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# Integration of ESG and Social Impact in Modern Business Ethics: A TOPSIS Approach to Framework Evaluation

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**Abstract:** This study uses the technique of disciplinary prioritization using the best solution (TOPSIS) method to assess various dimensions of business ethics across organizational structures. The research analyzes five key areas of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Corporate Governance, Social Impact, Corporate Citizenship and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria against four essential parameters. Leadership and Ethical Culture, Mechanisms for Reporting and Accountability, Corporate Social Responsibility, and Third-party Audits and Certifications. The analysis reveals that ESG Criteria emerged as the most effective framework with the highest Ci score of 0.6015, followed closely by Social Impact (0.5982). Corporate Governance ranked third (0.5092), while CSR and Corporate Citizenship placed fourth (0.4962) and fifth (0.4590) respectively. The study employed normalized data analysis and equal weightage distribution (0.25) across all criteria to ensure unbiased evaluation. Notable findings include Social Impact's strong performance in Leadership and Ethical Culture (0.5900) and Third Party Audits (0.5573), demonstrating consistent ethical standards across multiple dimensions. The weighted normalized decision matrix highlighted varying levels of influence across different criteria, with Social Impact and ESG Criteria showing particularly strong performance in several areas. The research contributes to the understanding of modern business ethics implementation by providing a quantitative framework for evaluating ethical practices. The findings suggest that organizations should prioritize integrated approaches to business ethics, particularly emphasizing ESG criteria and social impact measurements. This study offers valuable insights for business leaders and policymakers in developing comprehensive ethical frameworks that align with contemporary stakeholder expectations and sustainability requirements.

**Keywords:** Business Ethics, TOPSIS Method, Corporate Social Responsibility, ESG Criteria, Social Impact, Corporate Governance, Ethical Decision-making

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Business ethics, as an academic discipline, is more diverse now than at any point since its establishment 35 years ago. This interdisciplinary character is evident in the academic literature, where philosophers collaborate with social scientists, and social scientists engage with ethical theory and political philosophy. This integration fosters scholarship that bridges disciplinary boundaries, drawing on the strengths of various fields to create a more comprehensive understanding of business ethics [1]. A brief exploration of business ethics quickly leads to Kantianism. Kant believed that because humans possess free will and can act according to reason's laws, they hold intrinsic value beyond dignity or price. He famously stated, "Always treat humanity as an end in itself, never as a means to an end." The principle that business practices should support positive liberty has broader consequences for how businesses operate. We should view profits as a natural outcome of ethical business practices, rather than the ultimate goal of business [2]. Contemporary business ethicists have employed various approaches, including virtue ethics, social contract theory, and objectivism, to explore the concept of integrity. Many organizations have implemented ethical compliance systems that highlight integrity as a core value. As a result, we can adopt

a pragmatic approach to integrity, where pragmatist ethics encourage individuals to consider the social consequences—both immediate and long-term—of their actions. In the context of a global economy where corporate leaders often demonstrate a lack of awareness or sensitivity towards stakeholders in distant regions, Flynn and Hawken suggest alternative ways of approaching this issue [3]. It is believed that religion has a positive impact on business ethics, with evidence showing this to be true for certain religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. In countries with large numbers of followers of these religions, businesses tend to implement high standards of ethical practices. In contrast, there is a negative effect for folk religions and Buddhism, suggesting that the presence of followers of these religions does not lead to more ethical business behavior. Similarly, companies operating in countries with a high proportion of individuals unaffiliated with any religion did not show a significant trend in the influence of business ethics on corporate practices [4]. There exists an objective reality of ethics that humans can come to understand and choose to adhere to at their discretion. The proper role of government, in this view, is to protect individuals from the initiation of physical force by others (including the government itself), thereby enabling them to pursue their own interests. "Positive rights," in this context, are rooted in virtues. In politics, this leads to collectivism, where individuals are not sovereign beings but exist to serve a collective (such as a party or government). Capitalism is supported in this framework because it aligns with human rationality and is the only moral system, grounded in the individual's right to their own life [5]. As globalization continues to advance, multinational corporations (MNCs) increasingly face the challenge of effectively adapting to diverse cultures. While business ethics has gained significant attention over the past two decades, the field still lacks a unified theoretical framework (Trevino & Weaver, 1993; Ethan, 1994) and standardized research methods [6]. In this context, a growing movement has emerged advocating for the extension of accountability for human rights beyond governments and states to include businesses. While efforts are made to define the characteristics of human rights, it is important to note that some business ethicists do not specify the foundational aspects of human rights (e.g., whether individuals, universal, hold them etc.). Government branches are responsible for how they treat their citizens, but there is also growing attention on how other organizations, such as businesses, and individuals within their jurisdiction impact human rights [7]. Business educators navigate a landscape where ethical guidelines are often unclear, new scandals prompt the creation of new laws, and society's evolving expectations continually reshape how we teach. For years, business professors have focused on the advantages of economic and materialistic thinking in their courses, to the point where few challenge these ideas. As financial concerns are prioritized above all else, students struggle to grasp the theory of action. Even students with strong ethical convictions can become confused, particularly when asked to reconcile their decisions with deeply held materialistic values [8]. The field of business ethics primarily revolves around two key questions: Why should one act ethically? What ethical responsibilities do individuals involved in business have? However, the focus on these questions can be both practically and theoretically confusing. Ethical stakeholder theory posits that the instrumental value of ethical business practices—meaning their effectiveness in achieving traditional business objectives—is enhanced. This insight connects to a second motivation: the business case for a global economy. In this context, established ethical standards offer clear definitions that help modern businesses understand their specific obligations within the global framework [9]. In recent years, tourism has developed into a major industry, heightening the importance of understanding business ethics. Nevertheless, the idea of 'development' does not serve as a core or unifying theme within the theories and ethics of tourism. The tourism product itself can be harmed or compromised by the pressures exerted by the industry. When developing tourism strategies, it is crucial to consider the needs of all relevant stakeholders. Tourism scholars and professionals can benefit from collaborating with the business sector, expanding their toolkit with relevant models and techniques. These interdisciplinary interactions carry both practical and ethical consequences [10]. As business organizations expand from domestic to global and transnational competition, they encounter significant cultural differences that influence business practices across national boundaries. This study compares two culturally distinct countries, the United States (US) and Brazil, to identify similarities and differences in their approaches to ethical decision-making within a business context. Whether guided by egoistic or utilitarian principles, ethics are shaped by a society's culture, including its traditions, values, and norms. Ultimately, by examining both egoism and utilitarianism, our findings support the earlier conclusions of Redenbacher and Robin (1988) [11]. Ethics pertains to the principles of right and wrong, whether at an individual or group level, and concerns what is considered 'right' or 'wrong' in business transactions. Ethical theories are generally divided into two categories: teleological and

