

TO OUR READERS

Today, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are rightly known as “indispensable partners” of Governments across the globe. They not only act as effective voices for concerns of ordinary people but also complement and widen the policy discourse leading to better and more legitimate decisions. The perception is no different in a resurgent India. With the Government slowly stepping out of the day-to-day life of the masses, and more and more corporates coming forward to fulfil their ‘social responsibility’, the NGO sector has, of late, grown exponentially. NGOs are able to reach out to people and effectively supplement the efforts of the Government.

There are about 1.2 million NGOs in India, which have more than 20 million people associated with them as paid or volunteer staff. Every eighth person in the non-agricultural workforce is engaged in this sector. With an added corporate backing and an estimated Rs. 5000 crore plus coming to Indian NGOs every year as foreign contribution besides huge amounts being received from Government, voluntary donors and other sources, this sector is continuously expanding in terms of magnitude of operation. But this scenario also makes this sector prone to the increasingly growing dangers of misappropriation of funds or even misutilisation



of funds for anti-national activities. As such, the ‘financial planning, accountability, transparency and good governance’ of the NGOs is the key.

And this scenario offers a plethora of opportunities for Chartered Accountants, not only for financial or professional growth but also to serve the society in their own ways. Be it as external auditors, internal auditors, advisors, reviewers of financial management systems, trainers, resource persons, finance managers and CFOs, the demand for CAs is constantly on the rise in the NGO sector.

The services of professionals in this sector is all the more desired with a view to enable NGOs to comply with various legal requirements, more particularly with reference to FCRA, FEMA and Taxation.

The situation truly demands expert services of accounting professionals.

This issue of the Journal focuses and explores the widening role of CAs in NGOs besides complications and intricacies of accounting, taxation, performance measurement and other aspects of this sector. We hope the issue will prove to be useful to professionals, as well to those who are in NGO sector.

--Editorial Board
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We Cannot All Be Great, But We Can Attach Ourselves To A Great Cause.