



INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
P A K I S T A N

**Institute of Architects Pakistan (IAP)
report on
Implementation of ESG
by Architects in their Practices**

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1. Introduction

This report presents the findings of a comprehensive survey conducted with members of the Institute of Architects Pakistan (I.A.P.) to explore their understanding of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles and how these align with their architectural practices. The survey was carried out through a questionnaire shared with the members of the I.A.P. The aim was to assess the extent to which E.S.G. considerations are integrated into their professional frameworks and to identify the willingness and potential for incorporating these principles into future endeavors. By engaging with a diverse group of architectural professionals, the resultant report provides valuable insights into the prevailing attitudes, challenges, and opportunities related to E.S.G. integration within the architectural profession in Pakistan. This initiative underscores I.A.P.'s commitment to fostering sustainable, equitable, and ethically guided practices in the profession.

2. Defining ESG

E.S.G. stands for **Environmental, Social, and Governance**, this is a framework which is used to evaluate the sustainability and ethical impact of an organization's operations. It is widely adopted in the corporate and investment sectors to assess how a company manages risks and opportunities related to these three areas. In architecture and design, ESG refers to how businesses use their buildings and spaces to invest in environmental and social initiatives. It is important for architects to incorporate the ESG principles into their work and practices to build sustainable and equitable practices within their organizations. These are part of being a socially responsible enterprise and include the following aspects:

2.1 Environmental

This dimension focuses on a company's impact on the natural environment and its ability to reduce and manage environmental impact. Key aspects of environmental impact include:

- **Climate Change:** Efforts to reduce carbon emissions and achieve net-zero goals.
- **Resource Management:** Efficient use of energy, water, and raw materials.
- **Pollution and Waste:** Minimizing pollution and adopting waste-reduction strategies.
- **Biodiversity:** Avoiding harm to ecosystems and preserving biodiversity.

2.2 Social

The social aspect of sustainability examines how a company interacts with its employees, customers, communities, and other stakeholders. Key factors include consideration of:

- **Employee Well-being:** Providing Fair wages, health and safety, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
- **Human Rights:** Ensuring respect for human rights throughout the supply chain.
- **Community Engagement:** Carrying out initiatives that benefit local communities.
- **Product Responsibility:** Ensuring product safety, quality, and ethical marketing practices.



2.3 Governance

Governance pertains to how a company is managed, including its internal policies and accountability. Key considerations include:

- **Leadership and Accountability:** Transparent and ethical leadership structures.
- **Board Diversity:** Inclusion of varied perspectives and expertise on the board.
- **Compliance and Ethics:** Adherence to laws, regulations, and ethical standards.
- **Shareholder Rights:** Equitable treatment of investors and stakeholders.

3. Why ESG Matters

Incorporating ESG principles is seen as essential for long-term business sustainability and resilience. It also aligns with broader global goals like the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Important factors include the following:

1. **Risk Mitigation:** To be able to identify potential risks like environmental liabilities or reputational damage.
2. **Value Creation:** To be able to aligns with growing consumer and investor demand for responsible business practices.
3. **Compliance:** To help meet regulatory requirements and global standards for sustainability.

It is important to explore the understanding and integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles among members of the Institute of Architects Pakistan (IAP) and assess their alignment with current and future architectural practices.

4. Objectives

1. To evaluate the extent to which ESG considerations are incorporated into the professional frameworks of I.A.P. members.
2. To identify prevailing attitudes, challenges, and opportunities related to ESG integration within the architectural community.
3. To gauge the willingness and potential among architectural professionals to adopt ESG principles in future endeavors.
4. To support I.A.P.'s commitment to fostering sustainable, equitable, and ethically guided practices in architecture through actionable insights.



5. Methodology

A quantitative research approach to explore the understanding and integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles among members of the Institute of Architects Pakistan (IAP). The methodology consisted of the following steps:

1. Survey Design:

A structured questionnaire survey was developed to gather data from IAP members. The questionnaire was designed to assess participants' understanding of ESG principles. Questionnaire was designed in three sections to understand the Environmental, Social, and Governance practices of architecture firms.

2. Data Collection:

The survey was distributed online using Microsoft Forms. Members of the IAP were invited to participate, and a total of 71 respondents completed the form.

3. Data Analysis:

The data gathered through the survey was analyzed using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences). Two key statistical tests were conducted:

The quantitative analysis provided a systematic understanding of the participants' perspectives and practices related to ESG principles, offering valuable insights for fostering sustainable and ethically guided architectural practices within the I.A.P. community.

