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REVIEW OF LITERATURE

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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

OBJECTIVES

HYPOTHESES

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS

CONCLUSIONS

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A CONCEPTUAL PAPER ON CROWDFUNDING WITH REFERENCE TO ENTREPRENEURS AND INVESTORS IN **INDIA**

DARSHANA THAKER **RESEARCH SCHOLAR** SAURASHTRA UNIVERSITY RAJKOT

ABSTRACT

Today we live in hyper connected where era, where social networking plays very important role even in business. Many a time, raising funds from traditional sources becomes very difficult for the entrepreneurs and hence crowd funding is the best option for small and new start ups. The paper basically focuses on the conceptual side of the concept from the view point of entrepreneurs and investors in India based on the secondary data. With the increasing usage of internet, crowd funding will be the one of the best option to raise funds.

KEYWORDS

Crowd funding, investors, least cost.

INTRODUCTION

'he Indian entrepreneurs are ready to float their new idea in the market but unfortunately they don't have money for the same. The lack funds lead no business. Generally entrepreneur gets funds from the venture capitalist, angel investors, or banks for starting up their business. To get funds from these, the entrepreneur has to prepare the budget including the data related to market demand, revenue and expenditure for the minimum periods of five years and this paper work must be done in such a way that it attracts the investors for funding the particular project. Many a times entrepreneurs are not good at such kind of paper work and could not get funds from these investors. Crowd funding is basically an easy way to raise funds from investors for small business or start up entrepreneurs.

Today we live in a hyper connected era of digital revolution. The social media users are increasing day by day and entrepreneurs wants to take an advantage of advance technology in obtaining the main factors - labour, capital and talent. The entrepreneurs want their project to be successful by obtaining capital from the use of social media. The entrepreneurs want to use the social networking websites as a platform for raising the funds from a crowd for a specific project. This digital era has lead to evolution of crowdfunding and crowd sourcing. However, involving this crowd requires changes in the policies and mindset. Crowdfunding markets have just appeared as an alternative for obtaining capital to support new ventures. This paper will focus on crowd funding as a source of capital from the view point of entrepreneurs as well as from the view point of investors and of course the regulators.

OBJECTIVES

- To understand about crowdfunding scenario in India 1.
- 2 To identify the advantages and disadvantages
- 3. Legal issues related to crowd funding
- 4. Issues related to investor protection
- 5. Risk associated with crowd funding

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

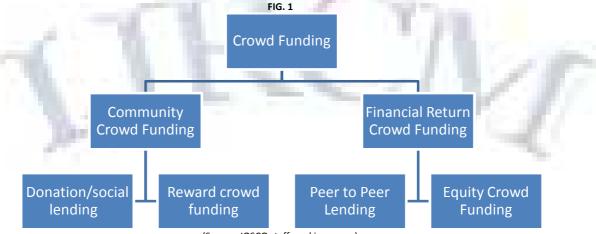
The research is based on secondary data which has been collected from different websites and journals and it is descriptive in nature.

WHAT IS CROWDFUNDING?

TYPES OF CROWD-FUNDING

Crowd funding is an alternative method of raising small amount of funds from multiple investors through a web based platform or social networking sites for a particular project, business venture or social cause.

Crowdfunding model involves three parties: the project initiator who proposes idea, individuals who supports the projects and provide fund, the 'platform' that brings party together to launch the project.



(Source: IOSCO staff working paper)

Donation crowd funding is raising funds for some social, artistic or charitable purpose and not in exchange of any tangible value. For example: bitgiving, Kickstarter, Indiegogo etc are platform for raising funds for social purpose.

Reward crowd funding is similar to donation but reward crowd funding offers some reward in form of product or membership. The websites which supports donation crowd funding offers reward crowd funding also.

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In Peer to Peer lending, an online platform matches borrower and lender in order to provide non secure loan and interest rate is fixed by an online platform. In equity crowd funding, equity shares of the companies are issued to the lenders. Generally, the start ups will raise funds by this method and they will advertise online by crowd funding platform.

HISTORY OF CROWD FUNDING

The emergence of crowd funding activities could be traced out from 17th centuries. The Irish Loan Funds were created by Jonathan Swift for low income families who had no credit facilities and little collateral but could still be considered creditworthy. Thus, this fund was used by small businessman and farmers to push up their business.

By 1800, more than 300 programs were loaning small amount of funds for short period and 20% of households were using this in Ireland.

In 1976, the Noble Prize winner, Dr. Mohammad Yunus, launched programme to provide banking opportunity low income residents in Bangladesh. Initial loan of \$27 to 42 women was given and in five years, program has 30,000 members. In 1983, the said program was transformed to Grameen Bank. The bank now has more than 8 million borrowers, with 97% of the money given to women operated business.

In 1997, the U.S. tours of the British rock band Marillion was funded by their US fan base by raising \$60,000 themselves online to give to the band.

In 2000, the 'aristShare', the first documented crowdfunding site for music was launched. In 2005, 'Kiva' gave, individual the chance to provide small loans to entrepreneurs in poor areas around the world. In 2006, Prosper, the first peer to peer lending platform was launched. In 2006, Michael Sullivan, founder of 'FundVlog', coined the term 'crowdfunding'.

