

Taxation of Charitable Trusts

[Under Income Tax Act, 1961]

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Introduction: Charitable Trust

- It involves an idea of benefiting others rather than oneself.
- A Trust is an obligation annexed to the ownership of property and arising out of a confidence reposed in and accepted by the owner, or declared and accepted by him, for the benefit of another, or of another and the owner.
- A **charitable trust is an irrevocable trust** established for charitable purposes.
- In India, charitable trusts that fulfil the conditions of Income Tax Act, 1961 are registered and they enjoy the Income tax exemptions.

Relevant Amendment made by

Finance Act 2018

Applicability of TDS provisions & restrictions on cash payments

12th proviso to Section 10(23C) amended w.e.f. 01/04/2019

Provided also that for the purposes of determining the amount of application under item (a) of the third proviso, the provisions of sub-clause (ia) of clause (a) of section 40 and sub-sections (3) and (3A) of section 40A, shall, mutatis mutandis, apply as they apply in computing the income chargeable under the head "Profits and gains of business or profession":

Explanation 3 in Section 11(1) inserted w.e.f. 01/04/2019

Explanation 3.—For the purposes of determining the amount of application under clause (a) or clause (b), the provisions of sub-clause (ia) of clause (a) of section 40 and sub-sections (3) and (3A) of section 40A, shall, mutatis mutandis, apply as they apply in computing the income chargeable under the head "Profits and gains of business or profession".

Brief Impact:

- It is amended that for the purposes of determining the amount of application u/s 11(1)(a)/(b) & Sec. 10(23C), the provisions of sec. 40(a)(ia) & 40A(3)/(3A) shall apply.
- **Section 40(a)(ia)**- disallowance of 30% of expenditure where TDS is not deducted or, after deduction, not paid on or before the due date specified in Section 139(1) **i.e. Non-deduction of tax at source would now attract disallowance in the hands of the charitable trust also** .Thus , now trusts will be mandatorily required to deduct TDS as per provisions of Chapter XVII-B of the Act to claim expense as the application of Income else the same will be taxable in the hands of Trusts.

- Section 40A(3)/(3A)- no deduction allowed where cash payment is made exceeding Rs.10,000

i.e. The provisions of section 40(3) and 40(3A) will mutatis mutandis apply to the Trusts. Earlier, charitable trusts were availing benefits even in respect of the application of income by way of cash payments.

This proposed amendment is again in line with the dream of digital India and cashless economy.

Requirement to obtain PAN for Entities and specified Individuals

Clause (v) & (vi) inserted in Section 139A(1) w.e.f. 01/04/2018

"(v) not being an individual, which enters into a financial transaction of an amount aggregating to two lakh fifty thousand rupees or more in a financial year; or

(vi) who is the managing director, director, partner, trustee, author, founder, karta, chief executive officer, principal officer or office bearer of the person referred to in clause (v) or any person competent to act on behalf of the person referred to in clause (v),".

Brief Impact:

Every person, other than individual, which enters into financial transaction of an amount aggregating to Rs.2,50,000/- or above in a FY shall be required to apply for allotment of PAN.

In order to link the financial transactions with the natural persons, it is also proposed that the managing director, director, partner, trustee, author, founder, karta, chief executive officer, principal officer or office bearer or any person competent to act on behalf of such entities shall also apply to the Assessing Officer for allotment of PAN.

This amendments will take effect from 1stApril, 2018 i.e.AY 2018-19

Provisions of I.T Act Applicable to Charitable Trusts

S.NO	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
2(15)	Meaning of Charitable Purpose
11	Meaning Of Word 'Income' & Its Taxability
11(1)(D)	Voluntary Contribution - Voluntary Contribution With The Specific Direction That It Will Form Part Of The Corpus Of The Trust
11(2)	Exemption If Income Accumulated For Specific Purpose {Amendment To Section 11 (2) W.E.F. 1-04-2016}
11(4) & 11(4A)	Income from Business Activities.
11(1A)	Treatment of Capital Gains
11(5)	The Form & Modes of Investing or Depositing the Money for Accumulated Income
13	Circumstances of Forfeiture of Exemption

Provisions of I.T Act Applicable to Charitable Trusts

S.NO	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
13B	Special provision relating to voluntary contributions received by electoral trust
12A	Conditions for applicability of sections 11 and 12.
115TD	Tax on accreted income.
115TE	Interest payable for non-payment of tax by trust or institution.
115TF	When trust or institution is deemed to be assessee in default.
56(2)	Levy of tax where the charitable institution receives money or property for inadequate or no consideration.