deontological. The foresight approach considers not actions, but their effects or outcomes (e.g. Profit or loss), as determining their ethical character. Ethical philosophies focused on consequences are often referred to as consequentialist. This finding is notable because, despite differing cultural perspectives on justice, respondents from Russia and the United States applied justice criteria in similar ways when evaluating scenarios [12]. Australia, Singapore and India all operate under common law systems whose legal foundations and principles are rooted in the English system introduced during colonial times. In contrast, China's legal system, particularly in areas such as company law and corporate governance, has only recently developed. While it incorporates elements of German law and practice to some degree, it is primarily shaped by China's unique social and economic history under the Communist Party, as well as the policy changes that have occurred over the past two decades [13]. Cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin, Set Coin, Ether, Solar Coin, and Liberty Balance, have been in existence since 2009. While money is a driving force in the business world, it is more than just a means of exchange. Other payment methods, like credit and debit cards, don't always align with traditional forms of cash. Most cryptocurrencies can be purchased in exchange for traditional currencies (or other cryptocurrencies) through various online trading platforms and, in some cases, offline at ATMs. However, the use of cryptocurrencies raises significant ethical concerns, particularly in relation to activities on the dark web, shadow banking, and money laundering [14]. We aim to move away from the distinction between ethics and morality. Communal theorists like Hegel and Marx argued that individuals alone could not create a better world. For them, the process of confrontation brings the other back to the self. In this way, Hegel shifts from an endless pursuit of self-transformation to the inevitable realization of an ideal order. The primary task of business ethics today is to rediscover and revive the fundamental art of living, while avoiding confusion with the puritanical structures of bureaucracy and modernity [15]. In evaluating the ethical aspects of a decision, women tend to emphasize the interpersonal elements of the situation and the acceptance of the decision, while men adopt a more impersonal approach, detaching the moral content from the interpersonal context. Social role theory explains this by suggesting that men focus on independence, objectivity, and holistic perspectives, while women prioritize interdependence and concern for others. The practical implications of this study include offering a foundation for dialogue between women and men to address and resolve managerial dilemmas [16]. Quality management, both in practice and theory has evolved significantly over time. The emphasis on shareholder value highlights the need for organizations to function within a multi-stakeholder environment. A considerable amount of research in business ethics has been dedicated to distinguishing various types of responsibility. This work has led to a clear understanding of quality models that address the needs of different stakeholders, including customers, employees responsible for delivering products and services, and society at large [17]. Regardless of the significance of privacy, every culture maintains a private domain that is rarely discussed with others. In achievement-oriented cultures, what you accomplish defines you and enhances both competitive and individual effort. In contrast, in certain cultures, identity is shaped by birth and social position. The future of business ethics must continue to examine the connections between cultural norms and values, and their implications for individuals and organizations. This paper argues that managers need a new methodological framework to foster the development of trans-cultural competence and achieve high performance in their work [18]. The study of work within organizational research is broad and diverse, yet it can be categorized into particular areas of emphasis, such as the individuals performing the work and the nature of the tasks involved. Our exploration of business ethics and organizational studies on meaningful work reveals shared areas of interest between these two fields. However, the normative implications of managerial practices in fostering meaning and purpose in work have not been fully explored. [19]. While the EPQ represents an early transparent attempt to measure relativism and idealism, its distinction is consistent with dichotomies proposed by other scholars. Although the three-factor structure of idealism, relativism, and realism appears valid at face value, the final model is the result of post hoc changes [20]. Despite assertions from numerous individuals in both the business and academic communities, that business ethics should not or cannot be taught. On the other hand, substantial empirical evidence indicates that teaching ethics through a cognitive moral development approach can effectively lead to changes in moral reasoning. Our extensive proposal for teaching business ethics builds upon earlier suggestions and research in moral psychology and business education, which advocate for business ethics education to occur both within and beyond the formal curriculum [21]. Christianity emerged from the distinct worldview and ethical practices of Judaism. Similar to Islam, which developed later, Christianity, recognized the authority of the Hebrew Scriptures. For most of Western history, moral issues have been