6. Findings

This section explains the findings of the questionnaire.



Figure 1: familiarization to ESG

As shown in figure 1, the survey revealed that 55% of respondents were familiar with ESG Goals before encountering the survey form, indicating a moderate level of awareness. The remaining



45% were not familiar with the concept, highlighting the need for further education and dissemination of information about ESG Goals within the industry.

6.1 Response to Questions on “Environment”:

Figure 2 provides an overview of the response to all questions on Environmental practices of architectural firms. These responses can be seen in percentages, all of these questions are discussed individually in this section.

1. Your firm actively prioritizes Environmental Sustainability in your architectural designs.

The majority of respondents (80%) agree or strongly agree that their firms actively prioritize environmental sustainability in architectural designs, indicating a strong commitment to sustainability. However, 10% remain neutral, and another 10% disagree, suggesting room for improvement in some firms.

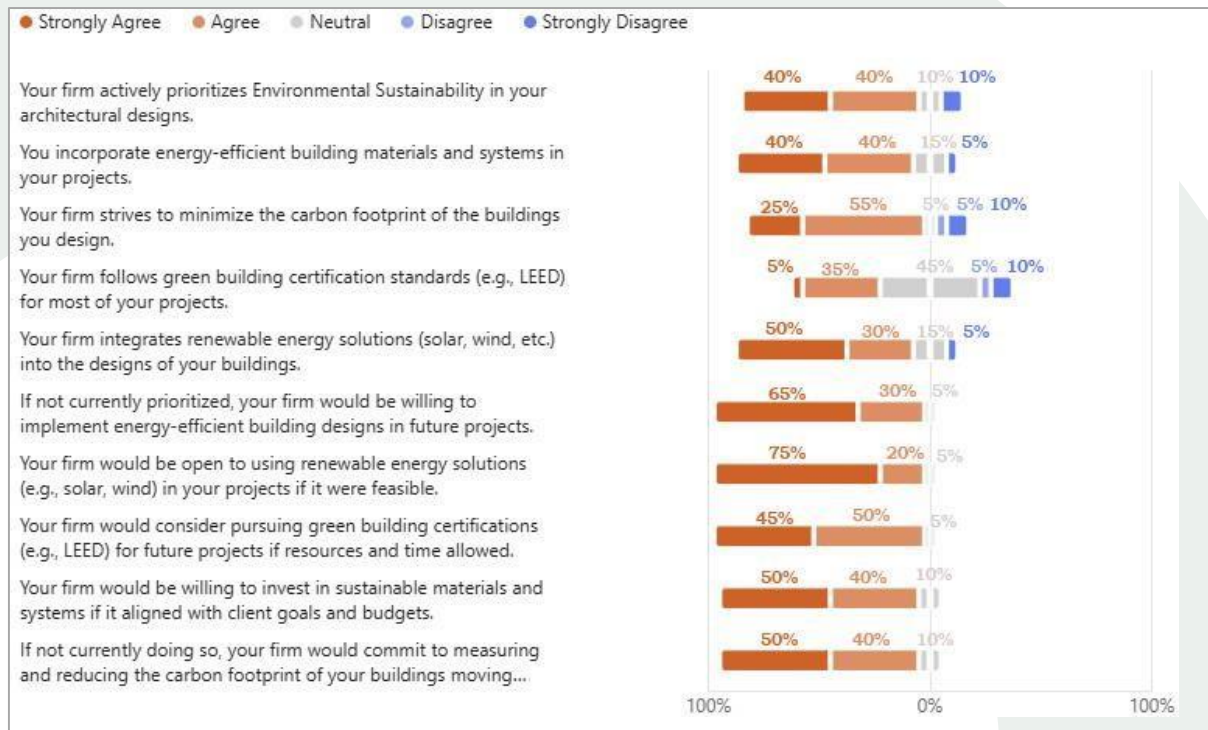


Figure 2: Percentages Responses to questions on Environment

2. You incorporate energy-efficient building materials and systems in your projects.

A significant majority (80%) incorporate energy-efficient materials and systems, showing a clear focus on reducing energy consumption. Nonetheless, the neutral and disagreeing responses (20%) highlight the potential for further adoption of energy-efficient practices.

3. Your firm strives to minimize the carbon footprint of the buildings you design.



The data indicates that 80% of respondents' firms strive to minimize their buildings' carbon footprints. This is a positive trend toward environmental responsibility, although the remaining 20% suggest more effort is needed to achieve comprehensive carbon reduction strategies.

