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TEACHERS' ROLE IN UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE - A STUDY OF UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

J.P. Sharma[1] and Nidhi Kapoor[2]

The study relates to the role of teachers in the governance of a university majorly focusing on University of Delhi. It is a questionnaire based study with the teachers of University of Delhi, college principals, DUTA executive members and elected representatives of Academic/ Executive Council being the respondents. It mainly focuses on examining the adequacy of teachers' representation in university level decision-making bodies; constitution, working mechanism and role played by Academic/ Executive Council, DUTA and Staff Council; identifying major areas where teachers' participation is appropriate and areas where it needs to be enhanced; major motivating and de motivating factors for teachers' participation in decision-making; examining the need to develop ethics code for teachers and; finding the extent of usefulness of various bodies in providing meaningful participation opportunities to teachers. It has been found that the opinion of various interest groups differed in case of various issues and on the basis of such observations the conclusions of the study have been drawn. Recommendations have also been given separately for the colleges and for university level decision-making bodies.

Keywords: Teachers' Role, University Governance, College Governance, Higher Education, Educational Administration

INTRODUCTION

The concept of governance is as old as human civilization and it refers to the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented or not implemented. The universities in different countries, developed and developing, experience a different pattern in administration of universities. The experience in our own country varies very much depending on the type of university, the period for which it has been in existence and whether it has been under the control of the union government or a state government.[1] The role of university in a developing and democratic country like India is of great significance and revolutionary. The universities of India must take care to guard the Indian society against the danger of ignoring the pre-eminent place of culture in the healthy development of the nation

The universities in India fall under three broad categories- unitary, affiliating and federal universities. The federal universities are very few in number. The administration of both unitary and affiliating type is almost similar and is carried out through a hierarchy of authorities and functionaries: the chancellor, the pro-chancellor, the vice-chancellor, the pro-vice-chancellor, the court or the senate, the syndicate or the executive council, the academic council, the faculties and the board of studies, the finance committee and such other bodies as may be declared by the statutes to be authorities of the university.[2]

The central objective of a college or university is the translation of the talents and capacities of its faculty into significant educational results. Most major policy or program decisions, hence, have relevance to this central

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[1] Prof. J.P. Sharma, Head and Dean, Department of Commerce, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, Delhi-110007, E-mail id: jaiprakash2509@gmail.com

[2] Ms. Nidhi Kapoor, Assistant Professor, Department of Commerce, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, Delhi- 110007, E-mail id: ndhbhandari@yahoo.co.in

SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES, DRIVERS AND BARRIERS: A NEW ZEALAND/INDIA COMPARISON[1]

Eva Collins[2], Geeta Duppati[3] and A. K. Rath[4]

Growing awareness of global environment and social problems has led to non-financial parameters becoming an important source of providing a competitive edge to the organizations, and thus to ensure business sustainability. Business sustainability is often referred to as the process whereby the companies strive to manage the triple bottom line- financial, social, and environmental risks and opportunities. In the backdrop of this, the present study builds on a longitudinal study of business sustainability practices in New Zealand, and further extends this to a sample of companies in India to facilitate a cross-country comparison. The study thus aims at identifying and analyzing the levels of various drivers and barriers to sustainability practices both in India and New Zealand. The study reveals that in both the countries, the surveyed companies are more engaged in social rather than environmental sustainability. In the case of for Indian companies, while Government regulation was reported as the key driver, in New Zealand, reputation and brand were found to be the key drivers for business sustainability.

INTRODUCTION

As awareness of global environmental and social problems grows, the movement for sustainability has also gained global momentum (Zorn & Collins, 2007). Society has emerged as a major stakeholder of business. Business is seen as a social trust aimed at satisfying social expectations. The non-financial parameters like ethics, social responsibility and sustainable development are increasingly being regarded as factors responsible for lending competitive edge to companies. Social good in addition to profit is increasingly the basis for judging the performance of business (Rath, 2012).