Analysis of Section 2(15)

Section 2(15) Meaning of Charitable Purpose

Charitable purpose includes relief of poor, education, yoga, Medical relief, preservation of environment (including watersheds, forests and wildlife) and preservation of monuments or places or objects of artistic or historic interest and the advancement of any other object of general public utility.

The newly substituted proviso by the Finance Act, 2015 (for first & second proviso) w.e.f. 01-04-2016 provides as under:

Provided that the advancement of any other object of general public utility shall not be a charitable purpose, if it involves the carrying on of any activity in the nature of trade, commerce or business, or any activity of rendering any service in relation to any trade, commerce or business, for a cess or fee or any other consideration, irrespective of the nature of use or application, or retention, **of the income from such activity,** **unless:**

- i. such activity is undertaken in the course of actual carrying out of such advancement of any other object of general public utility; and
- ii. the aggregate receipts from such activity or activities, during the previous year, do not exceed 20% of the total receipts, of the trust or institution undertaking such activity or activities, for the previous year.

Amendment to S. 2(15) vide Finance Act, 2015, w.e.f. 1-4-2016:

- The effect of this amendment would be that previously where the object of the trust was falling under advancement of any other object of general public utility, the exemption u/s 11, subject to registration u/s 12A, was available till the aggregate receipt there under was Rs. 25 lacs.

However with the effect of amendment, the same has been **limited to 20% of the total receipts**, meaning thereby that the total receipts of trust should include other receipts to the extent of 20% i.e. receipts from other objects/ donation etc.

Circular No.11/2008, dated 19-12-2008

Some Important Observations:

1. Sec. 2(15) of the IT Act, 1961 – Charitable purpose – Where industry or trade associations claim both to be charitable institutions as well as mutual organizations and their activities are restricted to contributions from the participation of only their members, these would not fall under the purview of the proviso to sec 2(15) owing to the principle of mutuality.
2. The newly inserted proviso to sec. 2(15) will not apply in respect of the first three limbs of sec. 2(15), i.e..... relief of the poor, education or medical relief. **Consequently, where the purpose of a trust or institution is relief of the poor, education or medical relief, it will constitute 'charitable purpose' even if it incidentally involves the carrying on a commercial activities. Harnam Singh Harbans Kaur v. Director of Income-tax (Exemption), Delhi [2012] 17 taxmann.com 103 (Delhi - Trib.)**

3. 'Relief of the poor' encompasses a wide range of objects for the welfare of the economically and socially disadvantaged or needy. It will, therefore, include within its ambit purposes such as relief to destitute, orphans or the handicapped, disadvantaged women or children, small and marginal farmers, indigent artisans or senior citizens in need of aid. Entities who have these objects will continue to be eligible for exemption even if they incidentally carry on a commercial activity, subject, however, to the conditions stipulated u/s 11(4A) or the 7th proviso to section 10(23C) which are that:-

- i) the business should be incidental to the attainment of the objectives of the entity, and
- ii) separate books of account should be maintained in respect of such business.

Note: Entities whose object is 'education' or 'medical relief' would also continue to be eligible for exemption as charitable institutions even if they incidentally carry on a commercial activity subject to the conditions mentioned above.

4. **In the final analysis**, whether the assessee has for its object 'the advancement of any other object of general public utility' is a question of fact based on the nature, scope, extent and frequency of the activity

If such assessee is engaged in any activity in the nature of trade, commerce or business or renders any service in relation to trade, commerce or business, it would not be entitled to claim that its object is charitable purpose and will not be eligible for exemption under section 11 or under section 10(23C) of the Act.

