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Ag nanoparticles decorated on rGO sheets: Green synthesis and effective photocatalytic action photocatalytic action

M.A.Majeed Khan ^{b.}, Bharti Sharma ^b, Maqusood Ahamed ^a, Abu ul Hassan S. Rana ^c, Sushil Kumar ^b

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ARTICLEINFO

rGO/Ag nanoc Hydrothermal Photocatalyst

Electrochemical energy storage

In the current study, silver (Ag) nanoparticles and rGO/Ag nanocomposite were prepared by a facile and green approach based on hydrothernal scaled. The accomposite was Ag nanoparticles and rGO/Ag nanocomposite In the current study, silver (Ag) nanoparticles and rGO/Ag nanocomposite were prepared by a facile and green approach based on hydrothermal method. The as-synthesized pure Ag nanoparticles and rGO/Ag nanocomposite were characterized using different techniques such as XRD, SEM, TEM, EDX, XPS, UV-Vis and PL spectrocopy. TEM results showed that Ag NPs were typically spherical (size—15 am) and almost uniformly attached onto rGO asheets. The appearance of Ag NPs in the rGO/Ag nanocomposite was confirmed by EDX spectra. The reduction in band gap of Ag NPs could be happened through its anchoring over rGO sheets as examined by UV-visible and photolumenesence spectroscopy. Dye degradation performance of pure Ag nanoparticles and rGO/Ag nanocomposite owards methylene blue (MB) was tested by UV-visible spectra, revealing that rGO/Ag nanocomposite has higher photo-induced catalytic activity than that of pure Ag nanoparticles. The superior electrochemical has higher photo-induced catalytic activity than that of pure Ag nanoparticles.

1. Introduction

A wide variety of organic pollutants, produced by industries and households, is responsible for a broad range of worldwide environmental and health problems. To remove dyes and toxic substances from polluted water effluents, a number of physical and chemical techniques were used, including photocatalysis, coagulation, flocculation, etc., among all of these techniques, however photocatalysis have been preferred due to its simple design, ease of process, cost effectiveness. energy efficient, environment friendly and solar light harvesting nature. The most important point to be noted is that there is no generation of secondary pollutants in the whole process [1-4].

The most important is there is no generation of secondary pollutants. In the family of carbon, the graphene has become a rising star due to their remarkable physico-chemical properties e.g. large surface area, superior electrical conductivity, thermal stability, mechanical strength and biocompatibility [5-8]. A large number of efforts have been applied to decorate metal nanoparticles on the surface of graphene and to explore their valuable applications in phototocatalysis, energy storage

and solar fuels [9,10]. Improved photocatalytic activities of several metal nanoparticles decorated on reduced graphene oxide have already been predicted recently [11,12]. The decoration of rano-materials/structures on rGO sheets reduces the recombination of photoinduced e. ht. pairs because the graphene surface provides high photoinduced e -h* pairs because the graphene surface provides high charge carrier mobility owing to its large electrical conductivity [13]. In addition, rGO has several functional groups with oxygen that enable efficient adsorption of various ions and organic molecules via stacking and electrostatic interactions [14]. All of these aspects contribute to an

increase in the photocatalytic activity. As far as photocatalysts are concerned, adsorption plays a vercritical role. Before the commencement of degradation of organic pol lutants, first the particles of organic pollutants are adsorbed on th surface of photocatalyst. In this way, adsorption plays a critical role for photocatalysis, as no degradation can take place without adsorption Due to the strong adsorption of organic pollutant molecules on the heterogeneous photocatalysis, the photocatalytic process takes place considerably faster rate. The basics of the heterogeneous photocataly process have already been discussed in the reported works [15-19].

