its highest scores in governance and social sustainability, at 18 and 30 points, respectively. Environmental sustainability had 22 points, financial sustainability 6, SPSSD 13, and ethics reporting 7. Indian Overseas Bank also scored 96 points (22.86%). Its governance indicator was notably high at 23 points, social sustainability 28, environmental sustainability 18, financial sustainability 9, SPSSD 12, and ethics reporting 6. Punjab And Sindh Bank scored 83 (19.76%). Its social and governance indicators were significant, with 24 and 18 points respectively. Environmental sustainability was 20, financial sustainability 6, SPSSD 12, and ethics reporting 3. Punjab National Bank excelled with a score of 140 (33.33%), the highest among these banks. It had a solid performance in social sustainability with 46 points and governance with 23 points. Environmental sustainability scored 32, financial sustainability 16, SPSSD 17, and ethics reporting 6. State Bank of India scored exceptionally high with 287 points (68.33%). It led in environmental sustainability with 48 points, social sustainability with 77, governance with 42, financial sustainability with 24, SPSSD with 72, and ethics reporting with 24. Uco Bank scored 114 points (27.14%), performing well in social sustainability with 31 points and governance with 27 points. Environmental sustainability was 26, financial sustainability 6, SPSSD 12, and ethics reporting 12. Union Bank achieved 124 points (29.52%), with governance and social sustainability scoring 27 and 35 points, respectively. Environmental sustainability was 32, financial sustainability 6, SPSSD 15, and ethics reporting 9. This analysis provides a comprehensive view of the sustainability performance of these private sector banks, highlighting their strengths and areas needing improvement across multiple sustainability dimensions.

2 Factor-wise performance score of private sector banks in India.

Table 2: Performance score of private sector banks.

Name of the Bank	Environment sustainability indicators	Social sustainability indicators	Governance sustainability indicators	Generic Financial sustainability indicators	Sustainable product & service development (SPSD) indicators	Sustainability code of ethics, reporting, ESG indicators	Score (out of 420)	Percentage
Axis Bank	43	72	30	17	91	14	267.00	63.57
Bandhan Bank	37	48	13	12	29	8	147.00	35.00
Csb Bank	42	26	14	11	11	3	107.00	25.48
City Union Bank	16	17	6	6	4	3	52.00	12.38
Dcb Bank	40	19	7	12	23	6	107.00	25.48
Dhanlaxmi Bank	28	28	15	11	18	6	106.00	25.24
Federal Bank	42	34	13	11	23	4	127.00	30.24
Hdfc Bank	46	39	28	24	33	7	177.00	42.14
Icici Bank	42	46	23	16	18	5	150.00	35.71
IDBI Bank	23	14	4	5	3	1	50.00	11.90
Idfc First Bank	34	29	25	8	11	8	115.00	27.38
IndusInd Bank	40	39	31	10	13	5	138.00	32.86

Jammu And Kashmir Bank	38	26	27	10	11	10	122.00	29.05
Karnataka Bank	35	25	25	9	10	5	109.00	25.95
Karur Vysya Bank	38	27	25	10	10	5	115.00	27.38
Kotak Mahindra Bank	47	33	22	12	18	6	138.00	32.86
Nainital Bank	31	20	7	9	6	0	73.00	17.38
Rbl Bank	40	25	28	10	15	10	128.00	30.48
South Indian Bank	39	25	29	10	10	7	120.00	28.57
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	36	25	9	10	7	0	87.00	20.71
Yes Bank	65	87	42	30	38	41	303.00	72.14

Source: Secondary data analysis.

Table 2 provides a detailed assessment of various sustainability indicators for multiple private-sector banks. Each Bank is evaluated across six key categories: environmental sustainability, social sustainability, governance sustainability, generic financial sustainability, sustainable product and service development (SPSD), and sustainability code of ethics reporting ESG indicators. The scores for each category are aggregated to determine an overall performance score, which is then converted into a percentage out of 420 possible points. Axis Bank leads the evaluation with a score of 267, translating to 63.57%. This Bank excels particularly in SPSD, scoring 91 points, and social sustainability with 72 points. Environmental sustainability also shows strong performance at 43 points, while governance indicators score 30, financial sustainability 17, and ethics reporting 14. Bandhan Bank has a total score 147, which corresponds to 35.00%. The highest scores for this Bank are in social sustainability (48 points) and environmental sustainability (37 points). Other indicators include a governance score of 13, financial sustainability of 12, SPSD 29, and ethics reporting of 8. CSB Bank scores 107 points, equating to 25.48%. It performs best in environmental sustainability with 42 points and social sustainability with 26 points. Governance scores 14, financial sustainability 11, SPSD 11, and ethics reporting 3. City Union Bank has a total score of 52, or 12.38%. This Bank’s highest scores are social sustainability (17 points) and environmental sustainability (16 points). Governance and financial sustainability score 6, SPSD 4, and ethics reporting 3. DCB Bank also scores 107 points (25.48%). Its strengths lie in environmental sustainability (40 points) and social sustainability (19 points). Governance scores 7, financial sustainability 12, SPSD 23, and ethics reporting 6. Dhanlaxmi Bank achieves a score of 106, or