closely linked to Christianity. At this stage, our discussion centers on the limitations of modernism in business ethics, specifically moral relativism and the materialistic emphasis on ethical behavior. Ethics research from a Christian perspective can provide insights that promote discipline in the workplace [22]. The diversity of ethical positions within Islam warrants a detailed inquiry into what constitutes IBE. The ethical religious ethical approach explores issues of ethical implications more fully by relying directly on divine Muslim sources. A second approach to understanding IBE is the ethical analytic perspective. In this approach, Tourane (1985) points out important controversies between traditionalists and rationalists. Presenting a general approach to al-Ghazal's ethics, we turn our attention here to his views on BE. Third, the seller must be faithful in meeting the required specifications, especially in terms of weight (for example for food products). [23]. In contrast, states are often described as "involuntary associations," meaning it is considered nearly impossible for individuals to opt out of them. Phillips and Margolis argue that there are underlying motives driving this dynamic, asserting that "there are no clear boundaries of a well-ordered society in the same way that other societies have" (1999: 623). To provide citizens with realistic opportunities to pursue good lives, a moderate liberal state might aim to ensure access to essential resources like healthcare, education, housing, and income. The voluntariness of an individual's decision to join a particular organization depends on the availability of alternative options, including substitutes. My argument is that both states and organizations share similar overarching goals, although they may pursue these goals through different means, and each type of organization has its own distinct objectives [24]. Studying business ethics, from a psychological perspective, is a cross-level endeavor (cf. Johnson and Buckley 2015). In shaping a research agenda, that bridges psychology and business ethics, this virtual special issue underscores JBE's significant contribution in addressing both areas. This highlights the importance of understanding the "inner" experience of meanings and how they are deeply relevant to the study of ethics. Additionally, it critiques the common misunderstandings of social and psychological phenomena that overlook the psychological dimensions. These studies explore broad levels of influence, within immediate relational contexts, and against the broader social framework, that shapes both individuals and their interactions [25]. In a foresighted 1987 essay, Mulligan discussed the clash of two cultures within business schools. Pushed by Pearson et al, their aim was to conduct "nothing less than a comprehensive inquiry into the role that business schools and their accrediting body, the AACSB, play in fostering an ethically unethical mindset in their students." This includes the corrupt and illegal behaviors exhibited by business professionals. While the terms "ethics" and "morality" are often used interchangeably in everyday conversation, we believe that recognizing the subtle differences between them will be valuable to this discussion [26]. This study uses an alternative approach to traditional dichotomous classifications of gender to examine the complex relationship between gender and ethical perceptions. In accordance with the study's objective to examine the role of gender in shaping the ethical perceptions of future business leaders, a self-administered questionnaire was distributed to 224 undergraduate business students at a large southeastern university. Research emphasizes that ethical and moral reasoning is influenced by biological factors; It is shaped to a large extent by social, interpersonal, intrapersonal and situational variables. By considering gender within a multidimensional framework of ethical decision-making, the findings offer valuable insights for both scholars and practitioners [27]. Past studies on religion have presented two perspectives. One view suggests that religiosity does not influence perceptions of business ethics, while another highlights significant differences in business ethics views across different religious and cultural groups. In this study, notable interaction effects between culture and religion ( $F = 2.379, p < 0.001$ ) were observed in scenarios such as "selling dangerous goods," "taking sick leave for a day off," "paying foreign officials," and "giving gifts during festivals" ( $p < 0.05$ ). Specifically, in the context of "selling dangerous goods," individuals from high-religiosity Indian group's demonstrated higher ethical values compared to their Malay or Chinese counterparts [28]. While there is no universally agreed-upon definition of ethics, it is possible to observe how businesses align with widely accepted ethical principles. There have been numerous cases of ethical breaches within business organizations, such as the bribery of members of the International Olympic Selection Committee by the Salt Lake City Olympic Organizing Committee. Although American business ethics lacks a single, clear definition, American society-along with the interviewees in this article-expects businesses to operate in an ethical manner [29]. The history of ethics in business can be traced back to the foundational principles of trade, such as the idea of equal exchange in early barter systems. The emergence of "business ethics" in the 1970s followed the turbulent 1960s, a period of significant social and political change. Today, business ethics remains a relevant concept, deeply embedded in popular culture, frequently highlighted in

media coverage of corporate scandals and ethical or legal violations. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) practices also differ across regions, with European countries often seeing a stronger governmental role compared to the United States, reflecting varying issues addressed by business ethics in different contexts [30].