4. Your firm follows green building certification standards (e.g., LEED) for most of your projects.

Following green building standards like LEED is less prevalent, with only 60% agreeing or strongly agreeing. The equal distribution of neutral and disagree responses (40%) indicates a significant opportunity for increasing adherence to recognized sustainability standards.

5. Your firm integrates renewable energy solutions (solar, wind, etc.) into the designs of your buildings.

The integration of renewable energy solutions is also moderate, with 60% of firms incorporating these solutions. Similar to green building standards, there is a notable segment (40%) that either remains neutral or disagrees, pointing to an area for further growth.

6. If not currently prioritized, your firm would be willing to implement energy-efficient building designs in future projects.

The willingness to implement energy-efficient designs in the future is high, with 80% agreeing or strongly agreeing. This reflects a proactive stance toward sustainability, although 20% still express hesitation or neutrality.

7. Your firm would be open to using renewable energy solutions (e.g., solar, wind) in your projects if it were feasible.

Similar to energy-efficient designs, there is a high willingness (80%) to adopt renewable energy solutions, contingent on feasibility. This indicates readiness to transition to renewable energy, though feasibility challenges remain for some firms.

8. Your firm would consider pursuing green building certifications (e.g., LEED) for future projects if resources and time allowed.

The consideration for pursuing green building certifications is strong, with 80% of respondents agreeing. Resource and time constraints are potential barriers for the remaining 20%, suggesting the need for supportive measures to enable certification.

9. Your firm would be willing to invest in sustainable materials and systems if it aligned with client goals and budgets.

A majority (80%) are willing to invest in sustainable materials if client goals and budgets align. This highlights the importance of client collaboration in driving sustainability efforts.

10. If not currently doing so, your firm would commit to measuring and reducing the carbon footprint of your buildings moving forward.



Commitment to measuring and reducing carbon footprints is high, with 80% agreeing. The 20% who are neutral or disagree indicate a need for further education and incentives to encourage full commitment.

6.2 Response to Questions on “Social”:

Figure 3 provides an overview of the response to all questions on social practices of architectural firms in Pakistan. These responses can be seen in percentages, all of these questions are discussed individually in this section.