25.24%. It has balanced scores across categories, with 28 points each in environmental and social sustainability. Governance scores 15, financial sustainability 11, SPSD 18, and ethics reporting 6. Federal Bank scores 127 points, which is 30.24%. It shows strong performance in environmental sustainability (42 points) and social sustainability (34 points). Other scores are 13 in governance, 11 in financial sustainability, 23 in SPSD, and 4 in ethics reporting. HDFC Bank has a notable score of 177, or 42.14%. It excels in environmental sustainability (46 points) and social sustainability (39 points). Governance scores 28, financial sustainability 24, SPSD 33, and ethics reporting 7. ICICI Bank scores 150 points (35.71%). This Bank performs well in social sustainability (46 points) and environmental sustainability (42 points). Governance scores 23, financial sustainability 16, SPSD 18, and ethics reporting 5. IDBI Bank has a lower total score of 50, or 11.90%. Its highest score is in environmental sustainability (23 points), with other scores being relatively low: 14 in social sustainability, 4 in governance, 5 in financial sustainability, 3 in SPSD, and 1 in ethics reporting. IDFC First Bank scores 115 points, translating to 27.38%. It shows balanced performance across categories, with 34 points in environmental sustainability, 29 in social sustainability, 25 in governance, 8 in financial sustainability, 11 in SPSD, and 8 in ethics reporting. IndusInd Bank achieves a score of 138, or 32.86%. It performs well in environmental sustainability (40 points) and social sustainability (39 points). Governance scores 31, financial sustainability 10, SPSD 13, and ethics reporting 5. Jammu and Kashmir Bank scores 122 points (29.05%). It performs well in environmental sustainability (38 points) and governance (27 points). Social sustainability scores 26, financial sustainability 10, SPSD 11, and ethics reporting 10. Karnataka Bank has a score of 109, translating to 25.95%. It performs well in environmental sustainability (35 points) and governance (25 points). Social sustainability scores 25, financial sustainability 9, SPSD 10, and ethics reporting 5. Karur Vysya Bank scores 115 points (27.38%). It performs well in environmental sustainability (38 points) and governance (25 points). Social sustainability scores 27, financial sustainability 10, SPSD 10, and ethics reporting 5. Kotak Mahindra Bank scores 138 points (32.86%). It excels in environmental sustainability (47 points) and social sustainability (33 points). Governance scores 22, financial sustainability 12, SPSD 18, and ethics reporting 6. Nainital Bank has a total score of 73, or 17.38%. It scores highest in environmental sustainability (31 points) and social sustainability (20 points). Other scores are 7 in governance, 9 in financial sustainability, 6 in SPSD, and 0 in ethics reporting. RBL Bank scores 128 points, corresponding to 30.48%. It performs well in environmental sustainability (40 points) and governance (28 points). Social sustainability scores 25, financial sustainability 10, SPSD 15, and ethics reporting 10. South Indian Bank scores 120 points (28.57%). It performs well in environmental sustainability (39 points) and governance (29 points). Social sustainability scores 25, financial sustainability 10, SPSD 10, and ethics reporting 7. Tamilnad Mercantile Bank scores 87, or 20.71%. It scores highest in environmental sustainability (36 points) and social sustainability (25 points). Other scores are 9 in governance, 10 in financial sustainability, 7 in SPSD, and 0 in ethics reporting. Yes Bank leads the evaluation with a high score of 303, or 72.14%. It performs exceptionally well across all categories, with 65 points in environmental sustainability, 87 in social sustainability, 42 in governance, 30 in financial sustainability, 38 in SPSD, and 41 in ethics reporting. This comprehensive analysis highlights the performance of various private sector banks in India across multiple sustainability dimensions, revealing their strengths and areas for improvement.

Overall performance of banks in India

Table 3: Overall performance of PSB banks.

