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A STUDY ON CONCEPT OF IFRS, BENEFICIARIES AND CHALLENGES

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ABSTRACT

Due to globalization all countries are able to adopt a single set of accounting standards. Major changes are noticed in financial reporting system, the most obvious is the continuing adoption of IFRS worldwide. More than 100 countries are converged their reporting system to IFRS for providing uniformity. It is very useful and understandable to all the people beyond the boundary of nations. IFRS are the globally accepted accounting standards which are issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), a committee including 14 members from different countries which work together to establish global accounting standards. Almost countries are decided to converge to International Financial Reporting System; India too becomes the part of this system. In India, ICAI has decided to adopt IFRS by April 2011. This study was undertaken to understand the concept of IFRS, beneficiaries of IFRS and the challenges faced by the stakeholders.

KEYWORDS

IFRS, IASB, accounting standards.

INTRODUCTION

financial statement should reflect true and fair view of the business affairs of the organization. As these statements are used by various constituents of the society or regulators, they need to reflect an accurate view of the financial position of the organization. It is very helpful to check the financial position of the business for a specific period. One country's financial statement is used by another country which leads to a problem of harmonization of accounting policies, presentations etc. Due to economic, political, legal and cultural environment we cannot attain complete harmonization. For solving all these problems the accounting standards are introduced. Accounting standards provides solution for complex business transactions and also provide transparency in all areas. Accounting standards helps to implement best practices of various regulatory agencies in connection with accounting accuracy. Not only in national level but also international level the accounting standards are being established. Accounting standard helps the investor to provide quality information for taking decisions and also helps to reduce the overall cost of capital of the company. Accounting standards are formulated by accounting standard board and institute of chartered accountants of India. Presently Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and the international financial reporting standards are the two sets of accounting standards. It will help to coordinate the activities of reporting of financial statements worldwide.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

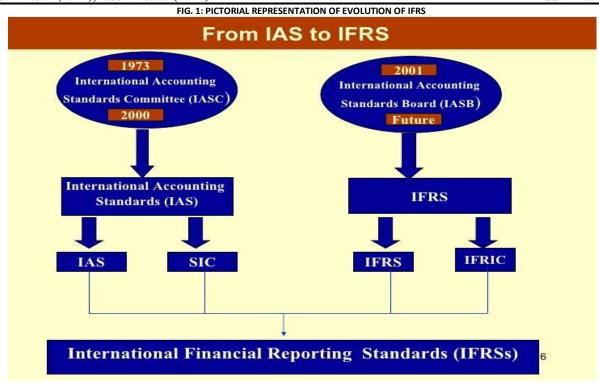
- 1. To understand the concept of International Financial Reporting System (IFRS).
- 2. To identify the beneficiaries if IFRS.
- 3. To understand the challenges of IFRS.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study was focused to understand the concept of IFRS, beneficiaries of IFRS and challenges for the implementation of IFRS. This study was conceptual in nature. Data were collected from secondary sources. It includes different books, journals and articles.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING SYSTEM

IFRS is a common global financial language for business affairs that is understandable and comparable across international boundaries. These are standards which are designed for reporting business matters, which are understandable all over the world for the purpose of establishing global accounting language. IFRS is one of the best financial reporting systems, which does not include any country with variation of accounting policies. The main advantage of implementation of global accounting standards is that one format can be used for the preparation of financial statements. It will facilitate the companies to compete abroad, raise capital, win global contracts and provide financial details. With the support of IFRS investors, government and organizations can compare various financial statements in an easy way. This is because there are many countries that permit to comply with IFRS standards. IFRS is important for companies that have dealings in different countries. They are replacing many different national accounting standards. Through the implementation of IFRS, companies will be better understandable in global markets. They will be able to tap global capital markets and they can reduce their cost of capital. The communication system of companies can improve in a better and easiest way because of universally accepted accounting standards. For economic development of nations, a sound financial reporting system supported by high quality accounting and auditing standards and governance and ethical framework is very essential. Council of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) opined in May 2006 that adopting IFRS was considered and supported by the ASB. IFRS task force was setup to provide a road map for convergence and it decided to converge with IFRS from the accounting period commencing on or after 1 April 2011. The implementation of IFRS in India was more challenging but most of the Indian corporate are likely to access the benefits of IFRS.