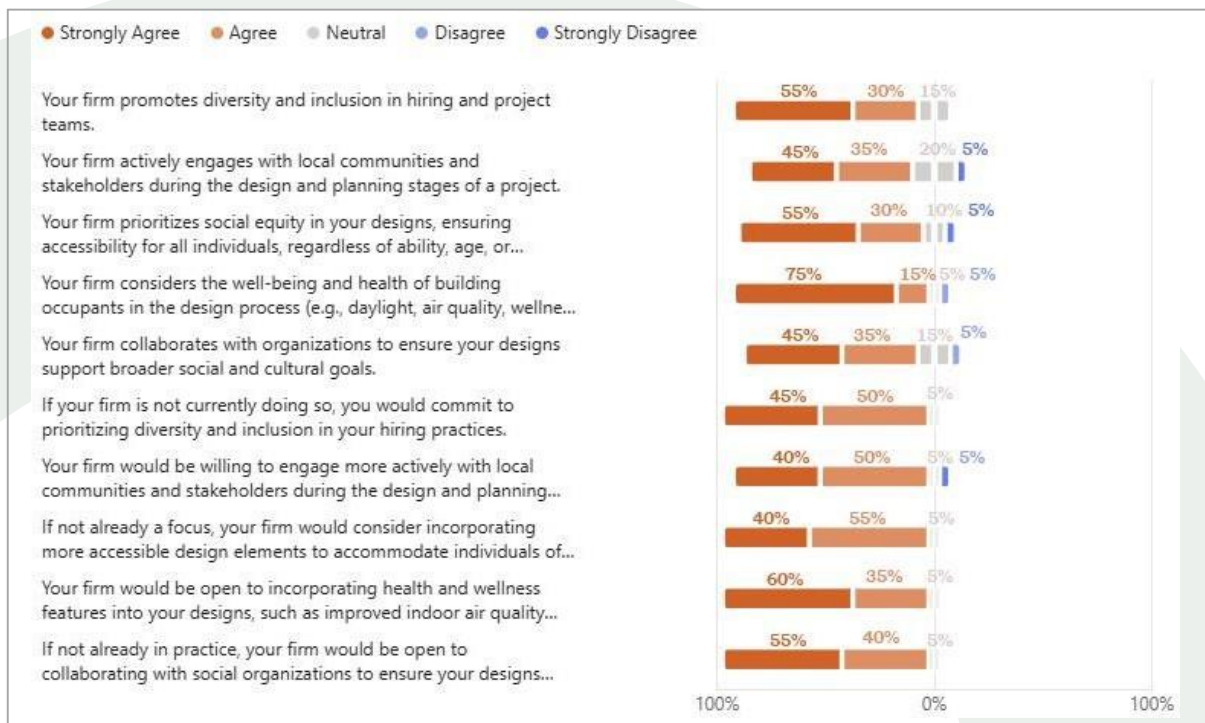


Figure 3: Percentages Responses to questions on Social

11. Your firm promotes diversity and inclusion in hiring and project teams.

The data indicates that 90% of respondents agree or strongly agree that their firms promote diversity and inclusion in hiring and project teams. This high level of agreement suggests a strong commitment to creating inclusive work environments. However, 5% of respondents remain neutral, and 5% disagree, highlighting a need for ongoing efforts to ensure all team members feel included and valued.

12. Your firm actively engages with local communities and stakeholders during the design and planning stages of a project.

85% of respondents agree or strongly agree that their firms engage with local communities and stakeholders during the design and planning stages. This engagement is crucial for creating



projects that meet the needs and expectations of the community. The 10% neutrality and 5% disagreement suggest opportunities for firms to strengthen their community engagement strategies.

13. Your firm prioritizes social equity in your designs, ensuring accessibility for all individuals, regardless of ability, age, or other factors.

A significant majority (85%) of respondents agree or strongly agree that their firms prioritize social equity in their designs, ensuring accessibility for all individuals. This high level of agreement reflects a commitment to inclusivity in design. The remaining 15% (neutral and disagree) indicate areas where further efforts may be needed to achieve comprehensive accessibility.

14. Your firm considers the well-being and health of building occupants in the design process (e.g., daylight, air quality, wellness spaces).

90% of respondents agree or strongly agree that their firms consider the well-being and health of building occupants in the design process. This emphasis on occupant well-being demonstrates a strong commitment to creating healthy and livable spaces. However, the 8% of respondents who are neutral or disagree suggest that some firms may need to enhance their focus on health and wellness features.

15. Your firm collaborates with organizations to ensure your designs support broader social and cultural goals.

85% of respondents agree or strongly agree that their firms collaborate with organizations to support broader social and cultural goals. This collaboration is essential for creating designs that reflect and enhance the social and cultural fabric of communities. The 13% neutrality and disagreement suggest opportunities for deeper collaboration and alignment with social organizations.

16. If your firm is not currently doing so, you would commit to prioritizing diversity and inclusion in your hiring practices.

85% of respondents express a commitment to prioritizing diversity and inclusion in hiring practices if not already doing so. This indicates a strong willingness to adopt inclusive hiring practices. The 13% neutrality and disagreement highlight areas where firms may need to address barriers to diversity and inclusion.

17. Your firm would be willing to engage more actively with local communities and stakeholders during the design and planning stages.

85% of respondents are willing to engage more actively with local communities and stakeholders. This willingness underscores the importance of community engagement in the design and planning process. The 13% neutrality and disagreement indicate that some firms may need to develop strategies to enhance their community engagement efforts.



18. If not already a focus, your firm would consider incorporating more accessible design elements to accommodate individuals of all abilities.

85% of respondents are open to incorporating more accessible design elements. This openness reflects a commitment to creating inclusive spaces for individuals of all abilities. The 13% neutrality and disagreement suggest that some firms may need to increase their focus on accessibility in design.

19. Your firm would be open to incorporating health and wellness features into your designs, such as improved indoor air quality and wellness spaces.

90% of respondents agree or strongly agree that their firms would be open to incorporating health and wellness features into their designs. This high level of agreement indicates a strong interest in promoting health and wellness in building design. The 8% neutrality and disagreement suggest that some firms may need to address barriers to implementing wellness features.

20. If not already in practice, your firm would be open to collaborating with social organizations to ensure your designs support broader social goals.

85% of respondents are open to collaborating with social organizations. This openness indicates a willingness to align design practices with broader social goals. The 13% neutrality and disagreement suggest opportunities for firms to strengthen their collaborations with social organizations.

6.3 Response to Questions on “Governance”:

Figure 4 provides an overview of the response to all questions on governmental practices of architectural firms in Pakistan. These responses can be seen in percentages, all of these questions are discussed individually in this section.