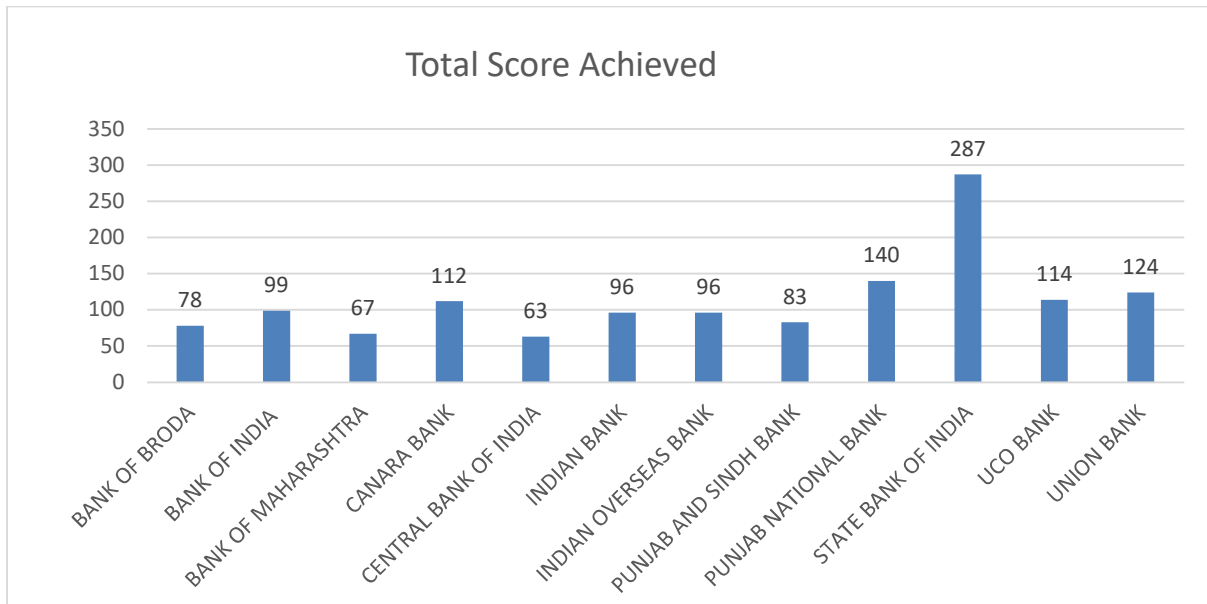
S. No	Name of Public Sector Bank	Total Score Achieved
1	Bank of Broda	78
2	Bank of India	99
3	Bank of Maharashtra	67
4	Canara Bank	112
5	Central Bank of India	63
6	Indian Bank	96
7	Indian Overseas Bank	96
8	Punjab and Sindh Bank	83
9	Punjab National Bank	140
10	State Bank of India	287
11	Uco Bank	114
12	Union Bank	124

Source: Secondary data analysis.

Table 3 provides a comprehensive evaluation of public sector banks in India based on their total scores achieved. This assessment ranks the banks according to their overall performance, with the scores reflecting various performance indicators. Bank of Baroda scored 78 points, placing it among the lower-ranked banks in this evaluation. Its performance suggests room for improvement in various sustainability and operational metrics. Bank of India scored 99, indicating a more robust performance than Bank of Baroda and several other banks. This score places the Bank of India in the middle range of the evaluated banks. Bank of Maharashtra has a total score of 67, making it one of the lower-performing banks in this assessment. The Bank’s score highlights significant areas where enhancements are needed. Canara Bank scored 112 points, showcasing a relatively strong performance among the public sector banks. Its higher score reflects better performance in the evaluated indicators. Central Bank of India scored 63, placing it among the lower performers. This score suggests that the Bank needs to improve its performance across various metrics. Indian Bank and Indian Overseas Bank scored 96 points, indicating similar performance levels. These banks are positioned in the mid-range of the overall performance assessment, showing consistent results across the evaluated factors. Punjab and Sindh Bank scored 83 points, which places it in the lower-middle range among the public sector banks. This score indicates moderate performance

with potential for improvements. Punjab National Bank achieved a significant score of 140, making it one of the higher-performing banks in this evaluation. Its performance indicates vital operational and sustainability metrics. State Bank of India stands out with an exceptional score of 287, surpassing all other banks in this assessment. This high score underscores its leadership position and excellent performance across various indicators. UCO Bank scored 114 points, reflecting a solid performance and positioning it among the better-performing banks in this evaluation. Union Bank scored 124, placing it in the upper-middle range. This score indicates a robust performance across the evaluated metrics.

Figure 1: Overall performance of PSB banks.



Source: Secondary data analysis.