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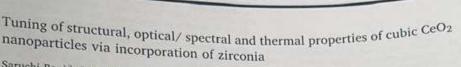
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ARTICLEINFO

Sol-gel Rietveld refinement UV-Visible abs Chromaticity

In this communication, the influence of \mathbb{Z}^{4-} ions on structural, microstructural, optical and thermal behavior of CeO₂ was investigated. Structural parameters of sol-gel derived samples were assessed by XRD, FTIR and Raman Spectroscopes. Refined profile parameters were determined through Rietveld refinement. XRD and scrudies indicated cubic fluorite phase of CeO₂ and occurrence of oxygen vacancies as defects attributed to stock the structure of the second system of the system

1. Introduction

Ceria (CeO2) is one of the most versatile rare-earth oxides possessing cubic fluorite crystal structure. It is highly reactive due to its oxygen storage capacity (OSC) and is utilized for three way catalysis [1,2].CeO2 is a promising candidate for its applications in environmental catalysis [3-6], oxygen sensors [7], polishing materials [8], catalysts [9,10], fuel cells [11], energy storage materials [12] wet catalytic oxidation of organic pollutants, cosmetics, biomedical applications [13], ultraviolet blocking agent and luminescent material.

The major drawback of pure CeO2 is much its low thermal resistance, low-temperature catalytic activity, and textural stability, which are not so compatible to meet the requirements of high-temperature applications and hence discouraged as poorly thermostable material [14-16]. The catalytic activity of ceria can be diminished at higher temperatures due to loss of oxygen storage capacity (OSC).

The redox and catalytic behavior of CeO2 was enhanced considerably when incorporated with transition metals (such as zirconium) or rare earth oxides. Relative to ceria alone, zirconium incorporated cerium oxide are known to possess high thermal resistance, enhanced oxygen storage capacity and structural modifications resulted in the reduction

of unit cell volume as well as activation energy regarding oxide ion

Scientists are engaged for the development/generation of new mixes diffusion [16].

B.M. Reddy et al. [17] reported the effect of SiO₂, TiO₂, and ZrC oxides of ceria and zirconia. incorporation on the redox and structural properties of CeO2. The found that OSC of mixed oxides (CeO2-ZrO2) are greater than that pure CeO2. S. Abdollahzadeh et al. [18] predicted that oxygen stora capacity of pure ceria was enhanced on the addition of zirconia conte E.A. Trusovaet al $\{1^{\circ}\}$ studied that sol-gel synthesized ceria-doped : conia powders oriented themselves towards functional ceramic s stances for a variety of purposes. The nature of zirconium salt anion strong effect on functional properties. F. Saporitia et al. [20] repo that films of cubic phase of yttria and ceria doped zirconia, mautilized as electrolyte in solid oxide fuel cells. P.P. Ortega et al. depicted that optical, structural and gas-sensing characteristic ceria-based substances can be tunned by rare-earth ions dopin making a versatile material employable for components of white and CO gas sensing devices. Several relevant studies related to p nent metal oxides like TiO2, CeO2, Bi2MoO6, etc. have been carrie by researchers in recent years as they have found wide scientif

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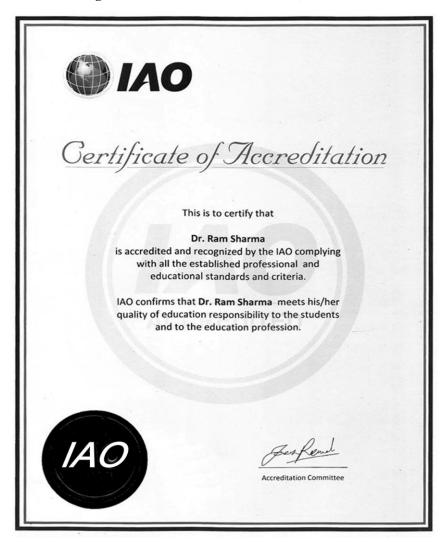


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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ACTUAL CSR SPENDING AND PRESCRIBED CSR SPENDING

DR. MANJU BALA

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LITERATURE REVIEW

Global Level: CSR as Sustainable Development

The latest literature tradition to have impacted our understanding of corporate social responsibility is that of sustainable development. It was the Brundtland Commission (1987) that for the first time systematically emphasized the link between poverty, environmental degradation, and economic development. Its definition of sustainable development, as meeting the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs, extends the responsibility of firms both interand intra-generationally. Thus firms are expected to also consider traditionally unrepresented stakeholders such as the environment and as well as future generations. Although many CSR authors have taken up the notion of a "triple bottom line" (Elkington, 1997) there remain important tensions between the CSR and the sustainable development debate (i.e. Dyllick & Hockerts, 2002)

Galbraith (1977) says the 'customer is the king' is no more than a myth. He maintains that the modern organisation exercises power to the extent of shaping tastes of consumers to its products. But this power is often buried down to leave nobler causes to surface.