21. Your firm has clear policies and practices for transparent decision-making and accountability.

55% of respondents strongly agreed and 30% agreed that the firm maintains a high standard of ethical conduct in its projects, indicating a generally favorable perception. However, 15% remained neutral, suggesting a lack of strong conviction among some respondents. While the majority view is positive, the presence of neutrality highlights room for improvement in ensuring that all stakeholders are equally convinced of the firm’s ethical practices.

22. Your firm’s leadership team is committed to implementing ESG principles in the firm’s operations.

Half of the respondents (50%) strongly agreed and 40% agreed that the firm has clear policies and practices for transparent decision-making and accountability. While this majority suggests



generally positive feedback, the 10% neutral responses raise questions about whether these policies are consistently communicated or applied across the board. The firm may need to address potential gaps to ensure universal clarity and trust in its decision-making practices.

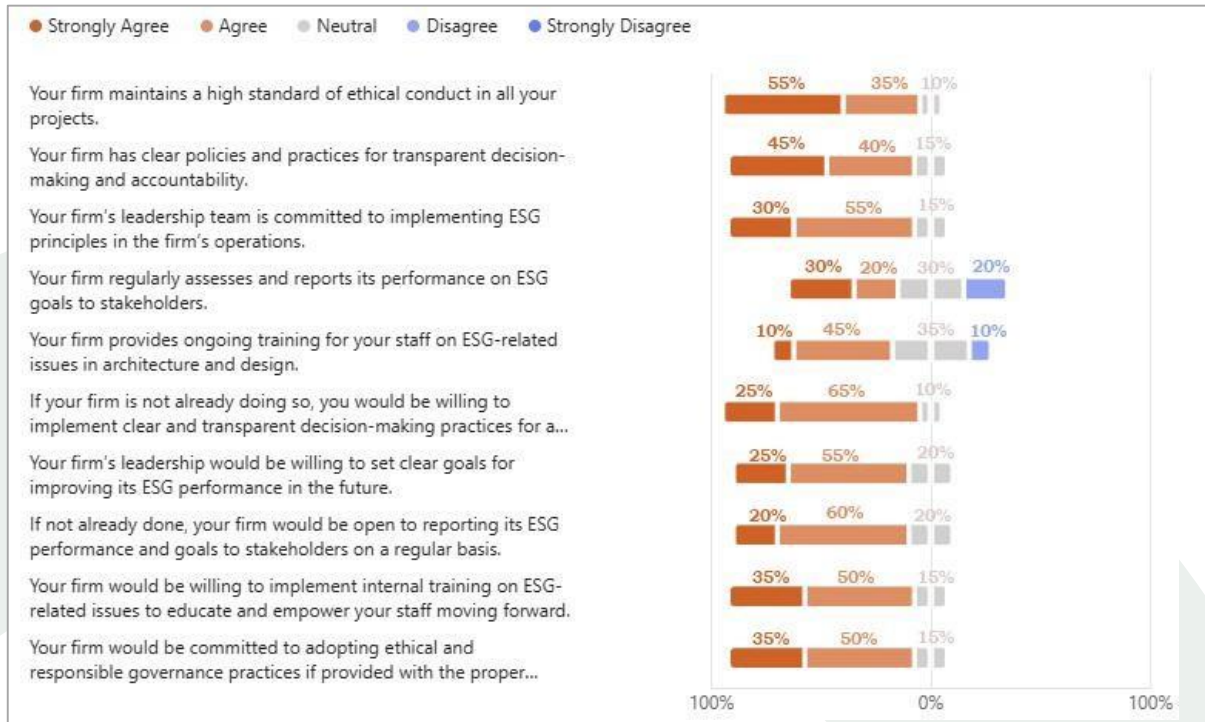


Figure 4: Percentages Responses to questions on Governance

23. Your firm’s leadership team is committed to implementing ESG principles in the firm’s operations.

While 30% of respondents strongly agreed and 55% agreed that the firm’s leadership team is committed to implementing ESG principles, 15% remained neutral. This suggests that while the majority recognize some commitment to ESG principles, there may be a lack of visible or impactful initiatives that resonate with all stakeholders. The neutral responses point to potential uncertainties or inconsistencies in how this commitment is perceived or communicated.

