ABSTRACT

Corporate Governance is a buzz word in the business world. It is envisioned to enhance the accountability of a concern and to evade huge disasters before they occur. The concept of corporate governance has grown tremendously in last decade over the globe after the string of huge collapses of business houses. The history of these scandals has forced all the corporates to have a substantial and clear record of wealth creation and transparency over a period.

Good corporate governance is considered as the mechanism which enhances the firm value. But the poor disclosures and lack of transparency in the corporate annual reports have blocked the stakeholders from ascertaining the wellbeing of corporate houses. As a result, investor’s community recommended for improvements in the governance practices which lead to the enactment of corporate governance codes as the guiding principles for corporations to improve their governance and disclosure practices. This study is in the same direction to know the Corporate Governance Reporting Practices followed by Indian companies.

There are various critical issues in the corporate governance, but disclosure is an important component since it helps all the stakeholders to monitor the performance of companies.

This study has constructed Corporate Governance Disclosure index on the basis of mandatory provisions of Clause 49 and voluntary guidelines issued by the ministry of corporate affairs 2009 and considering international standards.

This study is about reporting practices of Nifty 100 companies. It covers a period of study from 2005-06 to 2015-16. It attempts to find out the disclosure level in the annual reports. This study has established the relationship between disclosure index and different variables affecting the disclosure level. The variables considered for the study are board composition based on gender diversity and family members on the board, board size, profitability and performance of the firms. This study has attempted to know the impact of board composition, profitability, and performance on the disclosure level.

There are various qualitative issues which are not reported in the annual reports of the companies, so, this study has conducted a survey to know the general perception of company secretaries about the current corporate governance practices followed by Indian Companies.
Outline of the study

The Research report comprises five chapters, as under:

First chapter covers the basic concept of corporate governance, key players in corporate governance, significance and its benefits, history and regulatory framework of corporate governance, codes of corporate governance across the globe, recent trends in corporate governance, recent developments in Indian economy, issues of corporate governance in India, role of company secretaries in corporate governance, framework of corporate reporting, different areas of corporate reporting, issues in corporate disclosure and qualitative features of corporate reporting.

Second chapter reviews the existing literature with regard to corporate governance reporting practices and tries to understand the concepts and research gaps.

Third chapter deals with the research design, statement of problem, objectives of the study, formulation of a hypothesis, research methodology, scope and significance of the study, limitations of the study and so on.

Fourth chapter analyses the data collected from the annual reports and questionnaire. Hypothesis is tested with the help of statistical tools and techniques, and the final results are discussed and interpreted.

Fifth chapter summarizes the various findings drawn from the research study. An attempt is made to point out certain recommendations aimed at management and regulatory authorities.