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHOD

- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** Third-party audits are evaluations carried out by independent external organizations or certification bodies. These audits offer an objective review of a company's adherence to industry standards and regulatory guidelines.
- **Corporate Governance:** Corporate governance refers to the framework of rules, procedures, and processes that direct and regulate an organization. The Board of Directors plays an important role as the main driving force of corporate governance.
- **Social Impact:** Social impact refers to the influence, either beneficial or harmful, that actions, policies, or programs have on society. Positive examples include creating jobs, improving access to education and healthcare, reducing crime rates, promoting environmental protection and preserving cultural heritage.
- **Corporate Citizenship:** Corporate citizenship refers to how well a company fulfills its social responsibility and legal, ethical and economic obligations as defined by its stakeholders.
- **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Criteria:** ESG criteria are used to assess governments, companies, or financial product providers based on three key aspects: environmental factors (such as resource conservation and species protection), social issues, and governance practices.
- **Leadership and Ethical Culture:** They make decisions rooted in integrity and take full responsibility for their work. They set an example for others, maintain transparent communication about challenges, and avoid placing blame on others for any failures.
- **Mechanisms for Reporting and Accountability:** An accountability mechanism, as defined, can be understood to have four primary features: establishing standards for evaluating accountability, receiving an account, making an account determination, and deciding what consequences, if any, should result.
- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is commonly understood as a business strategy where companies interact with stakeholders by integrating social and environmental factors into their operations, rather than focusing exclusively on economic profit. CSR gained widespread adoption in the 2000s. Third-party Audits and Certifications: Third-party audits are impartial evaluations carried out by external organizations or certification bodies. They offer an objective review of a company's adherence to industry standards and regulatory obligations.

## 3. TOPSIS METHOD

Successful implementation of reverse logistics facilitates socially driven exchange activities using social commerce, a modern e-commerce model, Web 2.0 technologies and social networking platforms. Since sustainability is a key priority in supply chain management, the use of Fuzzy TOPSIS (Technique for Order Prioritization by Similarity to Ideal Solution) has become increasingly popular in tackling logistical challenges [1]. The selection of robots has long been a critical concern for manufacturing companies aiming to enhance product quality and boost productivity. A real fuzzy number is defined as any fuzzy subset of the real line ( $\mathbb{R}$ ) with a membership function  $A$  [15], where  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ , and  $D$  represent real numbers. The proposed method can also be adapted to tackle other fuzzy management issues [2]. To stay competitive in today's challenging environment, many organizations view benchmarking as a crucial strategy for improving performance and gaining a competitive edge. Numerous studies have explored this topic. The performance measurement function aligns with the strategic function throughout the course of the project. The goal is not only to identify key criteria for NRM (natural resource management) performance, but also to assess the relationships between these evaluation criteria [3]. Generally, multi-criteria group decision-making (MCGDM) problems are assessed using a variety of methods. One such method is the Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution (TOPSIS), which is a multi-criteria decision analysis approach. Based on the fuzzy TOPSIS procedure, the closeness coefficients (CI) for two alternatives,  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , are

calculated as 0.507 and 0.496, respectively. Therefore, Fuzzy TOPSIS offers a straightforward, efficient, and reliable solution for multi-criteria decision-making [4]. A CNC machine is regarded as a cost-efficient tool capable of performing repetitive, complex, and hazardous manufacturing tasks with high precision. Previous research has identified the machine tool selection problem for various manufacturing environments [5]. A decision-making problem involves selecting the most optimal option from among various alternatives. As described by Chen and Hwang [3] and Hwang and Yoon [6], the TOPSIS (Technique for Order Preference) method is a multi-criteria approach designed to identify the optimal solution from a set of limited alternatives. A numerical example is provided to illustrate how the TOPSIS method can be applied to decision-making problems that involve interval data. [6]. Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution (TOPSIS) is a method used for order preference in decision making. A multi-attribute decision-making (MADM) problem can be represented as a geometric system with  $M$  alternatives ( $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_M$ ) in an  $N$ -dimensional space, where each alternative is evaluated based on  $N$  attributes ( $C_1, C_2, \dots, C_N$ ). Decision makers typically use linguistic variables to assess both the relative importance of the attributes and the evaluations of alternatives concerning these attributes [7]. Blasting is commonly applied in industries such as mining, civil construction, and the construction of roads and dams. In this context, TOPSIS is a method employed to rank alternatives by assessing their similarity to the ideal solution. Next, a normalized result matrix ( $R$ ) is generated by applying the appropriate parameters from Table 2 (drilling and blasting costs, fragmentation and fly rock, etc.) using the dimensionless normalization method [8]. To address data and information with non-statistical uncertainties, the theory of fuzzy sets (fs), as proposed by Jar, is the most suitable tool. A firm's decision-maker, denoted as  $\alpha$ , must choose the better option between two alternatives,  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ . To make this selection, the firm forms a decision-making group consisting of three members,  $T = \{TM_1, TM_2, TM_3\}$ . Four evaluation criteria are established to aid in the selection of the best alternative [9]. Facility location selection involves identifying the optimal geographic location for a company's operations. This decision applies to companies considering new locations, relocations, or expansions. From Table 12, the weight vector is determined as (0.488, 0.432, 0.080). An early study on fuzzy AHP was presented by van Laerhoven and Beatrix [24], who compared fuzzy ratios represented by triangular fuzzy numbers [10]. Since social and economic development relies on effective energy planning, it is essential to assess sustainable energy alternatives when formulating sound energy policies. TOPSIS, developed by Hwang and Yoon (1981), relies on a composite function of expert evaluation scores. It determines the best alternative by calculating its distance from both the positive and negative ideal solutions [11]. In a knowledge-based economy, discovering effective methods for creating, sharing, and utilizing knowledge is essential for achieving competitiveness. This section offers a concise overview of the fundamental concepts of entropy and TOPSIS. It also features a table summarizing the different normalization methods. Furthermore, a normal distribution with a mean of zero and a variance of one is defined [12]. Three of the most widely used measures of risk-adjusted performance are the "Trey nor ratio" (TR, 1965), the "Sharpe ratio" (SR, 1966), and "Jensen's alpha" (Ja, 1968). Further data processing related to alerts and location changes is performed later in the process to align with the method. Similarly, one can easily identify an appropriate index, such as PRMAR (K), to evaluate mutual funds for their own benefit [13]. Data (characteristics) are often inconclusive as they are usually vague or imprecise [2, 11]. As a result, there is an effort to adapt the TOPSIS method to manage fuzzy data. The core principle of TOPSIS is that the chosen alternative should have the "shortest distance" from the positive ideal solution and the "greatest distance" from the negative ideal solution. In this section, we present a numerical example to demonstrate how the TOPSIS method can be used to address decision-making problems involving fuzzy data [14]. In today's competitive environment, the effectiveness of supply chain management (SCM) has become essential for companies seeking to sustain a competitive advantage. The ranking of alternatives is established based on multiple criteria. Let  $A = \{A_1, A_2, A_M\}$  represent the set of alternatives,  $c = \{c_1, c_2, c_n\}$  the set of criteria, and  $l = \{l_1, l_2, \dots, l_n\}$  the set of decision makers. In this case, three decision makers based on ten criteria, including environmental factors, leading to the selection of the most suitable green supplier evaluated four alternatives [15]. Wire Electro Discharge Machining (WEDM) is a non-conventional machining process employed to cut materials that are difficult to machine, such as alloys and intermetallic. As noted by Hwang and Yoon [15], the TOPSIS method meets all the necessary conditions, making it very effective and robust in various manufacturing environments [16]. In this context, the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) framework was introduced to evaluate production performance across three dimensions: socioeconomic factors and environmental sustainability. These criteria were categorized into two main groups: product-related criteria and supplier-related product criteria. In practice, managers in related industries can evaluate their standard SUP clamps using the model developed by the steel industry or select