Figure 1 visually represents these scores, showing the comparative performance of each Bank. State Bank of India is the leader with its outstanding score, followed by Punjab National Bank and Union Bank. On the other hand, banks like the Central Bank of India and Bank of Maharashtra are shown to have lower scores, highlighting areas for potential growth and improvement. Together, these visual and tabular data provide a clear overview of the performance landscape of public sector banks in India.

Table 4: Overall performance of Private sector banks.

S. No	Name of Public Sector Bank	Total Score Achieved
1	Axis Bank	267
2	Bandhan Bank	147
3	Csb Bank	107

4	City Union Bank	52
5	Dcb Bank	107
6	Dhanlaxmi Bank	106
7	Federal Bank	127
8	Hdfc Bank	177
9	Icici Bank	150
10	IDBI Bank	50
11	Idfc First Bank	115
12	IndusInd Bank	138
13	Jammu And Kashmir Bank	122
14	Karnataka Bank	109
15	Karur Vysya Bank	115
16	Kotak Mahindra Bank	138
17	Nainital Bank	73
18	Rbl Bank	128
19	South Indian Bank	120
20	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	87
21	Yes Bank	303

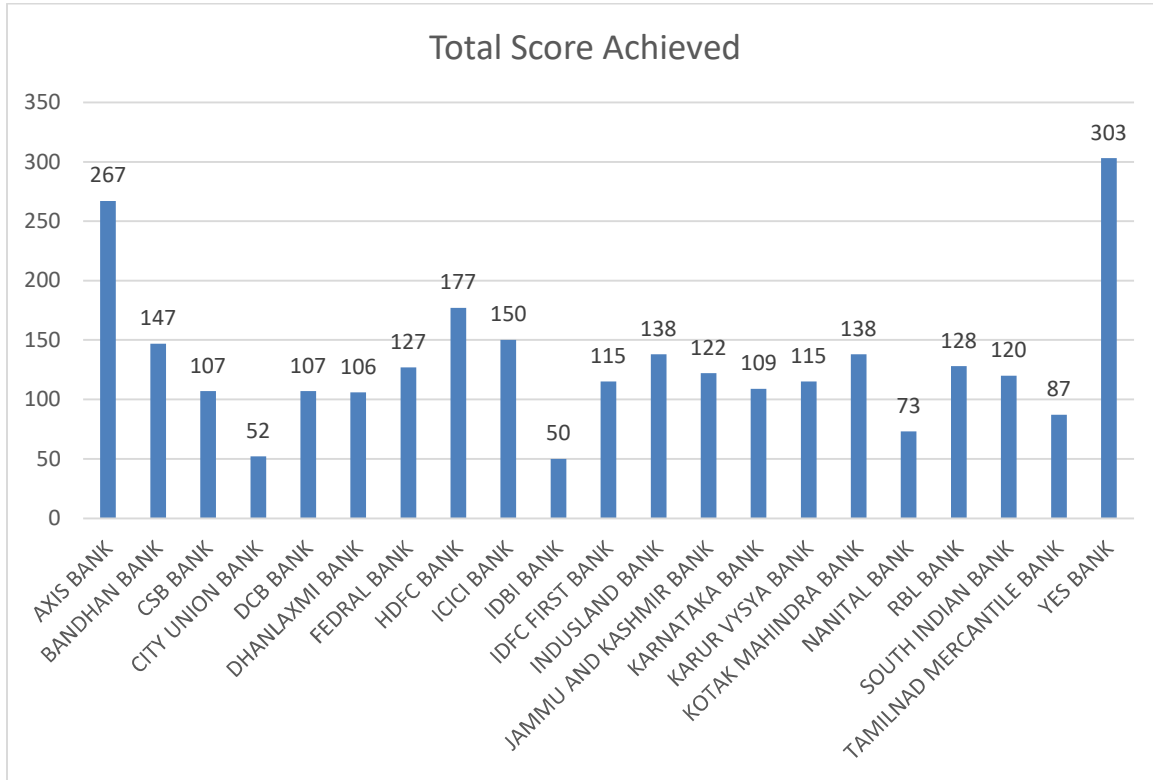
Source: Secondary data analysis.

Table 3 provides a detailed evaluation of various private-sector banks in India based on their total scores. This evaluation ranks the banks according to their overall performance, with the scores reflecting a comprehensive assessment across different performance metrics. Axis Bank is one of the top performers, achieving a total score of 267. This high score indicates operational solid and sustainability performance across multiple indicators, positioning Axis Bank as a leading private sector banking industry player. Yes Bank leads the evaluation with the highest score of 303, showcasing exceptional performance in various assessed categories. This score signifies Yes Bank’s outstanding capabilities and effectiveness in managing its operations and sustainability initiatives. Bandhan Bank scored 147, placing it in the mid-to-upper range among the private sector banks. This score reflects Bandhan Bank’s solid performance in multiple areas, highlighting its strengths and effectiveness in the banking sector. CSB Bank and DCB Bank both achieved a score of 107, indicating similar performance levels. These banks are positioned in the mid-range of the evaluation, demonstrating consistent results across the evaluated factors. City Union Bank has a total score of 52, making it one of the lower-performing banks in this assessment.

