## **Original Article**

Quarterly Journal of Health Accounting, Vol. 1, No. 1, Ser. (1), Summer 2012

## Factors Influencing the Implementation of Accrual Accounting Systems in the Institutions Affiliated to the Ministry of Health and Medical Education

H. R. Vakili Fard (Ph. D.)<sup>1</sup>, F. Nazari<sup>2\*</sup> Received: 2011/11/09 Revised: 2012/05/18 Accepted: 2012/05/24

## **Abstract**

**Introduction**: Due attention to directors' timely accountability, their ability to fulfill their responsibilities adequately, and critical evaluation of their work makes the accrual accounting systems very effective in recording the financial events of the public sectors. Hence, examining the advantages and disadvantages of this accounting basis, and the factors influencing its implementation seem necessary.

**Methods**: The data needed for testing the research hypotheses were collected through the questionnaire designed in this study. The questionnaire was completed by a group of financial managers, heads of accounting, and accountants working in the medical universities, health services, and affiliated units. Stratified random sampling based on Cochran formula was used to select the participants. T-test and analysis of variance (ANOVA) were used to analyze the data.

**Results**: The results of the study indicate that several factors, such as managerial elements specialist human resources, rules and regulations, the theoretical framework, and a culture of accountability (among directors) and seeking-accountability (among clients) are effective in the use of accrual accounting in the public sector.

**Conclusion**: The findings of the study points to the conclusion that among the factors affecting the implementation of accrual accounting system, those related to management have the greatest impact whereas the ones related to theoretical framework have the minimal impact

**Keywords**: Cash Accounting Basis, Accrual Accounting Basis, Institutions Affiliated to the Ministry of Health and Medical Education.

\* Corresponding author, Email: f.accounting1984@gmail.com

<sup>1.</sup> Associate Professor of Accounting, Islamic Azad University, Tehran Science and Research

<sup>2.</sup> Master of Accounting, Islamic Azad University, Tehran Science and Research

## References

- Babajani, J. (2004). "Assessing the Capacity of Responsible Accountability Reporting and Accounting systems of the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran". *Quarterly Journal of Accounting Studies*, No. 6, pp. 26-54. [In Persian]
- Babajani, J. (2006). *Governmental Accounting and Financial Controls*. Second Edition, Tehran: Allameh Tabatabai University. [In Persian]
- Barrett, P. (1993). "Managing in an Accrual Accounting Environment". *Paper Presented to RIPA. Conference (Canberra, 26 February).*
- Chan, L. J. (2003). "Government Accounting: An Assessment of Theory, Purposes and Standards". *Public Money & Management*, Vol. 20, Issue. 1, pp. 19-26.
- Christianes, J. and B. Reyniers (2009). "Impact of IPSAS on Reforming Governmental Financial Information Systems: A Comparative Study". Working Paper, Ghent University, Belgium.
- Clark, D. (1996). "Open Government in Britain: Discourse and Practice". *Public Money & Management*, Vol. 16, Issue. 1, pp. 23-30.
- Gord, A. and A. Karimi (2012). "The Effects of the Transformation of Cash Accounting to Accrual Accounting on Financial Performance and Operation of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Science". *Journal of Auditing Knowledge*, Vol. 11, No. 4, pp. 6-21. [In Persian]
- Hillman, N. and C. Collony (2011). "Accruals Accounting in the Public Sector: A Road Not Always Taken". *Management Accounting Research*, Vol. 22, Issue. 1, pp. 36-45.
- Karbasi Yazdi, H. and A. Tarighi (2009). "Assessment of the Benefits of Accrual Accounting Systems in Tehran University of Medical Sciences". *Journal of Auditing Knowledge*, Vol. 9, No. 30, pp. 16-27. [In Persian]
- Mahdavi, Gh. (2000). "Accountability Systems and Governmental Accounting of Iran". *Quarterly Journal of Auditor*, No. 7, pp. 38-43. [In Persian]
- McPhee, I. (2006). "Financial Management in the Public Sector: How Accrual Accounting Enhances Governance and Accountability". CPA Australia Public Sector Finance and Management Conference, 17 August.
- Nesbakk, L. G. (2011). "Accrual Accounting Representations in the Public Sector: A Case of Autopoiesis". *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*, Vol. 22, Issue. 3, pp. 247-258.
- Robinson, M. (2002). "Accrual Accounting and the Public Sector". Working Paper, School of Economics and Finance Queensland University of Technology.
- Saber, M. (2011). "A Survey on Laws and Regulations Capacity to implement Accrual Accounting Systems in the Public Sector of Iran". *The First National Conference on New Approaches in Public Accounting, Mazandaran Province, Amol City, 3 and 4 May.* [In Persian]
- Saboori, M. (2007). "Budget Transparency and Governmental Accounting Role". *Quarterly Journal of Auditor*, No. 37, pp. 50-55. [In Persian]
- Seguin, K. L. (2008). "Accrual Accounting Implementation in the Canadian Federal Government". A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Business Administration, Sprott School of Business, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario.
- Talebnia Q.; Alborzy, M.; and B. Zarei (2011). "A Contingency Model for the Process of

- Transition from Cash to Accrual Basis for Governmental Accounting in Iran". *Journal of Accounting Knowledge*, Vol. 2, No. 5, pp. 51-73. [In Persian]
- Thomas, H. B. (2007). "Does Full Accrual Accounting Enhance Accountability?" *The Innovation Journal: The Public Sector Innovation Journal*, Vol. 12, Issue. 3, Article. 4, pp. 1-18.
- Tudor, T. (2008). "Cash Versus Accrual Accounting in Public Sector". Available at: http://www.ssrn.com
- Tudor, T. and A. Mutiu (2005). "Cash Versus Accrual Accounting in Public Sector". *Studia Oeconomica*, No. 1, pp. 36-51.