In 2008, 'indiegogo' enabled the people to donate without middleman and in 'peerbackers' came with financial return crowdfunding. In 2011, the U.S. president Obama unveils the 'Startup America Initiative' and in 2012 the first equity crowdfunding platform was launched named, 'Fundable' in conjunction with the JOBS Act.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Quing Guo (2010): 'The Practical use of Crowd funding: Two cases illustration' focuses on analyzing the application of crowd funding by studying two prime movers in the industry. According to the author, Kickstarter and IndieGoGo experienced an increasing growth. Further, study gives an idea about the views of platform creator and investors of two illustrated cases.

Ordanini Andrea, Lucia Miceli, Marta Pizzetti, & A.Parasurman (2011): The authors have considered three crowdfunding cases viz. Sellaband in music business, Trempoline in financial services and Kapipal in non profit service. The research basically focuses on two question - (i) how and why do consumers turn into crowdfunding participant? (ii) how and why do service provider set up crowdfunding initiative?

Hemer Joachim (2011) : 'A snapshot on crowd funding- working paper' analyses the different crowdfunding initiatives, investors and success rate of projects. The paper analyses the success rate of the projects initiated by crowd funding. It also enumerates the characteristics, advantages and risk factors associated with crowdfunding.

Agrawal Ajay & Avi Goldfarb (2011): 'The Geography of crowdfunding' analyses about the geographic territory of crowdfunding. Apparently, there is no geographic boundary for crowdfunding as fund is raised online through internet but the researchers have concluded that the local investors are motivated early to invest in the project initiated by the person of their territory compare to other investors. Thus the geographic limit of crowd funding is personal connection of an investor to the entrepreneur.

Ethan Mollic (2013): In the paper titled 'The dynamics of crowdfunding: An exploratory study' the author has described the underlying dynamics of success and failure among crowd funded ventures. The quality of the project and personal connections are the main determinants for the success of crowd funded project. S. Nagalakshmi & U. Gana Cecilia (2014) : The paper focuses on the emerging trends in crowd funding in India and theoretical aspect of the same.

From the above detailed reviewed literature it was found that very few researchers have focused the crowdfunding in India.

ADVANTAGES OF CROWD FUNDING

It is an alternative to raise funds from the traditional way at a lesser cost compare to public issue of securities. Thus, crowdfunding provides access to capital for startups and expansion of project.

- Investors will invest in the project only when the idea is different and unique. So, crowdfunding provides proof for validity of an idea.
- It is easier to raise funds from crows funding than traditional ways like bank loan. The process is very simple that the entrepreneur has to create campaign for his project which will be displayed on crowd funding platform thus it does not require do any paper work and it does not consume too much time.
- It provides opportunity for pre-selling the product or concept which is not yet launched in the market and entrepreneur can have reactions of the users before actually launching it in the market.

DISADVANTAGES OF CROWD FUNDING

- The biggest disadvantage of crowdfunding is stealing of an idea. While creating the campaign for crowd funding project the entrepreneur has to provide information in such a way that it attracts potential investors but does not lead to giving information to competitors and thus it becomes difficult.
- The venture capitalist or angle investors will not be ready to invest in such project in future because of so many small contributors and hence it creates negative impression for the future finance options.
- In crowdfunding, investors generally expects quick and timely return which creates unnecessary pressure on the entrepreneur.

LEGAL ISSUES FOR CROWD FUNDING IN INDIA

- One of the biggest issue is how should crowd funding be registered in India. The firm which raises funds from IPO or FPO are registered with SEBI and stock exchange also. The firms are required to fulfill the SEBI Act, Companies Act and rules of the stock exchange. No such kind of procedure could be made possible for the crowd funding.
- In the entire process of crowd funding internet plays crucial role so another problem is related to safety and surety of the data.
- It may lead to increase in willful defaulters. The entrepreneurs may collect fund from crowd funding and may involve in willful defaulter.
- Whether the crowd funding platform be registered as a broker?
- The investor protection will be crucial as there so many small investors contributing to large projects.
- Basic disclosure requirements for the crowd funding platform and the project
- Taxations issues related to crowd funding

CROWD FUNDING SCENARIO IN INDIA

Today's India has become the global popular destination for investments by moving on off the license tradition of past. Every month one new crowd funding website is launched in India shows the future prospects of the industry. Recently, Indian Boxer, Mary Kom, has announced about rising of funds through crowdfunding for creating Boxing academy in Imphal. Thus the crowdfunding scenario in India has completely changed.

At present, community crowd funding is allowed in India. The equity or debt based crowd funding is funding requires to ensure the protection of retail investors. In June 2014, SEBI has issued consultation paper on crowd funding in India. SEBI may allow equity/debt crowd funding with following proposed rules.

Crowdfunding platform can be provided by only SEBI registered entities, while companies can raise up to Rs.10 crore in a year with maximum 200 individual investors

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- Only accredited investors shall be allowed to participate in crowdfunding activities which include institutional investors, HNIs, and retail investors advised by portfolio managers or investment advisors.
- Retail investors can invest maximum up to Rs. 60000 or 10% of their net worth
- * A company being in existence for four or more years or companies listed on stock exchange shall not be permissible to raise funds from this route
- Only the entities which are not associated with business group having turnover of more than Rs.25 crore shall be allowed to raise funds from crowdfunding
- The entities engaged in real estate or financial sector shall be barred

CONCLUSION

Crowdfunding is very good concept to implement but the problem lies with protection of investors and to make rules accordingly which helps entrepreneurs to raise funds easily with least cost. The future of this industry will be tremendous in India as there is no geographic barrier for investors as well as entrepreneurs.

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- 4 SEBI Consultation Paper on Crowdfunding in India



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