the best supplier based on these criteria [17]. In supplier selection problems, product types may vary depending on the characteristics of the goods purchased from the supplier. A new matrix is formed by multiplying the normalized result matrix with its associated weights. In this section, we will apply the fuzzy TOPSIS method to solve the supplier selection problem in the dairy industry [18]. This course encourages students to explore morality through the lens of moral theories in philosophy, the arts, and social science evidence. Aristotle's ethics of egoism, for example, is incompatible with the modern conception of self-interest. Although the Greeks of his era were very competitive, we do not think of them as "rude people". The evolution of the ethical vocabulary we use today unfolds in two ways. It treats economic relations as morally neutral elements of social life, often offering a psychological and emotional justification for unethical decision-making [19]. The TOPSIS method is founded on the principle that the ideal alternative has a short distance from the optimal solution and a large distance from the negative ideal solution. A decision support system (DSS) is a computer-based information system that uses data and models to generate various decision alternatives, assisting management in solving structured and unstructured problems. In conclusion, a decision support system is a specialized information system designed to help managers develop alternative solutions to challenges they face [20].

#### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

TABLE 1. Business ethics

	Leadership and Ethical Culture	Mechanisms for Reporting and Accountability	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	Third-party Audits and Certifications
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	39.98	82.78	91.45	56.67
Corporate Governance	78.5	45.72	90.78	87.65
Social Impact	87.95	66.41	66.95	99.58
Corporate Citizenship	23.57	87.35	90.35	48.22
Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Criteria	78.55	82.9	88.45	93.74

Table 1 showcases the application of the TOPSIS method for evaluating business ethics across various criteria, including Leadership and Ethical Culture, Mechanisms for Reporting and Accountability, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and Third-party Audits and Certifications. This analysis ensures that companies can interoperate in ethical decision-making by comparing options against a set of ideal values. For example, Corporate Governance scores highly in areas like CSR (90.78) and Third-party Audits (87.65), indicating strong performance. Conversely, Corporate Citizenship has lower scores in Leadership (23.57) but excels in Reporting (87.35). Such structured evaluation helps businesses prioritize improvements and align strategies with ethical best practices.

