

Sustainable Digital Transformation: Corporate Responsibility for Equitable Development

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Abstract: The accelerating pace of digital transformation has redefined the global economic and social order, creating vast opportunities for innovation while simultaneously raising challenges of inequality, ethical governance, and environmental impact. This paper explores the nexus between sustainable digital transformation and corporate responsibility for equitable development, with a focus on the Indian context. It examines how corporations, as key drivers of digitalization, can integrate sustainability principles—environmental protection, social inclusion, and ethical governance—into their digital strategies. The study analyzes existing international and Indian legal frameworks, including CSR, ESG, and data protection laws, alongside the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to assess their adequacy in promoting responsible digital growth. Through a doctrinal and analytical approach, the paper identifies regulatory gaps, corporate challenges, and best global practices from the EU, the US, and emerging economies. It further proposes a set of implementable legal and policy reforms aimed at embedding digital ethics, environmental accountability, and equitable access into India's corporate ecosystem. The findings emphasize that a rights-based, inclusive, and sustainability-driven approach to digital transformation is essential for achieving long-term social justice and ecological balance in the digital era.

Keywords: Sustainable Digital Transformation, Corporate Social Responsibility, Digital Ethics, Data Protection, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)

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