24. Your firm regularly assesses and reports its performance on ESG goals to stakeholders.

The responses to whether the firm regularly assesses and reports its ESG performance reveal a divided perception. While 30% strongly agreed and 20% agreed, an equal 30% remained neutral, and 20% disagreed. The significant proportion of neutral and disagreeing responses indicates a notable lack of clarity or confidence among stakeholders about the firm’s ESG reporting practices. This suggests a need for the firm to enhance transparency and consistency in its communication and reporting processes to build trust and alignment.



25. Your firm provides ongoing training for your staff on ESG-related issues in architecture and design.

While 10% strongly agreed and 45% agreed that the firm provides ongoing ESG-related training, 35% of respondents remained neutral, and 10% disagreed. The high proportion of neutral responses suggests that many staff members may not be fully aware of or engaged in these training initiatives. This, coupled with the disagreement, highlights a potential disconnect between the firm's training efforts and the perception of their accessibility, relevance, or effectiveness among employees.

26. If your firm is not already doing so, you would be willing to implement clear and transparent decision-making practices for all projects.

A strong majority, with 25% strongly agreeing and 65% agreeing, expressed willingness to implement clear and transparent decision-making practices if not already in place. However, the 10% neutral responses hint at a lack of enthusiasm or clarity about the necessity or feasibility of such practices. This raises questions about whether all stakeholders fully understand or prioritize transparency in decision-making, suggesting an opportunity to build consensus and emphasize its importance in project management.

27. your firm's leadership would be willing to set clear goals for improving its ESG performance in the future.

While 25% strongly agreed and 55% agreed that the firm's leadership would be willing to set clear goals for improving ESG performance, the 20% neutral responses highlight a level of uncertainty among some stakeholders. This suggests that while the intent to prioritize ESG goals is evident, there may be gaps in communication or a lack of concrete action plans that instill confidence across the board. To fully engage all stakeholders, the firm could benefit from more explicit commitments and detailed strategies.

28. If not already done, your firm would be open to reporting its ESG performance and goals to stakeholders on a regular basis.

While 25% strongly agreed and 55% agreed that the firm would be open to regularly reporting its ESG performance and goals, 20% of respondents remained neutral. This neutrality suggests that some stakeholders may be uncertain about the feasibility or commitment to such transparency. Although the majority support the idea, the neutral responses highlight a need for clearer communication and assurance regarding the firm's readiness to establish consistent and comprehensive ESG reporting practices.

29. Your firm would be willing to implement internal training on ESG-related issues to educate and empower your staff moving forward.

A majority, 35% strongly agreeing and 50% agreeing, shows clear support for implementing internal training on ESG-related issues to educate and empower staff. However, the 15%



neutral responses indicate some uncertainty or lack of conviction, potentially reflecting a gap in understanding or prioritization of such training. While the overall response is positive, addressing the concerns of the neutral group and ensuring comprehensive engagement across the firm could strengthen the commitment to ESG education.

30. Your firm would be committed to adopting ethical and responsible governance practices if provided with the proper resources and guidance.

A strong majority, with 35% strongly agreeing and 55% agreeing, suggests a solid willingness to adopt ethical and responsible governance practices, provided the necessary resources and guidance. However, the 15% neutral responses indicate that some may still have reservations or uncertainties about the firm's ability to implement these practices effectively. The neutral stance could point to a lack of clarity regarding the resources, leadership, or commitment required, signaling an opportunity for the firm to strengthen its case and ensure full engagement from all stakeholders.

7. Discussions

The survey responses present a generally positive outlook on the commitment of firms to environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and governance practices, particularly with regard to ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) principles. However, there are several areas where improvement is necessary, and the data indicates some nuanced challenges that warrant further consideration.

7.1 Environmental Sustainability

The high levels of agreement (70%-80%) regarding the commitment to environmental sustainability demonstrate that firms are increasingly integrating energy-efficient systems, renewable energy solutions, and carbon footprint reduction strategies into their operations. This is encouraging and reflects a growing awareness of the environmental challenges facing the industry and the importance of adopting sustainable practices. However, the presence of 10%-20% neutral or disagreeing responses suggests that not all stakeholders perceive these initiatives as robust or impactful. It's crucial to examine why these respondents feel that the firm's environmental sustainability efforts may fall short. Potential explanations could include inadequate implementation, lack of transparency in reporting sustainability outcomes, or insufficient awareness or buy-in from key stakeholders within the firm.

The absence of strong disagreement across the board indicates broad consensus on the value of sustainability, but there may be a gap in perception regarding the actual effectiveness and integration of these practices. The firm may need to improve its communication strategies to ensure that all employees and stakeholders recognize the tangible impact of its sustainability efforts.