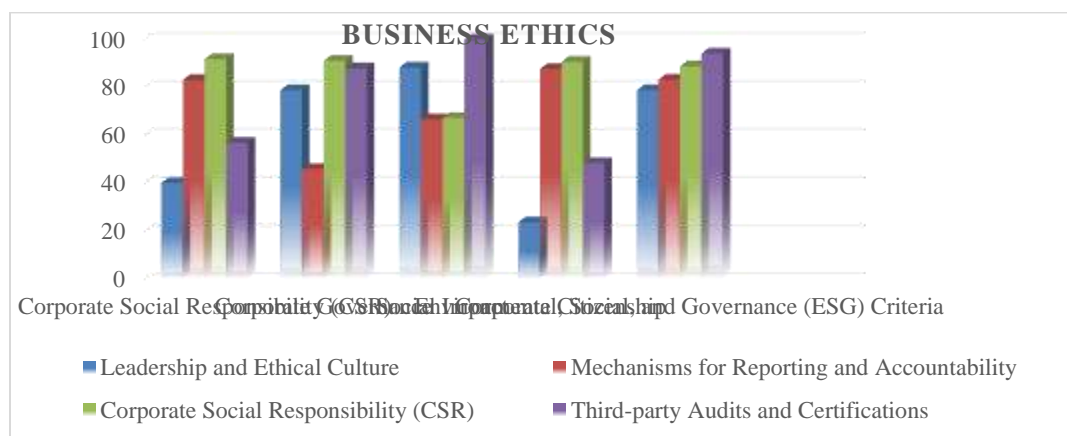


FIGURE 1. Business ethics

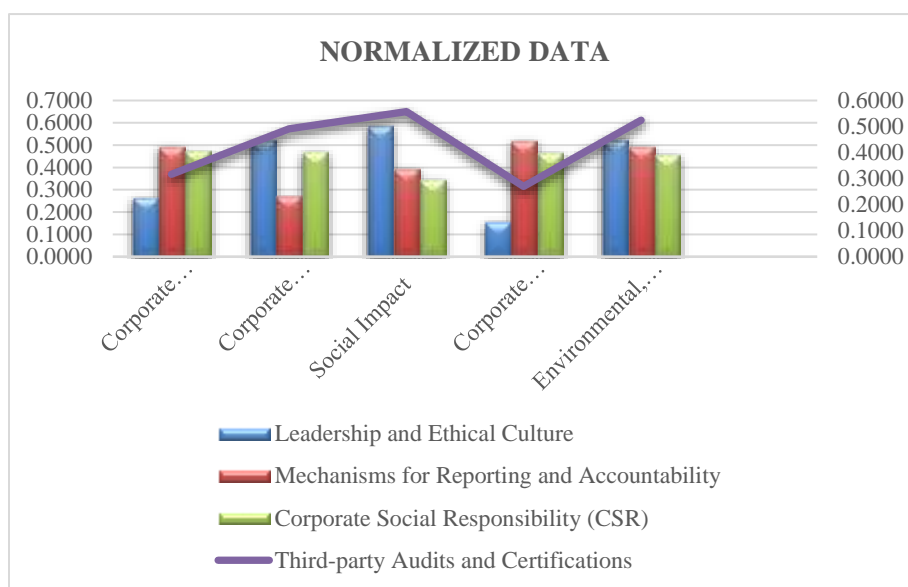
Figure 1 illustrates the evaluation of business ethics using the TOPSIS method across criteria like Leadership and Ethical

Culture, Reporting Mechanisms, CSR, and Third-party Audits. Notably, Social Impact scores highest in Third-party Audits (99.58), while Corporate Citizenship performs best in Reporting (87.35). This structured analysis helps organizations interoperate ethically and prioritize areas for enhancement.

**TABLE 2.** Normalized Data

	Leadership and Ethical Culture	Mechanisms for Reporting and Accountability	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	Third-party Audits and Certifications
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	0.2682	0.4960	0.4750	0.3172
Corporate Governance	0.5266	0.2739	0.4715	0.4906
Social Impact	0.5900	0.3979	0.3477	0.5573
Corporate Citizenship	0.1581	0.5234	0.4692	0.2699
Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Criteria	0.5269	0.4967	0.4594	0.5247

Table 2: presents normalized data for evaluating business ethics through the TOPSIS method, facilitating the interoperability of decision-making processes. Each criterion—Leadership and Ethical Culture, Mechanisms for Reporting and Accountability, CSR, and Third-party Audits—is normalized for consistency in analysis. Corporate Governance, with a normalized score of 0.5266 in Leadership and 0.4906 in Audits, demonstrates balanced strength. Social Impact leads in Leadership (0.5900) and Audits (0.5573), indicating a robust ethical framework. In contrast, Corporate Citizenship, while strong in Reporting (0.5234), is weaker in Leadership (0.1581). This data-driven approach supports organizations in benchmarking and enhancing ethical practices systematically.



**FIGURE 2.** Normalized Data

Figure 2 highlights normalized data used in the TOPSIS method to compare business ethics criteria: Leadership and Ethical Culture, Reporting Mechanisms, CSR, and Third-party Audits. Social Impact scores highest in Leadership (0.5900) and Audits (0.5573), while Corporate Citizenship excels in Reporting (0.5234). This approach helps interoperate ethical decision-making.

**TABLE 3.** Weightages

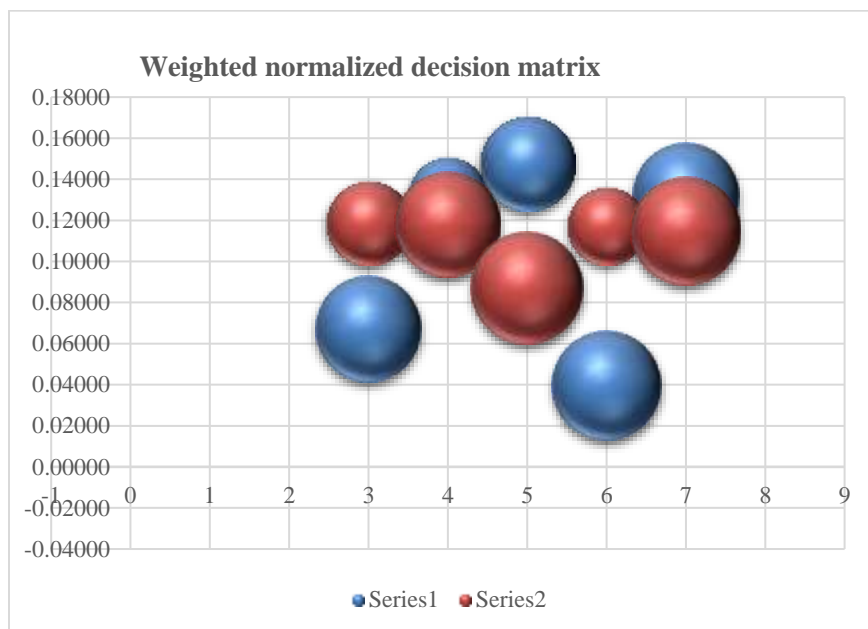
Weight			
0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25

