

Scheme # 1 Learning from practice to inform practice

The Independent Directors Databank is an initiative of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs towards the capacity building of the Independent Directors. In accordance with the Companies (Creation and Maintenance of Databank of Independent Directors) Rules, 2019 Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) was authorised to act as the institute responsible for creation and maintenance of the online databank containing names, addresses and qualifications of existing Independent Directors and persons who are eligible and willing to act as Independent Directors. The databank aims to develop independent directorship as a profession for raising the bar of corporate governance in the country.

The Databank is a digital platform and is empowering the independent directors, through various e-learning modules, knowledge resources, research reports and videos from IICA and the partner institutions on various contemporary topics. The scheme of “Bounce Back: Learning from practice to inform practice” aims to motivate accomplished independent directors to share their experience with other professionals.

Learning from practice to inform practice

The basic assumption underlying the scheme is that it is possible to learn from practice of independent directors to inform practice. The scheme plans to do this by documenting the experience of individual independent directors and their contribution to board practice. This will mean documenting and analysis of the many and varied activities of independent directors, their outputs, their interactions and their impact on companies. The accounts of practice by independent directors will lend itself to partial demarcation as to “when ‘how’ or ‘why’ questions in the real-life context” (Yin 1994).

One key aspect we will be looking for is process or history so that the accounts of experience can be interpreted, incorporated, and mobilized in other independent director’s repertoire of experiences. The accounts of practice are expected to be rich in contextual detail, which will allow independent directors to add to their repertoire of unique instances of board practices and to judge the extent to which there are sufficient points of similarity with a current problem for it to be useful. Most important, we will be interested to know how independent directors think and feel about their work, experience pleasure and anxiety, have irrational feelings, operate on the basis of particular values or ethics, and, importantly, they function in a context in

which they try to exert power and are affected by power. The accounts of practice could be in any form – cases, vignettes; however, stories will be particularly be welcome in any of the practice fields relevant for the working of independent directors, board members and other governance professionals.

Proposal Submission

IICA will invite empanelled independent directors to submit their accounts of practice which is useful for board practice of their peers. The manuscript should be less than 2000 words (New Times Roman; font size 12; paragraph 1.5, A4 sheet). Accepted manuscripts would be published in the Hub (newsletter) and kept in the Knowledge Resource Centre. The manuscript will be triple blind reviewed. The accepted manuscript would be awarded by Rs. 15,000.