Andriof *et al* (2002), today's shareholder thinking concerns the interactive, mutually engaged and responsive relationships that

'establish the very context of doing business and create the groundwork for transparency and accountability'.

Freeman (1984) presented a more positive view of managers' support of CSR. Freeman's stakeholder theory asserts that managers must satisfy a variety of constituents (eg., employees, customers, suppliers and local community) who can influence the firm outcomes.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The Period of the study ranges from 2012 to 2017. Variables employed in the Study CSR%, industrial sub-sectors CSR%, manufacturing sector, service sector CSR%, Company Act 2013

SAMPLING METHOD

Purposive sampling was undertaken for the research study. The data collection frequency for all the variables included in the study were annual CSR disclosures, annual CSR ratings and ranks, company's director reports, CSR reports and actual CSR data.

SAMPLE SIZE

Companies from India were considered to provide substantial data. For the financial years 2012-2017, the Corporate Social Responsibility of companies were considered for the pre and posteffect of Companies Act 2013, the Corporate Social Responsibility of 75 companies was considered

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study was limited to the Indian companies. This study entirely relies on the secondary data collected from various sources. The secondary data was used from financial reports of the companies of the years 2012-2017 Extensive library work was carried out for a detailed review of the literature. Data from the internet, books, academic journals, newspapers and magazines was also used.

OBJECTIVE

To appraise the policies of corporate social responsibility and its implication in India.

HYPOTHESIS

H1: Companies were spending significantly lower in Corporate Social Responsibility than the prescribed amount.

| | | Actual | Prescribed |
|------|--|--------|------------|
| S.NO | Companies | Amount | Amount |
| 1 | Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. | 391 | 450 |
| 2 | Reliance Industries Ltd. | 357.05 | 377.07 |
| 3 | Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. | 270 | 350 |
| 4 | Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. | 261.58 | 405.42 |
| 5 | Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. | 240 | 350 |
| 6 | Tata Chemicals Ltd. | 200 | 135 |
| 7 | Tata Steel Ltd. | 170.59 | 124.05 |
| 8 | State Bank of India | 123.27 | 194.25 |
| 9 | GMR Infrastructure Ltd. | 120 | 150 |
| 10 | ICICI Bank Ltd. | 116.55 | 104.27 |

Figure: Actual CSR spent by top 10 companies for FY 2012-13

The analysis showed that the hypothesis that 'Companies were spending significantly lower in Corporate Social Responsibility than the prescribed amount for the financial year 2012-13' was confirmed. A repeated measures t-test was conducted to compare the means of Prescribed Corporate Social Responsibility amount and Actual Corporate Social Responsibility of 96 companies for the financial year 2012-13. The mean of Prescribed Corporate Social Responsibility amount of companies (M= 71.03, SD= 90.79) was found to be significantly higher than the mean of Actual Corporate Social Responsibility amount (M= 43.94, SD= 73.24). The results of the repeated measures t-test were expressed as t (95) = -6.34, p= 0.00 (one-tailed). The results showed that these companies were spending significantly lower in Corporate Social Responsibility than the prescribed amount.

The FY 2012-13 was a period when the Companies Act 2013 had not yet come into force. So it was not mandatory for Indian companies to devote 2% of their average net profit towards corporate social responsibility. With no Act in force, companies were diverting

their funds in areas that they felt there was a need, while other companies did not have structured CSR policies.

Partner in Change (2000) studied 600 companies and 20 CEOs for understanding and judging corporate involvement in social development in India. Around 85% of the respondent companies agreed that Indian corporates should be socially responsible. Only 11% of the respondent companies had a written CSR policy.