Table 3 shows the equal weightages assigned to criteria in the TOPSIS method for business ethics assessment: Leadership and Ethical Culture, Mechanisms for Reporting and Accountability, CSR, and Third-party Audits and Certifications. Each criterion is uniformly weighted at 0.25, reflecting balanced importance in decision-making processes. This even distribution ensures no single factor disproportionately influences the evaluation, allowing organizations to interoperate effectively and fairly when comparing alternatives. The balanced weighting provides an unbiased framework, promoting comprehensive analysis and fostering ethical alignment across business strategies. This approach strengthens decision-making by encouraging an equal emphasis on diverse aspects of ethical practices.

**TABLE 4.** Weighted normalized decision matrix

Weighted normalized decision matrix				
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	0.067	0.124	0.1187	0.0793
Corporate Governance	0.1317	0.0685	0.1179	0.1226
Social Impact	0.1475	0.0995	0.0869	0.1393
Corporate Citizenship	0.0395	0.1308	0.1173	0.0675
Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Criteria	0.1317	0.1242	0.1148	0.1312

Table 4 presents the weighted normalized decision matrix, used in the TOPSIS method to evaluate different corporate criteria. The table shows normalized scores on various factors such as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Corporate Governance, Social Impact, Corporate Citizenship and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria. Each value reflects the relative importance or performance of the criteria, with varying weights across columns. For example, "Social Impact" has a high score of 0.1475, indicating its strong influence, while "Corporate Citizenship" has lower values, such as 0.0395, suggesting it's relatively lesser importance in the decision-making process. This matrix helps in identifying and comparing the weighted impact of each criterion.



**FIGURE 4.** Weighted normalized decision matrix

Figure 4 shows the weighted normalized decision matrix using the TOPSIS method to evaluate various corporate criteria. "Social Impact" and "ESG Criteria" have higher scores, indicating their significant influence. "Corporate Citizenship" shows the lowest values, suggesting it has less weight in decision-making, while other criteria, like "Corporate Governance" and "CSR," have moderate scores.

**TABLE 5.** Positive and Negative Matrix

Positive Matrix				Negative matrix			
0.1475	0.1308	0.0869	0.0675	0.0395	0.0685	0.1187	0.1393
0.1475	0.1308	0.0869	0.0675	0.0395	0.0685	0.1187	0.1393

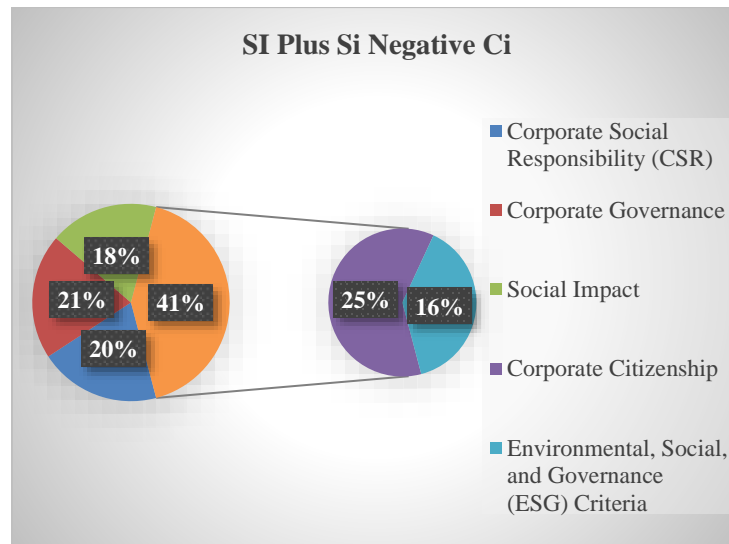
0.1475	0.1308	0.0869	0.0675	0.0395	0.0685	0.1187	0.1393
0.1475	0.1308	0.0869	0.0675	0.0395	0.0685	0.1187	0.1393
0.1475	0.1308	0.0869	0.0675	0.0395	0.0685	0.1187	0.1393

Table 5 presents the positive and negative matrices used in the TOPSIS method for evaluating various criteria. The positive matrix reflects higher values (e.g., 0.1475), indicating favorable performance or desirable attributes for the criteria being assessed. The negative matrix shows lower values (e.g., 0.0395 and 0.0675), representing less favorable or undesirable aspects. The consistency of the values across rows suggests that the evaluation is based on a uniform set of criteria for all factors. By comparing these matrices, the TOPSIS method helps determine the best and worst performing options based on their relative distances from the positive and negative ideal solutions.