7.2 Social Responsibility

The overwhelming support (85%-90%) for the firm's commitment to social responsibility, such as diversity, inclusion, community engagement, and collaboration with social organizations, highlights a strong and widespread belief in the importance of these practices. Firms appear to be making strides in promoting a socially responsible ethos, which is crucial for building long-term trust and engagement with both internal and external stakeholders. However, the 5%-10% neutral or disagreeing responses suggest there is still room for improvement. It would be important to investigate whether these stakeholders are dissatisfied with the scope, execution, or visibility of the firm's social initiatives. Firms should continue to promote and expand these practices, ensuring that all employees feel that these initiatives are effectively integrated into the firm's core values and everyday operations.

The consistency of the responses regarding social responsibility implies that these values are increasingly becoming mainstream within the industry. However, ongoing efforts are needed to maintain and enhance this momentum. Firms should regularly evaluate the inclusivity and impact of their social practices, particularly ensuring that marginalized voices are genuinely heard and represented.

7.3 Responsibility in Governance

Governance-related practices, including ethical standards and transparency, are seen as critical by a majority of respondents. However, the presence of neutral responses suggests that some stakeholders are uncertain or unconvinced about the firm's adherence to these principles. The results indicate that while firms claim to maintain high ethical standards, there may be concerns around the consistency of these practices or their visible application in day-to-day decision-making. To address these concerns, firms could implement clearer guidelines for ethical conduct and ensure that these policies are communicated effectively across all levels of the organization. Regular audits and transparency in governance processes could also improve trust and clarity.

The commitment to ESG principles, while generally recognized, appears to be met with some skepticism, as evidenced by the 15% neutral responses. This indicates that the leadership's commitment to ESG principles might not be perceived as consistent or sufficiently impactful. This could point to a lack of clear, actionable ESG strategies or a need for more visible leadership in executing these principles.

7.4 ESG Reporting

The mixed perceptions surrounding ESG reporting (with a significant portion neutral or disagreeing) highlight a critical area for improvement. Effective ESG reporting is not just a matter of compliance but a tool for building trust with stakeholders. The current lack of clarity or confidence regarding the firm's reporting practices suggests that stakeholders are either unaware of the firm's ESG performance or feel that it lacks consistency. To address this, firms



should prioritize regular, transparent reporting on ESG goals and performance, ensuring that all stakeholders have access to clear and detailed information. Improving communication around ESG outcomes and aligning reporting with industry standards could increase stakeholders' confidence in the firm's commitment to these principles.

7.5 Training and Empowerment

The survey indicates strong support for ongoing ESG-related training, yet a significant portion of respondents remains neutral or disagrees. This suggests that while there may be an organizational commitment to ESG education, there is a disconnect between the firm's initiatives and the perception or engagement of employees. Some employees may feel that training is either inaccessible, irrelevant, or not sufficiently engaging. Firms could enhance their training programs by tailoring them to different roles within the organization, ensuring they are not just theoretical but also practical and actionable. Ensuring that training is available at all levels of the organization and consistently reinforces the firm's ESG values will be key to empowering staff and ensuring that sustainability and social responsibility are deeply embedded in the firm's culture.

7.6 Willingness to Implement Transparent Practices and Set Goals

The strong support for implementing transparent decision-making practices and setting clear ESG goals indicates a broad willingness to embrace change. However, the neutral responses suggest that some stakeholders might not fully understand or prioritize these practices, possibly due to unclear communication or concerns about the feasibility of implementing these practices across the organization. To address this, firms should invest in building a deeper understanding of the value of transparency and accountability, aligning it with the firm's long-term goals. Clear, measurable ESG targets, coupled with consistent communication, would help ensure that all stakeholders are fully on board and that the firm's commitment is seen as genuine and achievable.

In conclusion, while the survey responses show strong commitment to environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and ethical governance, the neutral and disagreeing responses indicate areas where firms can further strengthen their practices. Transparency in reporting, consistency in implementing ESG principles, and more targeted training initiatives are areas where firms should focus their efforts.