Sustainability practices in the business context refers to businesses incorporating social and environmental strategies into its overall economic bottom-line (Elkington, 1998). Because business is typically held responsible for creating many environmental and social problems, so too is business expected to take responsibility for change by adopting sustainable practices (Shrivastava & Hart, 1995). Businesses typical adherence is to a traditional focus on profit imperatives, therefore responsibility beyond the economic bottom-line is most often sold to business in the form of 'the business case'; that there is the potential for capital growth in sustainable development on the opportunity side, and the threat for those businesses that do not embrace sustainability is they will eventually find themselves at a competitive disadvantage (Hart & Milstein, 2003). What is less understood are the specific sustainability practices adopted by business in developed countries compared to developing countries and the drivers and barriers to adopting sustainability practices.

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[1] Submission to the Sustainability Conference to be held Massey University, Albany Campus, Auckland, New Zealand on 13-15 November 2013

[2] Eva Collins, Associate Professor, Department of Strategy and Human Resource Management, University of Waikato, New Zealand, E-mail ID: Evacolln@waikato.ac.nz

[3] Dr. Geeta Duppati, Department of Finance, University of Waikato, New Zealand, E-mail ID: Geetad@waikato.ac.nz

[4] Professor A.K. Rath, Chairman, Centre for Corporate Governance, International Management Institute, New Delhi, India

FDI IN TELECOM SECTOR AND ITS EFFECT ON PERFORMANCE OF LISTED INDIAN TELECOM COMPANIES

Deepti Singh*

The study seeks to look into the trends of foreign investment in the Indian telecom sector after its opening up for foreign investors and thereafter tries to empirically test the effect of this investment in the performance of listed Indian companies. It was found that market based performance measures do give a premium to companies with foreign promoters but accounting ratios measuring performance do not have any significant difference between domestically run and foreign promoted listed telecom companies. This shows that investors may feel that foreign investment brings technological, resource and managerial excellence but indigenously funded and managed companies in the sector are performing equally well.

Key words: Promoter, Foreign Promoter, Performance, Foreign Direct Investment

INTRODUCTION

The modern system of communications in India started with the establishment of telegraph network. In order to ensure telegraph network's exclusivity and establish government control over electronic communications, various telegraph statutes were enacted by the Government of India which laid the foundation of the present regulatory framework governing telecommunications (both wired and wireless). In early days, India witnessed increasing number of wired telephone connections. Even when wireless communication was introduced in the form of cellular phones, it was not immediately accepted by the Indian masses, mainly on account of high price of cellular phones as well as high tariff structure prevalent at that point in time. Gradually, with the price of cellular handset as well as mobile (wireless) tariff reducing there was increasing adoption of wireless communications. Today the Indian telecom industry is already witnessing the lowest telecom tariff globally.

Like elsewhere, telecommunications in India started as a state monopoly. In the 1980s, telephone services and postal services came under the Department of Posts and Telegraphs. In 1985, the government separated the Department of Post and created the Department of Telecommunications (“DoT”). As part of early reforms, the government set up two new public sector undertakings: Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (“MTNL”) and Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (“VSNL”). MTNL looked after telecommunications operations in two megacities, Delhi and Mumbai. VSNL provided international telecom services in India. DoT continued to provide telecommunications operations in all regions other than Delhi and Mumbai. It is important to note that under this regime, telecommunication services were not treated to be a necessity that should be made available to all people but rather a luxury possible for select few.

In the early 1990s the Indian telecom sector, which was owned and controlled by the Indian government, was liberalized and private sector participation was permitted through a gradual process. First, telecom equipment manufacturing sector was completely deregulated. The government then allowed private players to provide value added services (“VAS”) such as paging services. In 1994, the government unveiled the National Telecom

* Dr. Deepti Singh, Assistant Professor, Motilal Nehru College, University of Delhi, Delhi-110007 Ph: 9910072800, E-mail ID: deeptirana0502@yahoo.com

A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF IFRSs CONVERGENCE IN THE INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

Sameer Lama*

The inevitability of the IFRSs in the global reporting arena has been an important topic of research and discussion in the areas of accounting and finance universally. The present scenario of IFRS Convergence seems to be the most contradictory aspect indulging a substantial part of the monetary and financial sector which impinges on the economy. Underscoring the need and significance of the IFRSs particularly in the developing economies, this paper examines the impact of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) in the Indian perspective. Further, the paper also highlights the various prospects and problems of Convergence to the new international standards and compares and contrast the various associated parameters between Indian and the Rest of the World.

