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Two – Day International Virtual **Conference** on

## **REVISITING GSR IN THE POST GOVID** STATUTORY GUIDELINES FR SOCIETAL CONCERNS

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Editor Dr. C. Vethirajan

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## Two- Day International Virtual Conference on REVISITING CSR IN THE POST COVID ERA-STATUTORY GUIDELINES AND SOCIETAL CONCERNS

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Dr. C. Vethirajan

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# THE PERFORMANCE OF SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT: A LITERATURE PERSPECTIVE

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#### Abstract

The concept of Socially Responsible Investment (SRI) has witnessed an unprecedented growth during the last three decades. Increased awareness on corporate social responsibility (CSR) and corporate governance is considered to be the motivating factors behind the growth of SRI. The concept of corporate social responsibility depicts the social responsibility of corporate whereas socially responsible investment depicts the social responsibility of investors in choosing a particular investment option. The trend of investment in socially responsible funds attracting more investors and it becomes important to study the return and risk associated with socially responsible funds. This paper is an attempt to examine the performance of socially responsible funds all over the world. Based on available literature it is found that in most of the studies the integration socially responsible criteria to investment generate positive return.

*Keywords*: Socially Responsible Investment (SRI), corporate social responsibility (CSR), corporate governance, socially responsible funds

#### Introduction

The market for socially responsible investment is relatively small but it is growing fast in number of countries. There is an increasing interest on socially responsible investment from investors, banks, investment advisors, asset management companies and rating agencies (**Michael Schröder, (2003**)). Socially responsible investment is an investment approach which integrates values, beliefs, ethical and social concern of investors in the investment decision making process. Socially responsible investment is also referred to as Sustainable and Responsible investment. Globally, sustainable investment constitutes a major share of financial market and accounted for \$ 22.89 trillion at the start of 2016. The investment in SRI is often made by institutional and individual investors or retail investors, in SRI institutional investors hold major share on asset allocated to SRI in the global arena (**Global Sustainable Investment Review, (2016**)).

Socially responsible investment is made based on some ethical screening criteria. The investors, asset management companies and investment advisories employ environmental, social and corporate governance factors for screening socially responsible funds. Thus socially responsible investment is also known as ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) investment. Positive screening and negative screening are the most popularly used methods for screening. Positive screening involves the inclusion of companies based on their commitment towards environment, society and towards its stakeholders. It also includes the investment in Best-in-class companies. On the other hand, negative screening excludes companies that are engaged in the production of tobacco, alcohol, nuclear power and weapons.