About 60% were giving money as a donation for initiatives like health, education and infrastructure. Similarly, Karmayog's survey (2009) found that 229 companies out of 500 companies got a '0' rating on a scale of 0-5 for not showing any CSR activity. Many companies were only giving donations believing that charity and philanthropy equal to CSR (Karmayog, 2009). Most companies used CSR as a marketing tool to gain more popularity in the market. Structured CSR practices were taken up by very few companies. Most companies were either unaware or were not bothered to monitor their company's CSR. It is observed that philanthropy was the main driving force behind all the CSR initiatives of most of the companies.

A few additional observations were noted:

As can be seen in Table 4.3, the top 10 CSR ranks for FY 2012-13 with Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd. heading the list. However, Tata Chemicals Ltd., Tata Steel Ltd. and ICICI Bank Ltd. had spent more than 2% of the prescribed CSR.

While the remaining companies inspite of being the top spenders towards CSR had not been able to spend the prescribed CSR amount.

Highlights of CSR Spend in FY 2012-13

- 1. The actual CSR spent for FY.2012-13 was Rs. 4218.40 crore which was less than the prescribed amount of Rs. 6819.06 crore.
- 2. The actual CSR spent by the manufacturing sector was Rs.

- 3438.17 crore as against the prescribed amount of Rs. 4674.77 crore
- 3. The service sector spent Rs. 780.23 crore as against the prescribed amount of Rs. 2144.29 crore
- 4. The actual CSR spent by the public sector was Rs. 1985.91 crore as against the prescribed amount of Rs. 3614.74 crore
- 5. The private sector spent Rs. 2232.49 crore as against the prescribed amount of Rs. 3204.32 crore.
- 6. Fourteen companies spent more than 2% of the prescribed amount namely Tata Steel Ltd, ICICI Bank Ltd., Hindustan Unilever Ltd., Aclani Enterprises Ltd., Jindal Steel Power Ltd., Jaiprakash Association Ltd., Tata Chemical Ltd., Ambuja Cement Ltd., JSW Energy Ltd., Nestle India Ltd., IDFC Ltd., National Aluminum Companies Ltd, Adani Power Ltd, Ultra Tech Cement Ltd.
- 7. Out of the fourteen companies, twelve were manufacturing companies and two were service sector companies.
- 8. Out of the fourteen companies, twelve companies were from private sector and two were from public sector.
- 9. Thirty-one companies had spent more than one percent of the prescribed CSR amount.
- 10. Fifty-one companies had spent less than one percent of the prescribed CSR amount.
- 11. 85.42 % companies could not meet the CSR compliance.
- 12. The company itself undertook most of the CSR initiatives.
- 13. Almost seventy-one companies spent their CSR funds on education projects.
- 14. Sixty-five companies preferred to give donations.
- 15. Forty-four companies preferred health, hygiene, livelihood and environment.

- 16. Private sector companies spent morethanthepublicsector in the manufacturing sector as well as service sector towards the CSR spending.
- 17. The manufacturing sector companies Spent more than the service sector.

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A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW ON ESG:RESEARCH IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH AGENDAS TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

Mehak Upveja

Chaudhary Devi Lal University, Sirsa, Hariyana, India Dr. Sakshi Mehta

Government National College, Sirsa, Hariyana, India

The field of sustainable finance research has emerged as a well-established domain within the finance literature. The growing recognition of sustainability and global concerns pertaining to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) matters, especially within the investors' community, has necessitated the implementation of ESG principles and stimulated a trend towards increased scholarly research and dissemination of knowledge in this domain. This study under takes a comprehensive examination and synthesis of the existing body of literature on ESG to facilitate a comprehensive review and summary. This study incorporates a systematic literature review methodology to consider various aspects related to ESG. The researchers conducted a search in the SCOPUS database using multiple Booleans to identify the relevant literature in this specific domain and subsequently extracted a substantial corpus of literature pertaining to ESG spanning the period from 1989 to 2023. These emerging strands of literature describe the transformation occurring in the finance field. This study aims to identify the prominent theoretical foundations, empirical and methodological approaches, the interaction among ESG dimensions, the impact of ESG on financial and economic outcomes, and the function of ESG in risk prevention. This paper refines the key themes as well as drivers of interest present in the study of ESG to serve as a guide for academic research scholars and practitioners of ESG.

Keywords: ESG; Sustainability, Finance; Ethical financing; Systematic Literature Review.