



### **GOOD BOARDS DO NOT JUST HAPPEN...**

#### **The Role of The Board in the Indian Voluntary Sector - A Resource Manual Aarti Madhusudan**

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The Indian voluntary sector is undergoing a period of transition. As the number of organisations within the sector continue to increase and the participation from the public gains momentum, the sector is faced with new challenges. Among these are the critical issues of sustainability of the organisations and viability of individual programmes within them. With the global recession and the prevailing economic conditions, national and international grants have become uncertain and inconsistent. This has led to many organisations seeking indigenous support and looking towards the general Indian public for contributions.

Due to all this, there is greater consciousness among a number of voluntary organisations to maintain public credibility and faith. The boards of these organisations are beginning to pay greater attention to demonstrate their accountability to all their stakeholders. This manual looks at what is the role of the board in this context.

The manual gives us an insight into the legal frame work governing the voluntary sector in India and the rights duties and responsibilities of the Board members under The societies registration activities, the Indian trust activities and companies activities. Apart from this it looks at the various models of non-profit governance and the current status of governance in the Indian Voluntary Sector and compares it with Corporate Governance.

The document then draws upon the experience and attitudes of both CEOs and Board Members of organisations towards board governance issues. The final chapter of the manual, evaluates the role of the Board in the Indian voluntary sector, looks at the CEO perspectives and Board members perspective on governance and comes out with concrete recommendations. It includes resources that will enable boards and CEOs to obtain greater clarity about their roles and responsibilities as it will enable them to critique their own functioning and provide opportunities for improvement and learning.