ABSTRACT OF THE RESEARCH WORK

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) embrace a wide array of agencies within and across different countries of the world. They are now engaged in various types of activities and they receive huge amount from various funding agencies. Considering the huge amount at the disposal of the NGOs and importance of their activities towards the socio-economic development of a country like India, it is felt, there is a great need for developing a uniform accounting and reporting methodology for the NGOs.

Proper accounting help reveal whether NGOs are efficiently using the funds received from different funding agencies and whether they are performing effectively towards achieving their objectives. A uniform accounting system will help compare the activities within the NGOs and among the NGOs over a period of time. Thus, the general objective of the study is examining the existing accounting and reporting practices of NGOs operating in West Bengal and suggesting a uniform accounting and reporting system. Keeping in view the primary objectives, the study has made an attempt to: review the activities and role of NGOs with particular reference to NGOs operating in West Bengal (Chapter-2); study different approaches to assessment being adopted by NGOs (Chapter-3); identify the problems associated with the evaluation of NGO projects (Chapter-3); evaluate the performance of NGOs in utilization of grants particularly for the underprivileged section of the society (Chapter-3); examine the accounting system followed by the NGOs in West Bengal (Chapter-5); find out lapses of the present accounting system (Chapter-5) and suggest a modified and improved accounting system of the NGOs based on the findings of the study (Chapter-6 & 7).

Amongst the activities undertaken by the NGOs ‘Health and Family Welfare Programme’ receives highest attention from the NGOs in the State and in terms of utilization of grants for BPL sector, NGOs performs significantly well for projects like ‘Housing’, ‘Health and Family welfare’, etc. The study has also revealed that around 50% of the NGOs follow norms of Standard Accounting and Reporting Practices in 10 cases (highest ever acceptance) in South Dinajpur in comparison to 24 Parganas (North), where around 50% of the NGOs follow norms of Standard Accounting and Reporting Practices in 2 cases (lowest ever acceptance). The NGOs operating in 24 Parganas (South) are the best performer as far as following norms of Standard Accounting and Reporting Practices is concerned. However, considering the findings of the study a model accounting framework alongwith some other suggestions have been given for the improvement of the prevailing scenario and to serve the interest of the various stakeholders.