The score suggests significant room for improvement in various performance and sustainability metrics. Dhanlaxmi Bank scored 106 points, placing it close to CSB Bank and DCB Bank. This score indicates a balanced performance with potential areas for enhancement to reach higher ranks. Federal Bank scored 127, reflecting a solid performance and positioning it among the better-performing banks in this evaluation. This score showcases Federal Bank's competence in effectively managing its operations and sustainability efforts. HDFC Bank has a notable score of 177, positioning it as a strong private-sector banking industry performer. This score highlights HDFC Bank's robust operational capabilities and sustainability performance. ICICI Bank scored 150 points, indicating a solid performance among private sector banks. This score underscores ICICI Bank's effective management and operational efficiency across various indicators.

IDBI Bank has a lower total score of 50, making it one of the banks with significant room for improvement in this assessment. The score suggests areas IDBI Bank needs to focus on to enhance its overall performance. IDFC First Bank and Karur Vysya Bank scored 115 points, indicating similar performance levels. These banks are positioned in the mid-range, showcasing consistent results across the evaluated metrics. IndusInd Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank each scored 138, placing them among the stronger performers in this assessment. These scores reflect their effective management and strong operational performance. Jammu and Kashmir Bank scored 122 points, positioning it in the upper-middle range. This score indicates the Bank's solid performance and effective operations management. Karnataka Bank achieved a score of 109, placing it in the mid-range. This score reflects Karnataka Bank's balanced performance across various indicators. Nainital Bank scored 73 points, positioning it towards the lower end of the performance spectrum. This score suggests significant areas for improvement to enhance its overall performance. RBL Bank scored 128, reflecting a solid performance among private sector banks. This score highlights RBL Bank's operational capabilities and sustainability efforts. South Indian Bank scored 120 points, placing it in the upper-middle range. This score indicates the Bank's effective management and solid performance across various indicators. Tamilnad Mercantile Bank scored 87 points, positioning it in the lower-middle range of the performance spectrum. This score suggests areas for improvement to enhance its overall performance. The accompanying graph visually represents these scores, showing the comparative performance of each Bank. Yes Bank stands out as the leader with its exceptional score, followed by Axis Bank and HDFC Bank. Banks like IDBI Bank and City Union Bank, on the other hand, are shown to have lower scores, highlighting areas for potential growth and improvement.

Figure 2: Overall performance of Private sector banks.



Source: Secondary data analysis.

Figure 2 visually represents these scores, showing the comparative performance of each Bank. Yes Bank stands out as the leader with its exceptional score, followed by Axis Bank and HDFC Bank. Banks like IDBI Bank and City Union Bank, on the other hand, are shown to have lower scores, highlighting areas for potential growth and improvement. These visual and tabular data provide a clear overview of the performance landscape of private sector banks in India.

Conclusion

The comprehensive evaluation of public and private sector banks in India, based on various sustainability and performance indicators, reveals significant insights into their respective standings and commitment to sustainable practices. The analysis underscores the leadership of State Bank of India and Yes Bank within their respective sectors, with Yes Bank achieving the highest overall score of 303, followed closely by State Bank of India with a score of 287. Other notable performers in the public sector include Punjab National Bank and Union Bank, both demonstrating substantial sustainability efforts, albeit at lower scores compared to the sector leaders. In the private sector, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank emerge as strong performers; Bandhan Bank, IndusInd Bank, and Kotak Mahindra Bank also show significant

commitment to sustainability, further indicating the private sector's overall more robust adoption of sustainable practices compared to the public sector. However, many banks in both sectors indicate the need for enhanced focus on sustainability. Public sector banks like Canara Bank, Bank of India, and Indian Bank, despite their relatively high scores, still fall short in comprehensive sustainability adoption.

Similarly, private sector banks such as RBL Bank, Federal Bank, and Jammu and Kashmir Bank, among others, demonstrate moderate to low sustainability efforts, reflecting potential areas for improvement. The average scores reveal that private sector banks, with an average score of 130.38, generally outperform public sector banks, with an average score of 113.25 regarding sustainability adoption. This disparity suggests that private sector banks have made more significant strides in integrating sustainable practices into their operations.

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