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# APPLICATION AND CHALLENGES OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARD TO INDIAN CORPORATE

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## **ABSTRACT**

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) is a set of accounting standards, developed by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) that is becoming the global standard for the preparation of public company financial statements. It is funded by contributions from major accounting firms, private financial institutions and industrial companies, central and development banks, national funding regimes, and other international and professional organizations throughout the world. Two of the main advantages of adopting IFRS are those of more transparency and a higher degree of comparability. Both of these will benefit investors and are essential to achieving the goal of an integrated global and financial market place. Many of the standards forming part of IFRS are known by the older name of International Accounting Standards (IAS).

#### **KEYWORDS**

International Financial Reporting Standard, Objectives, Scope, Challenges.

#### INTRODUCTION

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) are standards and interpretations adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB). Many of the standards forming part of IFRS are known by the older name of International Accounting Standards (IAS). IASs were issued between 1973 and 2001 by the board of the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC). In April 2001 the IASB adopted all IAS and continued their development, calling the new standards IFRS. IFRSs are considered a "Principles bases" set of standards in that they establish broad rules as well as dictating specific treatments. International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as a global accounting language seeks to bring about a convergence in the way corporate accounts are prepared and reported globally. The fundamental difference among IFRS, other countries' Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and US GAAP is the underlying principles on which these standards are based. Thus, GAAP in a few countries, including US, are formed on rule-based system where as IFRS is based on principle-based system. Such standards are qualitative and to apply them, capturing the economic substance underlying a transaction is essential. This process will result into more transparent and accurate financial reporting.

By 2015, it is expected that more than 150 countries including USA will move to IFRS. Presently, approximately 120 nations have accepted IFRS for domestic listed companies. Of these, about 90 countries have made it mandatory for their companies to follow IFRS. India has decided to converge than adoption of IFRS. In India, though the Government has deferred the implementation of IFRS which was due on April 1, 2011 but felt necessary that the industries should before they convert and understand their accounts. The government said the convergence will happen after various tax-related and company law-related issues are resolved. The convergence requires that the awareness levels and competency needs to be raised. The level of technical preparedness of industry, accounting professionals expertise with international standards and economic environment prevailing in the country would pose challenges to smooth switch to IFRS

## THE IFRS INCLUDES

- International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs)—developed by the IASB;
- International Accounting Standards (IASs)—adopted by the IASB;
- Interpretations originated from the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRICs)
- Standing Interpretations Committee (SIC)

There is also a Frame work for the preparation and presentation of Financial Statements which describes some of the principles underlying IFRS.

### **OBJECTIVES OF IFRS**

The basic objective of Accounting Standards is to remove variations in the treatment of several accounting aspects and to bring about standardization in presentation. They intent to harmonize the diverse accounting policies followed in the preparation and presentation of financial statements by different reporting enterprises so as to facilitate intra-firm and inter-firm comparison. In all 29 Accounting Standards have been prescribed. However their applicability is dependent on its size – Level I / II / III Company.

# SCOPE OF IFRS

The use of international financial reporting standards (IFRS) as a universal financial reporting language is gaining momentum across the globe. Over a 100 countries in the European Union, Africa, West Asia and Asia-Pacific regions either require or permit the use of IFRS. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has recently released a concept paper on Convergence with IFRS in India, detailing the strategy for adoption of IFRS in India with effect from April 1, 2011. This has been strengthened by a recent announcement from the ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) confirming the agenda for convergence with IFRS in India by 2011. Convergence to IFRS would mean India would join a league of more than 100 countries, which have converged with IFRS. But Indian Accounting Standards have not kept pace with changes in IFRS. There are significant differences between IFRS and I-GAAP, because Indian standards remain sensitive to local conditions, including the legal and economic environment.

Beyond the legal requirements to comply corporate in India perceive that converting to IFRS would help in enhancing their reputation and relationships with the financial community. Other benefits include increased consistency between internal and external reporting, comparability with international competitors, increased access to international market, improvement in risk rating, improvement in planning and forecasting. There will be in a better position to assess the tax liabilities of multinational companies receiving income from overseas as well as for foreign multinationals setting up shop in their own country.

#### CHALLENGES FACES IN ADOPTING IFRS

- Although entities are frequently required to adopt new accounting standards under their national Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ('GAAP'), adopting IFRS, is an entirely different basis of accounting, posses a distinct set of problems.
- Information may need to be collected that was not required under the previous GAAP.
- Practical experience of applying a principles-based system of Financials Reporting Standards such as IFRS does not exist in many entities.
- The requirements of individual standards will often differ significantly from those under an entity's previous GAAP.

#### CONCLUSION

A business can present its financial statements on the same basis as its foreign competitors, making comparisons easier. Furthermore, companies with subsidiaries in countries that require or permit IFRS may be able to use one accounting language company-wide. Adopting IFRS, we would be adopting a "global financial reporting" basis that will enable companies to be understood in a global marketplace. This helps in accessing world capital markets and promoting new business. It allows companies to be perceived as an international player. A consistent financial reporting basis would allow a multinational company to apply common accounting standards with its subsidiaries worldwide, which would improve internal communications, quality of reporting and group decision-making. IFRS allows a company to benchmark itself against its peers throughout the world, and allows investors and others to compare the company's performance with competitors globally.

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