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## **Project Proposal (MS-100)**

**The Challenge of Graduates of Universities in using  
Accounting Software in the Institutions: In the case of  
Save the Children International, Ethiopian Country Office.**

**Project Proposal submitted in a partial fulfillment for the award of Master's  
Degree in Business Administration of Indira Gandhi National Open University.**

**Submitted to: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)**

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**January, 2018  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organization for children, work in around 120 countries. Save the Children strives to achieve a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation. Save the children work to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives. Across all of work, pursue several core values: accountability, ambition, collaboration, creativity and integrity. To achieve change for children by building evidence from innovations, partnering with key stakeholders, and being the voice for change to implement the programs at scale to impact millions of children.

Save the Children first worked in Ethiopia in the 1930s and set up its first formal office here during the 1984 famine. As well as continuing to provide humanitarian and emergency relief, focus on the following programmatic areas: health, HIV and AIDS, nutrition, food security and livelihoods, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education, child protection, and child rights governance. Save the children work on emergency relief and with long-term development programs. The Ethiopia Country Office is the largest operation in the globe with more than 2,400 staff working in one of 50+ offices through the country. In 2015, more than 6m Ethiopians benefitted from the programs.

Programmatic approach is to build evidence from the program innovations and then work to enhance Government of Ethiopia systems to scale-up successful programs. Save the children typically enhance service delivery directly or through local NGO and other partners and use our successes to engage in policy dialogue at different levels. Save the children work in seven main programmatic sectors in Ethiopia targeting vulnerable children and their families mostly in rural and remote, underserved areas.(<https://ethiopia.savethechildren.net>.)

Accounting software is a type of computer software used by accounting professionals to manage accounts and perform accounting operations. Accounting is the systematic practice, work or process of communicating and recording financial information. In a business setting, this is done for the purposes of internal and external audits, required reports and financial analysis to meet legal or internal managerial requirements. Accounting may also include systematic and diverse measurement, classification, verification, summation and interpretation of financial information. Accounting software can range from simple, single-entry programs used for individual record-keeping to more sophisticated, double-entry systems that can process accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll and inventory, among other functions.

Accounting systems have changed and grown both in response to limitations and the availability of new technologies. Throughout the 21st century, an alliance between the military and various industries have existed in the development of electronics, computers and information theory. The military has historically driven such research by providing

motivation and funding for innovation in the field of mechanization and computing (Mosich, 4th Edition). There are numerous evidences of record keeping and system of accounting control in ancient Egypt and in the Greek city-states. Accounting is capable of supplying financial information that is essential for the efficient operation and for the evaluation of performance of any economic unit in society. Changes in the environment in which such organizations operate will inevitably be accompanied by alterations in accounting concept and techniques.

This days Information is recognized as one of the most important corporate resources, (Kumar, 1998: 19). Accounting information is a valuable strategic resource as weapons to defeat and frustrate competition; it has the power to reduce uncertainties, and therefore, can be used in problem solving and strategic planning. Accounting information serves the purpose of reducing uncertainty regarding the alternative courses of action in the process of decision making. Accounting information system that can properly manage the selection, collection, analyzing and dissemination of financial information for timely utilization and decision making. Thus, considering the current and future needs of stakeholders, the research will provide comprehensive analysis on the challenge of graduates of universities in using accounting software in the case of Save the Children International, Ethiopian country office.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Information Technologies are affecting the way in which organizations are structured, managed and operated. One of the most dramatic developments affecting organization is

the fusion of business and IT strategy. Entities can no longer develop business strategy separate from IT strategy and vice versa. To maintain both the accountancy profession's credibility and capability in supporting new strategic information technology initiatives and the user's trust and confidence, the competence of accountants in IT strategy must be preserved and enhanced.