Charitable organization in case commercial receipts exceed the specified threshold limit...

A charitable trust or Institution does not get the benefit of tax exemption i.e. it shall automatically forfeit the benefit of Tax Exemption in the year in which its receipts from commercial activities exceeds the threshold limit, whether or not the registration or approval granted is cancelled, withdrawn or rescinded.

- **Sub-section (8) of Section 13 inserted w.e.f. 1st April, 2009 – Amendment by Finance Act, 2012**

“Nothing contained in section 11 or section 12 shall operate so as to exclude any income from the total income of the previous year of the person in receipt thereof if the provisions of the first proviso to clause (15) of section 2 become applicable in the case of such person in the said previous year.”

Circular No.21/2016 [F.NO.197/17/2016-ITA-], dated 27-5-2016

Section 12AA Of the Income Tax Act, 1961 - Charitable or Religious Trust Registration Of Procedure

Clarification on Cancellation of Registration Under Section 12AA in Certain Circumstances

- Sub-section (8) of Section 13 inserted w.e.f. 1st April, 2009 – Amendment by Finance Act, 2012 -The temporary excess of receipts beyond the specified cut-off in one year may not necessarily be the outcome of alteration in the very nature of the activities of the trust or institution requiring cancellation of registration already granted to the trust or institution.
- In view of the aforesaid position, it is clarified that it shall not be mandatory to cancel the registration already granted u/s 12AA to a charitable institution merely on the ground that the cut-off specified in the proviso to section 2(15) of the Act is exceeded in a particular year without there being any change in the nature of activities of the institution. If in any particular year, the specified cut-off is exceeded, the tax exemption would be denied to the institution in that year and cancellation of registration would not be mandatory unless such cancellation becomes necessary on the ground(s) prescribed under the Act.

- With the introduction of Chapter XII-EB in the Act *vide* Finance Act, 2016, prescribing special provisions relating to tax on accreted income of certain trusts and institutions, cancellation of registration granted u/s 12AA may lead to a charitable institution getting hit by sub-section (3) of section 115TD and becoming liable to tax on accreted income. The cancellation of registration without justifiable reasons may, therefore, cause additional hardship to an assessee institution due to attraction of tax-liability on accreted income. The field authorities are, **therefore, advised not to cancel the registration of a charitable institution granted u/s 12AA just because the proviso to section 2(15) comes into play. The process for cancellation of registration is to be initiated strictly in accordance with section 12AA(3) and 12AA(4) after carefully examining the applicability of these provisions.**

[Khar Gymkhana v. Director of Income-tax \(Exemption\), Bombay \[2016\] 70 taxmann.com 181 \(High Court of Bombay\)](#)

Charitable organization in case commercial receipts exceed the specified threshold limit...

- **Third proviso to Section 143(3) inserted w.e.f. 1st April, 2009 – Amendment by Finance Act, 2012**

“Provided also that notwithstanding anything contained in the first and the second proviso, no effect shall be given by the Assessing Officer to the provisions of clause (23C) of section 10 in the case of a trust or institution for a previous year, if the provisions of the first proviso to clause (15) of section 2 become applicable in the case of such person in such previous year, whether or not the approval granted to such trust or institution or notification issued in respect of such trust or institution has been withdrawn or rescinded.”

- **New proviso to Section 10 (23C) inserted w.e.f. 1st April, 2009 – Amendment by Finance Act, 2012 (presently 19th proviso)**

“Provided also that the income of a trust or institution referred to in sub-clause (iv) or sub clause (v) shall be included in its total income of the previous year if the provisions of the first proviso to clause (15) of section 2 become applicable to such trust or institution in the said previous year, whether or not any approval granted or notification issued in respect of such trust or institution has been withdrawn or rescinded”

Issue: Charitable purpose....