Key words: IFRSs, Convergence, Indian GAAP, Accounting Standards

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Accounting, most often, has been defined as a language of business. In the modern globalized era, the meaning, concept and the role which the language of business has to play has undergone a paradigm shift worldwide. Accounting, no longer, is just an art or service activity. The present accounting structure is mainly oriented towards a sound reporting framework which facilitates a sound judgement for rational decision making analysis of the management. The inter-dependency of accounting on different forces has been a contradictory aspect and has intrigued a large number of scholars to investigate and understand the pros and cons of its associated parameters. Accounting is shaped by economic and political forces (Ball). It follows that increased worldwide integration of both markets and politics (driven by reductions in communications and information processing costs) makes increased integration of financial reporting standards and practice almost inevitable. The reasonable solution for the global integration of the reporting framework accentuates the importance of the new international standards, i.e. the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs). IFRSs are a set of new international standards pronounced by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), an independent organization based in London, UK. They purport to be a set of rules that ideally would apply equally to financial reporting by public companies worldwide. The goal of IFRS is to provide a global framework for how public companies prepare and disclose their financial statements. IFRS provides general guidance for the preparation of financial statements, rather than setting rules for industry-specific reporting.

1.2 RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

The current IFRS convergence scenario across the world provides the different sets of understanding among the different nations which is quite a paradox. In the midst of these entire hotchpotch, India having said to comply/converge to the IFRS has still not been successful for mandatory adoption of the new IFRS. As such, the

* Research Scholar, Department of Commerce, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, Delhi 110007 E-mail: sameerlama9@gmail.com

SHOPPING ORIENTATIONS BASED TYPOLOGY OF INDIAN CONSUMERS

Devinder Pal Singh*

The emergence of organized retail formats in India has altered the retail scene and transformed the consumers' shopping behavior. This necessitates understanding the changing consumer behavior patterns. The paper aims to provide shopping orientations based consumer profile. Consumer style inventory (CSI) has been efficaciously adapted and generalized for understanding consumers across various cultures. The study employs exploratory factor analysis to see the adaptability of CSI scales to the Indian consumers. Hierarchical and K-means clustering techniques have been applied to segment the Indian consumer market. It is envisaged that the study would provide valuable insights into the Indian consumers' shopping orientations and serve as important inputs for marketing strategies.

Key words: Consumer Orientations; Shopping Styles; Consumer Style Inventory; Consumer Profile; Indian Consumers.

INTRODUCTION

The growth of organized retail has led to transformation of the Indian consumers. Indian retail is in a state of transition and it has an impact on both the customers and retailers (Sinha, 2003). The increase in buying power coupled with the availability of a wide array of products has metamorphosed the consumers' shopping orientations (Lysonski & Durvasula, 2013). This necessitates the examination of the evolving consumers' shopping orientations and the surfacing consumer segments.

Shopping orientations denote the customers' mental orientations for making shopping choices. Though numerous elements influence consumer decision making but certain essential cognitive orientations or decision-making styles dictate the consumers' shopping choices (Sproles & Kendall, 1986; Durvasula et al, 1993; Niu, 2013). These orientations are stable and determine consumer behavior (Walsh et al, 2001). Consumer styles inventory (CSI) model (Sproles and Kendall, 1986) is the most widely acknowledged model to measure consumer orientations. It has been replicated extensively (Bauer et al. 2006) and valued for predicting consumer behavior (Sinkovics et al, 2010). CSI is the “mental orientation” of the consumers that is responsible for their shopping decisions (Sproles & Kendall, 1986). It is a scale for classification of varying consumer decision-making styles into discrete segments of mental orientation (Lysonski & Durvasula, 2013; Lysonski et al., 1996; Siu & Hui, 2001).

Few studies (Canabal, 2001; Khare, 2012; Mishra, 2010) that have adapted the CSI to Indian market have conflicting results. Consumers with different shopping orientations have requirements of different types of retail institutions (Kargaonkar, 1984; Zhang et al., 2011). The shopping orientations based segmentation would help in identification of segments and targeting it. Despite the far-reaching changes in the country's retail panorama and consumer behavior patterns in the country, there is a dearth of research examining the changing consumer behavior styles.

* Devinder Pal Singh, Assistant Professor, Punjabi University Regional Centre for IT & Management, Mohali Punjab, India-160059
Email: sidhudps@gmail.com

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Department of Commerce
Delhi School of Economics
University of Delhi, Delhi-110007