8. Role of the Institute of Architects Pakistan (I.A.P.)

The survey also asked about the respondents' perceptions on the IAP's role in implementing the ESG goals in the architectural practices in Pakistan. The overwhelming consensus among the responses suggests that I.A.P. should indeed play a significant role in the implementation of ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) goals within architectural practices in Pakistan. Several key points emerge from the feedback:



1. **Guidelines and Advocacy:** Respondents agree that IAP could help set clear guidelines for sustainable practices and advocate for social responsibility and ethical governance within the profession. This can ensure that architects and firms are equipped to incorporate ESG principles in their daily operations.
2. **Educational Initiatives:** Many responses emphasize the importance of education and awareness-building. IAP could organize training programs, workshops, and seminars to educate architects about the risks, issues, and opportunities related to ESG goals in the context of Pakistan. These initiatives would help professionals understand how to implement these practices effectively in their projects.
3. **Collaboration with Academic Institutions:** There is support for collaboration between IAP and relevant academic institutions to strengthen ESG education and research, ensuring that future generations of architects are well-versed in these critical areas.
4. **Partnership with Experienced Architects:** The idea of bringing senior architects onto the panel, in addition to current office bearers, has been proposed to maintain high-quality standards and ensure transparency in implementing ESG practices. This would provide a more diverse and experienced perspective on the challenges and solutions facing the architectural profession.
5. **Regional Relevance:** Given the unique challenges and risks faced by Pakistan, especially in terms of environmental sustainability, social equity, and governance, there is a strong sentiment that IAP should tailor its approach to address local concerns. Understanding and mitigating risks such as climate change, resource scarcity, and socio-economic disparities should be central to IAP's efforts.

In conclusion, the responses strongly support IAP's involvement in promoting and implementing ESG goals across architectural practices in Pakistan. IAP could lead the way by providing education, resources, and advocacy, ultimately helping architects integrate these principles into their designs and operations for the betterment of the profession, the environment, and society.

9. Recommendations

Based on the survey results, several key recommendations can be made to enhance ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) practices in architectural practices across Pakistan. These recommendations aim to address the existing gaps and areas for improvement, as identified by the survey responses.

- **Establish Clear ESG Guidelines and Standards:** IAP should develop and disseminate clear, comprehensive guidelines on ESG practices tailored to the local context in Pakistan. These guidelines should cover aspects like environmental sustainability (energy-efficient design, renewable materials, waste reduction), social responsibility (community engagement, diversity, and inclusion), and governance (ethical decision-making, transparency).
- **Implement Regular Training Programs on ESG:** Architectural firms and IAP should prioritize the creation of continuous professional development (CPD) opportunities focused on ESG-related topics.



This could include workshops, online courses, and seminars on environmental sustainability, social impact, and governance in architecture.

- **Increase Transparency in ESG Reporting and Accountability:** Encourage architectural practices to regularly assess and publicly report their ESG performance. IAP should help develop a simple, standardized reporting framework that makes it easy for firms to share their progress with stakeholders, including clients, communities, and regulatory bodies.
- **Promote Collaboration with Academic Institutions:** Foster deeper collaboration between IAP, architectural firms, and academic institutions. This partnership can promote research on ESG in architecture, create innovative solutions for sustainable design, and address region-specific challenges.
- **Enhance Focus on Local Environmental Challenges:** Tailor ESG practices to Pakistan's specific environmental challenges, such as water scarcity, energy inefficiency, and climate resilience. Focus on climate-responsive designs and the use of locally sourced, sustainable materials.
- **Strengthen Social Responsibility Practices:** Promote greater emphasis on social equity in architectural practice. Encourage architects to actively engage with communities, prioritize affordable housing, and ensure that their projects are accessible and inclusive for all social groups, particularly marginalized communities.
- **Encourage Governance and Ethical Standards:** Strengthen governance practices within the architecture industry. Encourage firms to adopt transparent decision-making processes and ensure accountability at every stage of a project.
- **Ensure Clear Communication of ESG Commitments:** Improve the communication of ESG goals and commitments both within architectural firms and externally to clients, communities, and stakeholders.
- **Incorporate ESG into Design Education:** Integrate ESG-related principles into architectural education to ensure that future generations of architects are equipped to address the environmental and social challenges of the profession.
- **Develop ESG Partnerships:** Collaborate with international organizations, governmental bodies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to create a framework for ESG practices that is recognized globally and relevant locally.

10. Conclusion

By adopting these recommendations, architectural practices in Pakistan can significantly enhance their ESG performance and align with both global standards and local needs. IAP, as a leading body in the profession, has a critical role to play in guiding, supporting, and advocating for these changes. The survey responses indicate a strong willingness among architects to engage with ESG goals, and with the right frameworks, resources, and leadership, these goals can become integral to architectural practice in Pakistan.

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