

ABSTRACT

Economics of Third Sector Management in India

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This thesis makes an attempt to study the Indian third sector from a managerial economics perspective. The relevance of the thesis as a research project is that it makes an attempt to understand the managerial philosophy of third sector by combining the theory of economics and the principles of management. To start with, the thesis makes an attempt to provide an Indian perspective of third sector. Then, an attempt is made to understand the factors that determine the third sector management in India. Finally, an analysis is made of third sector management in India. While doing all these, the researcher engages with the dynamics of management of the private and the public sectors. This analysis becomes necessary as the idea of third sector is envisaged to fill that terrain, which either the private or the public sector is unable to occupy. The terrain that is ascribed to third sector is a very complex and contested one, particularly in the context of the onslaught of globalization engineered by neo-liberal ideology. These complexities and contradictions are further compounded in the context of developing societies like India. Over the last few decades intense debates are being witnessed on ways of achieving an efficient socio-economic system and its management. These debates have invariably taken us to specific discussions on the phenomena of the market

and the state. It has been quite often pointed out that these as structures, agencies, and institutional processes have certain assigned roles. Some of these roles are supposed to be, efficient allocation of scarce resources, ensuring of equity and justice, achieving sustainable development, and promotion of peace. However, it is increasingly being felt that these roles have not been adequately fulfilled. Therefore there is a growing disillusionment world over on the existing structures, agencies, and institutional processes representing both the state and the market. This impasse has triggered a frantic search for viable alternatives that ensure sustainable development with equity and justice.

However, the crux of the problem in this frantic search is the unproblematic and universalistic understanding of the nature, role, and possibilities of the market and the state. As a consequence, the alternatives that emerge are also caught up in the same unproblematic paradigm of universality. One such alternative is Third Sector. The mainstream global scholarship has tended to define and characterize the third sector as a conglomeration of formal institutions and associations of people operating in the space between the State and the market. Against this background, it is imperative to engage with issues concerning the market, the state, and the third sector. This thesis, 'Economics of Third Sector Management in India' assumes significance, as it makes an attempt at historicising and contextualising these categories so as to tease out the specific implications in different societies. The thesis deals with the different aspects market, state, and third sector in terms of their internal dynamics and their interconnections in the context of India from the perspective of Managerial Economics.