Indian Trade Promotion Organization vs. DGIT (Exemptions) [2015] 371 ITR 333 (Delhi)

Held that: Expression 'charitable purpose', as defined in sec2(15) cannot be construed literally and in absolute terms and it has to take color and be considered in context of section 10(23C)(iv). Thus, in the case the dominant and prime objective of institution was not the desire to earn profits and was to promote trade and commerce not for itself, but for the nation. Thus, it was clearly held that the objects of the India Trade Promotion Organization are charitable in nature and it has a charitable purpose too.

DIT (Exemptions) vs. Tamil Nadu Cricket Association [2015] 57 taxmann.com 136 (SC)

Held that: the expression 'charitable purpose', as defined in section 2(15) cannot be construed literally and in absolute terms. It has to take colour and be considered in the context of sec10(23C)(iv). Though the assessee was making profits but it was not the driving force, thus, if dominant and prime objective of institution, was not desire to earn profits but, object of promoting trade and commerce not for itself, but for nation, it was clearly a charitable purpose.

Issue- Mere selling some product at a profit will not ipso facto hit the assessee by applying the proviso to section 2(15)....

Sabarmati Ashram Gaushala Trust vs. ADIT (Exemption), ITA No.670/Ahd/2013, ITAT-Ahmd.

- **The objective of the proviso to section 2(15) is to deny exemption to such assessee who are engaged in business activities in the garb of charitable purpose.**
- Mere selling some product at a profit will not ipso facto hit the assessee by applying the proviso to section 2(15) and deny the exemption available u/s 11.
- Manner in which the activities of the charitable trust/institution are undertaken are highly relevant to decide the issue of applicability of proviso to section 2(15).
- *The cases where profit making is the object should be distinguished from the cases, where, although the objects of the trust are wholly charitable, but some profit was made out of the activities undertaken by the Trust for the purpose of achieving the objects of the general public utility.*

Issue- Where activities are not mentioned in objectives

Where certain objects are **not specifically mentioned in aims and objectives of trust** but are **essential and inseparable incidental activities** for attainment of objectives of trust, such activities are charitable in nature and it would be entitled to be exempted from tax.

Mool Chand Khairati Ram Trust v. DIT (Exemptions) [2015] 59 taxmann.com 398 (Delhi)

- Where the objects of the trust include "(2) Devising means for imparting education in and improving the Ayurvedic system of Medicine and preaching the same. In order to gain objects No.2 it is not prohibited to take help from the English or Yunani or any other system of medicine and according to need one or more than one Ayurvedic Hospital may be opened."
- Merely because, running of an Allopathic hospital is not specifically mentioned, it does not necessarily mean that the same would be ultra vires the objects, as establishment of an Allopathic hospital does assist the Assessee in its object of improving the Ayurvedic system and taking assistance from the Allopathic system of medicine. Any activity reasonably incidental to the object would not be ultra vires the objects and exemption u/s 11(1)(a) cannot be denied.

Also see: DCIT v. Sulabh International Social Service Organisation [2011] 11 taxmann.com 167 (Patna) and M/s PAVE v. DIT (E) ITA No.6057/Del./2010 (order dated 16-09-2011)

Issue – S. 2(15) – Activity undertaken not covered under objects...

In case where a Trust claiming exemption u/s 11 does not undertake even a single activity as per its objectives and its only transactions pertain to buying/ selling of shares (not covered by objectives), exemption under section 11 could be denied to assessee .

Spandana Foundation v. Asst DIT, (Exemptions)-III [2013] 36 taxmann.com 370 (Hyderabad - Trib.)

Issue – S. 2(15) - profit motive was the essence of trade, commerce or business....

Himachal Pradesh Environment vs. CIT (ITAT Chandigarh), ITA No. 74/Chd/2009

Held:

- The proviso to s. 2(15) inserted by F.A 2008 can apply only to entities whose purpose is “**advancement of any other object of general public utility**”.
- A profit motive was the essence of trade, commerce or business, and where the services were rendered without a profit motive, such services will not have anything in common with trade, business or commerce. Accordingly, to fall within the second limb of the Proviso to s. 2(15), ‘**rendering of service to trade, commerce or business**’ must be such that it has a profit motive.