A good knowledge of Accounting Software helps Accountants, Auditors, Management Consultants and others to efficiently and effectively accomplish their duties and responsibilities. There is no doubt that Accounting software has contributed immensely to the magnitude, speed and acceleration of change in business practices. However, there will be a challenge for Accounting graduates in using accounting software after graduate from universities, which will affect all aspects of the accounting functions: including economic measurement, financial reporting, Auditing, Managerial planning and control.

This study is to assess the challenge of accountants in using Accounting software in Save the children International, Ethiopia country office.

### **1.3 Research Question**

This research has tried to address the following basic research questions:

- What are the challenges of graduates of universities in using Accounting software in save the children International, Ethiopia country office?
- What is the nature and degree of impact of Accounting software on business practices in save the children international, Ethiopia Ethiopian country office?

- What are the content and nature of Accounting software related courses provided in Accounting and Finance Curriculum of higher academic institutions in the country?
- What extent training for accounting software is available, whether software suppliers provide training on continuous basis?

## **1.4 Objectives of the Research**

### **1.4.1 General Objective**

The general objective of this study is to assess the challenge of graduates of universities in using accounting software in Save the children International, Ethiopian country office.

### **1.4.2 Specific objectives**

Under the above mentioned general objective, the specific objectives of the study include:

- Identify the cause of the challenge of graduates of universities in using Accounting software.
- Examine the nature and degree of challenge of Accounting software on Accounting practices in Save the children International, Ethiopian country office;

- Assess the content and nature of Accounting software related courses provided in accounting and Finance Curriculum of higher academic institutions in the country.
- Find out what measures should be taken by Academicians and industry professionals to equip the graduates with necessary accounting software skills.
- To study to what extent training for accounting software is available.
- To examine whether software suppliers provide training on continuous basis.

## **1.5 Research Methodology**

### **1.5.1 Nature and Source of data/Information**

This study will use a descriptive research methodology for the purpose of describing the challenge of accounting software, it is also used to describe their relationships with the universities, Accounting software providers and organizations regard to Accounting software training for new Accounting graduate, in the save the children International, Ethiopian country office.

To collect data required to answer research questions, the researcher will collect data from the employee of Save the children International, Ethiopia country office. Some selected higher academic Universities both from the government as well as non-governmental sectors, Accounting software training provider which are believed to be representatives of the subject under study.



### **1.5.2 sample and Sampling technique**

This research will use both sampling methods in order to maintain representative of samples in the population of study. From the probability sampling methods simple and systematic sampling methods will be used, from the non-probability sampling method will use purposeful sampling method. From Accounting and Finance department 60 staffs of Save the children, Ethiopian country office, from government universities Addis Ababa University (AAU) and from private sector Unity and St. Mary universities will select as well as from Accounting software training provides and suppliers of the software has equal chance of being selected to be representatives of the population.

### **1.5.3 Methods and Techniques of Data Collection**

Both primary and secondary data will be used in undertaking this study. The primary data will be collected using interviews and questionnaires. Structured interview will be used throughout the study because it provides uniform information which assures the comparability of data. In addition to this mailed questionnaires will be used. Direct observation will also be used to gather information not otherwise obtained or validate information gained by other means. Observation of physical facilities, Accounting software related equipment, Accounting information processing methods, user's preference in using accounting information as well as management practices can be important insights of the project under study.

The secondary, data will be collected from different books, published and unpublished documents from universities and organizations, magazines and Internet. Thus, based on observation and compilation discussion for the selected samples, the study will provide assessment on the challenge of using accounting software in Save the children International, Ethiopian country office.

#### **1.5.4 Analysis Method (Tools and Techniques)**

Both qualitative and quantitative data will be analyzed using Descriptive data analysis techniques to assess and estimate the challenge of using accounting software. Before the analysis begins, data quality and consistency will be checked by triangulating the information gathered from primary and secondary sources.

The research data will be analyzed considering its quality (credibility of the source, methods used for data collection, data accuracy, Logical consistency using some statistical techniques such as, percentage (%), tabulation, pie chart and histogram presentations. The information from the already mentioned and other sources will be collected using a well-structured questionnaire formats specially designed for this assignment. Apart from the secondary data review, the researcher will conduct key informant interview with key personnel and observe some of the Accounting functional activities and informal discussions with staffs. This supplement the information collected through documents review and helps to obtain opinions about the current state of the process.