**TABLE 6.** Final Result of Electromagnetic compatibility

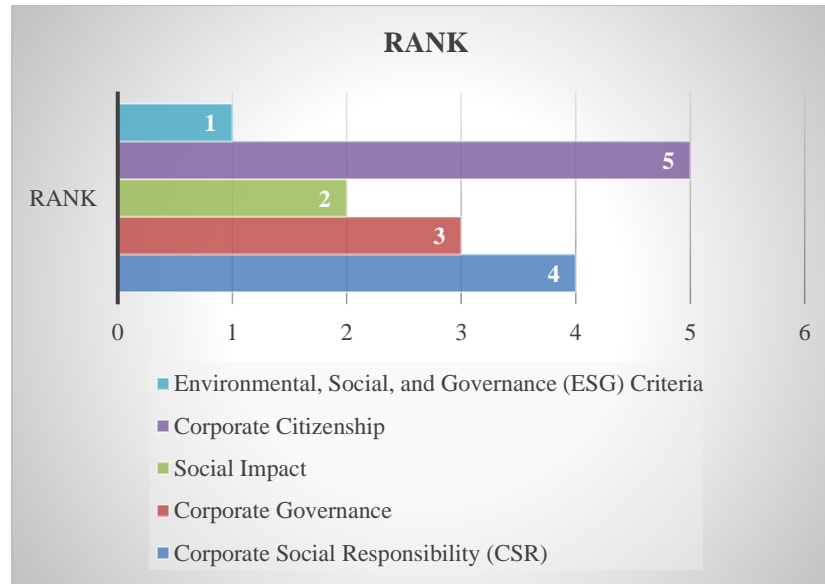
	SI Plus	Si Negative	Ci	Rank
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	0.0876	0.0863	0.4962	4
Corporate Governance	0.0902	0.0936	0.5092	3
Social Impact	0.0784	0.1167	0.5982	2
Corporate Citizenship	0.1122	0.0952	0.459	5
Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Criteria	0.0716	0.1081	0.6015	1

Table 6 presents the final results of electromagnetic compatibility using the TOPSIS method, where each criterion is evaluated based on its SI Plus, Si Negative, and Ci values, along with the corresponding rank. "Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Criteria" ranks highest with a Ci score of 0.6015, followed closely by "Social Impact" at 0.5982. "Corporate Governance" ranks third with a Ci of 0.5092, and "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)" comes fourth at 0.4962. "Corporate Citizenship" ranks lowest, with a Ci score of 0.4590, indicating its least favorable performance in this analysis.



**FIGURE 4.** Result of Business ethics

Figure 4 shows the final results of electromagnetic compatibility across various corporate criteria. "ESG Criteria" ranks highest with a Ci score of 0.6015, followed by "Social Impact" at 0.5982. "Corporate Governance" and "CSR" are ranked third and fourth, while "Corporate Citizenship" has the lowest score, ranking fifth.



**FIGURE 5.** Rank

Figure 5 presents the rankings derived using the TOPSIS method, which evaluates various corporate criteria. "Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Criteria" ranks first, followed by "Social Impact" in second place. "Corporate Governance" and "CSR" are ranked third and fourth, while "Corporate Citizenship" holds the lowest rank, fifth.

### 3. CONCLUSION

The application of the TOPSIS method in evaluating business ethics across various organizational criteria has revealed significant insights into the relative importance and performance of different ethical frameworks. The analysis, which considered Leadership and Ethical Culture, Mechanisms for Reporting and Accountability, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), and Third-party Audits and Certifications, provides a structured approach to understanding ethical decision-making in business contexts. The findings demonstrate that Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Criteria emerged as the most effective framework, achieving the highest ranking with a  $C_i$  score of 0.6015. This superior performance suggests that integrated ESG approaches are increasingly crucial for modern business ethics implementation. Following closely, Social Impact ranked second with a  $C_i$  score of 0.5982, highlighting the growing importance of businesses' role in creating positive societal change. Corporate Governance secured the third position ( $C_i = 0.5092$ ), while Corporate Social Responsibility placed fourth ( $C_i = 0.4962$ ), both showing moderate effectiveness in ethical business practices. Corporate Citizenship, ranking fifth ( $C_i = 0.4590$ ), indicates potential areas for improvement in organizational ethical frameworks. The normalized data analysis revealed interesting patterns, particularly in Leadership and Ethical Culture, where Social Impact scored highest (0.5900), and in Third-party Audits, where it also demonstrated strong performance (0.5573). This consistency across metrics suggests that organizations prioritizing social impact tend to maintain robust ethical standards across multiple dimensions. The equal weightage (0.25) assigned to each criterion in the analysis ensures an unbiased evaluation framework, allowing organizations to make balanced decisions while considering multiple ethical aspects simultaneously. This approach provides a comprehensive understanding of how different ethical components contribute to overall organizational performance. These findings have important implications for business leaders and policymakers. They suggest that organizations should focus on developing integrated approaches to business ethics, particularly emphasizing ESG criteria and social impact measurements. The results also indicate that while traditional CSR approaches remain relevant, they may need to evolve to meet contemporary ethical challenges and stakeholder expectations. The TOPSIS analysis provides a valuable framework for organizations to evaluate and enhance their ethical practices systematically. The clear ranking system helps businesses identify areas of strength and opportunities for improvement, ultimately contributing to more ethical and sustainable business practices in the modern corporate landscape.

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