ISSUE- S. 2(15) - When the assessee collects money over & above the fees prescribed by the Government, whether it constitutes a charitable institution.

- In the case of *Islamic Academy of Education v. State of Karnataka (2003) 6 SCC 697, the Apex Court* after considering the judgment in the case of *T.M.A. Pai Foundation v. State of Karnataka [2002] 8 SCC 481_* Held that.....Every institution is free to devise its own fee structure subject to the limitation that there as can be no profiteering and *no capitation fee can be charged directly or indirectly, or in any form.*

ISSUE- s. 2(15)...

- In view of the observation of the Apex Court, it is obvious that a private aided or unaided professional institution or any other institution has to collect the fees fixed by the committee, as directed by the Apex Court.
- Therefore, any amount received by the educational institution over & above fee fixed by the committees has to be classified as capitation fees and the institution shall face the legal consequences. In other words, the assessee exists for profit and not solely for educational purpose.

[Further referred - P.A. Inamdar v. State of Maharashtra [2005] 6 SCC 537 and Vodithala Education society v. ADIT (EXEMPTIONS - II), ITAT – Hyd. 2008-TIOL-139]

ISSUES- Donation received by educational Institution

Dy. CIT v. Vellore Institute of Technology [2011] 12 taxmann.com 272 (Chennai)

- **Charging of higher fees from affluent students** or raising funds for laudable object of education, which is **traditionally a State function, through donations**, by an unaided self financing educational institutions cannot deter 'charitable' nature of activity and in any view make such activity 'commercial' in nature.
- Whether **incidence of surplus during course of activity of running educational institution** would not be a ground to state that said institution is carrying on a business activity so as to forfeit exemption under section 11 - **Held, yes**

Also see - Ganapathy Educational Trust v. Asst. DIT (Exemption) [2013] 37 taxmann.com 285 (Chennai - Trib.)

Issue – Donation received by educational Institution.....

- Whether if a student or his parents are so particular to gain admission into an institution and for that purpose are willing to donate money for improvement of institution, then it is a 'voluntary' act and, therefore, **even if donations were paid at time of or to secure admission into institution, it will not cease to be 'voluntary' so as to fall outside ambit of section 11(1)(d) or 12(1) - Held, yes**
- Whether **such voluntary contribution** would not form part of income of trust but **would only be a capital receipt - Held, yes**
- Whether **donations** collected from students/parents **after admission**, could be said as not 'voluntary', but **under compulsion, - Held, yes**
- Whether **corpus donations** received at time of admission, by an institution **for capital purposes** of trust **could not be treated as capitation fee receipt - Held, yes**

Surplus from educational activities and corpus donations received by assessee-trust which was running an engineering college would be exempt u/s 11

ISSUE- s. 2(15) – Objects

- Merely because object of a society was also to serve Church and Nation would not mean that educational institution was not existing solely for educational purpose. *[Ewing Christian College Society v. CCIT 2 DTLONLINE 285 (2010) (All.)]*
- If a university, imparting formal education by a systematic instruction, introduces courses with objective of 'greater interface with society through extra mural extension and field action related programmes', these are not objectives independent of education but are an aid to education. *[Jaypee Institute of Information Technology Society vs. DGIT(E) 185 TAXMAN 110 (2009) (DELHI)]-Held that on facts, assessee- institute fulfilled all requirement of section 10(23C)(vi) and was, thus, entitled to grant of registration and, consequently, exemption under aforesaid provision.*

ISSUE- s. 2(15) – Objects

Education is not only to impart education through book reading, it also includes sports and other recreational activities

Little Angels Shiksha Samiti v. Union of India, [2011] 11 taxmann.com 37 (MP)

If an educational society introduces object to manage and maintain a library, reading room and conduct classes of stitching embroidery, weaving and schooling, adult education and education in the field of entertainment arts, it cannot be said that the object of the society was not for educational purpose

ISSUE- s. 2(15) – Objects

Education is the only object of the society and no other activity

Where a society was pursuing only educational objects and no other activity, then application by such a society for grant of approval under section 10(23C)(vi) could not be rejected on ground that its aims and objects contained several other objects apart from educational

Neeraj Janhitkari Gramin Sewa Sansthan v. Chief CIT [2013] 36 taxmann.com 105 (Allahabad)

ISSUE- The expression 'existing' as appearing in section 10(23C).....