## **1.6 Significance of the study**

This research paper will help professionals of accounting to work for a better result. Therefore, the research will bring certain facts that have been unattended in the area of Accounting practice by using accounting software in save the children International, Ethiopian country office. Furthermore, it can help as a reference material for other researchers who want to make further study on this area.

## **1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

### **1.7.1 Scope**

As stated in the research methodology section, both probability and non-probability sampling methods will be used to select a sample size within a population of all higher universities in the country that teaches business and accounting courses especially Accounting software. Though the sample size accounts only some of the population size, it is believed to be representative since the data to be collected are very homogenous in nature and scope across the board. In addition, the data to be collected from those samples easily meets the specific needs of the research under study, Save the children International, Ethiopian country office.

The reliability of the findings depends on honest feedback from respondents (Employees, managers and leaders). The researcher made every effort to explain that the outcome of this research.

### **1.7.2 Limitation of the study**

The constraint to prepare this study will have a challenge due to lack of previous research materials related to the challenge of using accounting software of graduate from universities on accounting practices.

Due to time and budget limitations, the research only depends on the analysis of the issue from Save the Children International, Ethiopia country office. The researcher will use own fund and this has limited the scope of the study. The non-response rate to the self-administered questionnaire will also have a challenge and taken as limitations for the study.

### **1.8 Organization of the Study**

This research paper is organized to ensure coherent and consistent flow of ideas. To this end, the report will be presented into 4 chapters. The first chapter highlights the introduction, background of the study, statement of the problem, research question, objectives, research design and Methodology, scope and Limitation of the study. Chapter two will present the review of the related literature. Chapter three will focus on Data Analysis, interpretation and presentation. Finally, Chapter four will present summary of findings, recommendations and conclusions.

## 1.9 Annex

### 1.9.1 Budget Breakdown

| No. | Budget line item  | Unit cost<br>(USD) | No of staff<br>required | Total cost<br>(USD) |
|-----|---|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1   | Secretary /Data entry                                       | 50                 | 2                       | 100.00              |
| 2   | Transpiration and travel related expenses                   |                    |                         | 190.00              |
| 3   | Stationary and printing cost                                |                    |                         | 120.00              |
| 4   | Telephone and communications (e-mail, and internet charges) |                    |                         | 100.00              |
| 5   | Miscellaneous expenses                                      |                    |                         | 50.00               |
|     | Sub-total   |                    |                         | 560                 |
| 7   | Contingency (10%)   |                    |                         | 56.00               |
|     | Grand Total   |                    |                         | 616.00              |

### 1.9.2 Time Schedule

| No. | Activities                                    | From December 2017 to May 2018 |
|-----|---|--------------------------------|
| 1   | Preparing Research Proposal                   | 3 weeks                        |
| 2   | Literature Review                             | 2 weeks                        |
| 3   | Desk work prior to Primary data collection    | 1 weeks                        |
| 4   | Pre-test questionnaire and interview          | 1 weeks                        |
| 5   | Explanatory interviews and questionnaire      | 3 weeks                        |
| 6   | Review of secondary data                      | 2 weeks                        |
| 7   | Data editing, organization and classification | 2 weeks                        |
| 8   | Data Analysis                                 | 2 weeks                        |
| 9   | Preparation of first draft report             | 1weeks                         |
| 10  | Preparation of final report                   | 1weeks                         |
|     | Total Estimated time of compilation           | 18                             |

### References

1. "Intermediate Accounting ", Walter B. Meigs, A.N. Mosich and Charles E. Johnson, 4th edition.
2. Kumar, 1998: 19
3. "Accounting Principles" 16th edition, Meigs, A. N. Mosich.
4. <https://ethiopia.savethechildren.net>.