BENEFICIARIES OF IFRS

Several beneficiaries are there because of adoption of International Financial Reporting System with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Some of them are:

IFRS makes accounting information more relevant, reliable and comparable across different economic system. It provides common set of accounting standards worldwide and which is helpful to understand the financial position of different companies of different nations by the investors. It increases the confidence of investors who are willing to invest their funds in the countries apart from India. It will also helpful to understand more profitable avenues from different nations.

ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONALS

Through the convergence of IFRS the future of accounting professionals is more sophisticated. They have lot of opportunities to grow with their career. It will help to increase their talent and competency with a uniform policies and procedures. Accounting professionals can marketwise their whole ability and talent across the globe. They can fly with the talent of IFRS without considering the boundary of nations.

THE INDUSTRY

One important sector of beneficiaries of IFRS is the industry which will be benefited because of some valuable aspects. The implementation of IFRS helps to increase the confidence level in the minds of foreign investors. It decreases the unwanted burden of financial reporting system. IFRS provides simplest and easier procedure for the preparation of individual and group financial statements. And it will help to reduce the cost of preparation of financial statements which uses different sets of accounting standards.

CORPORATE WORLD

Implementation of IFRS will help to build up the reputation and long lasting relationship of the Indian corporate world with international financial entities. Corporate can maintain high level of consistency between internal and external reporting through the inclusion of IFRS. It will improve the risk rating and makes the corporate more and more competitive worldwide.

THE ECONOMY

One of the important benefits of IFRS is international comparability of financial statements. It will help to increase the consistency of internal and external reporting and it will result in the risk rating among the foreign investors. It will be benefitted to industrial and capital markets in the country.

CHALLENGES OF IFRS

The implementation of IFRS is a difficult process especially to developing nations like India. Various challenges faced while implementing IFRS are:

TAXATION

Complete renovation of tax laws is the main challenge faced by the Indian law makers. The convergence of IFRS will affect the financial statements. The changes in financial statements will affect the tax liabilities of the company. The tax liability wants to be calculated by considering the provisions of IFRS. The provisions of taxation should address the convergence from Indian GAAP to IFRS.

ACCOUNTING METHOD

It is very difficult to change the traditional accounting method to fair value method. It is complex to arrive the fair value of different aspects in the financial statements. The experts facing some problems while changing the accounting methods. The adjustments made for calculating fair value will affect the income statements of companies. It will change the gain and losses of companies.

AUDITING

The auditing firms will affect by the convergence of IFRS. They have the ability to audit the financial statements through traditional method. They follow cost concept accounting for auditing purposes. Now it is the time to audit at fair value method because of convergence of IFRS. The implementation of IFRS is undertaken by IASB without adequate guidance for auditors. The auditors will not be apt to discharge their liabilities as per new method. It is mainly challenged by less globally oriented audit firms.

TRAINING

One of the main challenges facing in implementation of IFRS is that lack of training facilities and academic courses on IFRS in India. Still it is in a growing stage and The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is continuing its training programmes for its members. There is lack of trained professionals for the better implementation of IFRS. This drawback will be rectified by these institutions in coming years.

REGULATORY CHANGES

The implementation of IFRS will affect the other sectors as well as regulations of the economy. The regulators want to undertake concerned changes to other laws and regulations. The changes will affect all the stakeholders like investors, lenders, board etc.

RE-NEGOTIATION OF CONTRACT

Re negotiation of contract is one of the big challenges in implementation of IFRS. It is happening because of the changes in the results of two methods. The result under Indian GAAP and IFRS is entirely different.

REPORTING SYSTEMS

The reporting system of traditional method and IFRS is different. That's why the companies want to ensure that the existing business reporting model is amended according to the requirements of IFRS. The new information system should be designed to capture the requirements of IFRS.

CONCLUSION

The convergence of IFRS facing very difficulties and challenges. But it is looking the advantages for the nation's global wise. The convergence of IFRS is strongly recommended because the measures taken by the ICAI and other regulatory bodies are creditable and it gives the positive aspects to the reporting system as a global wide. One important factor is that IFRS is more principle based approach with limited implementation and application guidance. Still the development of IFRS in a growing stage and we can hope for a delightful future with ifrs.

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