O.P. Jindal Global University Vs. CCIT 22 taxmann.com 118 (P&H) [2012]

- If assessee had obtained recognition from Bar Council of India and UGC and had also set up infrastructure for starting law courses in its law school, *it was an existing educational institute.*
- The expression 'existing' has to be interpreted keeping in view the social goal & objective of public interest to give incentives to an institution engaged in education. The expression 'existing' is not a narrow word, but will include the institutions, which were in existence prior to insertion of Section 10(23C) and also the institutes established after insertion of such clause. It is the said interpretation alone, which will advance the purpose and object of the said provisions.
- Where the object and intention of petitioner is setting up of an educational institution, approval u/s 10(23C) should not be denied.

ISSUE- exemption u/s 10(23C) in case of non-maintenance of books of account

CIT v. Sweta Kalyan Samiti [2013] 39 taxmann.com 21 (Allahabad)

- Exemption u/s 10(23C) does not depend upon books of account but it depends upon relevant provisions of Act. Denial of exemption u/s 10(23C) to assessee on account of non-maintenance of books of account is not justified.

Also see: CIT v. State Urban Development Agency [2013] 37 taxmann.com 193 (Allahabad)

ISSUE: 'Education' having other objects also

Allahabad Young Men's Christian Association v. Chief CIT [2015] 54 taxmann.com 190 (Allahabad)

Merely because there are other objects of society it does not imply that educational institution does not exist solely for educational purpose. In the case, the assessee, a registered society, was running a school. It applied for registration u/s 10(23C)(vi) but the Chief Commissioner refused registration on the ground of having other objects but it was held in favor of the assessee (matter remanded).

Section 11

Income from property held for
charitable or religious purposes

Section 11(1)

Subject to the provisions of sections 60 to 63, the following income shall not be included in the total income of the previous year of the person in receipt of the income—

- (a) income derived from property held under trust wholly for charitable or religious purposes, to the extent to which such income is applied to such purposes in India; and, where any such income is accumulated or set apart for application to such purposes in India, to the extent to which the income so accumulated or set apart is not in excess of fifteen per cent of the income from such property;
- (b) income derived from property held under trust in part only for such purposes, the trust having been created before the commencement of this Act, to the extent to which such income is applied to such purposes in India; and, where any such income is finally set apart for application to such purposes in India, to the extent to which the income so set apart is not in excess of fifteen per cent of the income from such property;

Section 11(1)....

(c) income derived from property held under trust—

(i) created on or after the 1st day of April, 1952, for a charitable purpose which tends to promote international welfare in which India is interested, to the extent to which such income is applied to such purposes outside India, and

(ii) for charitable or religious purposes, created before the 1st day of April, 1952, to the extent to which such income is applied to such purposes outside India:

Provided that the Board, by general or special order, has directed in either case that it shall not be included in the total income of the person in receipt of such income;

(d) income in the form of **voluntary contributions** made with a specific direction that they shall form part of the corpus of the trust or institution.

Section 11(1)....

Explanation 1 .—For the purposes of clauses (a) and (b),—

- (1) in computing the fifteen per cent of the income which may be accumulated or set apart, any such voluntary contributions as are referred to in section 12 shall be deemed to be part of the income;
- (2) if, in the previous year, the income applied to charitable or religious purposes in India falls short of eighty-five per cent of the income derived during that year from property held under trust, or, as the case may be, held under trust in part, by any amount—
 - (i) for the reason that the whole or any part of the income has not been received during that year, or
 - (ii) for any other reason,

then—

- (a) in the case referred to in sub-clause (i), so much of the income applied to such purposes in India during the previous year in which the income is received or during the previous year immediately following as does not exceed the said amount, and

Section 11(1)....

