GOOD BOARDS DO NOT JUST HAPPEN...
The Role of The Board in the Indian Voluntary Sector -
A Resource Manual
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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.