(b) in the case referred to in sub-clause (ii), so much of the income applied to such purposes in India during the previous year immediately following the previous year in which the income was derived as does not exceed the said amount,

may, at the option of the person in receipt of the income (*such option to be exercised before the expiry of the time allowed under sub-section (1) of section 139 for furnishing the return of income, in such form and manner as may be prescribed**) be deemed to be income applied to such purposes during the previous year in which the income was derived; and the income so deemed to have been applied shall not be taken into account in calculating the amount of income applied to such purposes, in the case referred to in sub-clause (i), during the previous year in which the income is received or during the previous year immediately following, as the case may be, and, in the case referred to in sub-clause (ii), during the previous year immediately following the previous year in which the income was derived.

***Note: Form No. 9A is prescribed under Rule 17. Application shall be furnished electronically before the expiry of time allowed u/s 139(1) for furnishing return of income.**

Explanation 1 clause(2) to S. 11(1) - Treatment of Income not received or applied during the P.Y. – issues involved

- Treatment of income Accrued but not received ?
- Treatment of income Received but not Applied due to any other reason ?
- Procedure to apply in succeeding year ?
- If income not applied on receipt in succeeding years ?

The assessee is at liberty to wait for any number of years for the receipt of income. In case the income is not received in future assessment years then there is no obligation on the part of the assessee to spend such income.

CIT v. Jayashree Charity Trust [1986] 159 ITR 280 (Cal.)

Section 11(1)....

New Explanation is inserted by FA, 2017 w.e.f. 01/04/2018

Explanation 2.—Any amount credited or paid, out of income referred to in clause (a) or clause (b) read with Explanation 1, to any other trust or institution registered under section 12AA, being contribution with a specific direction that they shall form part of the corpus of the trust or institution, shall not be treated as application of income for charitable or religious purposes."

Note: Relevant changes are made in New ITR – 7 prescribed for A.Y. 2018-19

Brief Impact: `

Till FY 2016-17 donations made by a trust to any other trust is considered as application of money in the hands of donor even if donation is made to other trust with specific direction that it shall form part of corpus. As it was held in **Thermax Social Initiative Foundation v. ITO(Exemptions), [2017] 77 taxmann.com 30 (Pune)**.

Therefore, a new Explanation was inserted to section 11 of the Act to provide that any amount credited or paid, out of income referred to in clause (a) or clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 11, being contributions with specific direction that they shall form part of the corpus of the trust or institution, shall not be treated as application of income.

Therefore, from FY 2017-18 any trust made donation to other trust with the specific direction that it shall form part of corpus then such donation will not be treated as application of income in the hands of donor trust.

SECTION 11

Meaning of word 'INCOME'

Circular No. 5P dated 19th June 1968

1. “The expression ‘total income’ has been specifically defined in S. 2(45) of the Act as **“total amount of income referred to in S. 5, computed in the manner laid down in this Act”**. And therefore the word ‘income’ used u/s 11(1)(a) could not be assigned the same meaning as specifically assigned to the expression ‘total income’ u/s 2(45).
2. In case of business undertaking, ‘income’ will be the income as shown in the accounts of the undertaking u/s 11(4), any income of the business undertaking determined by the AO in excess of income shown in accounts will be deemed to have been applied for purposes other than charitable or religious and will be chargeable to tax u/s 11(3). **Only income disclosed by accounts shall be eligible for exemption u/s 11(1), and permitted accumulation of 15% shall be calculated with reference to this income.**

contd....

3. Where the trust derives income from house property, capital gains, or other sources, the word 'income' should be understood in its commercial sense i.e book income, after adding back any appropriations or applications thereof towards the purpose of the trusts or otherwise, and also after adding back any debits made for any capital expenditure, any amount added back shall become chargeable to tax u/s 11(3) to the extent they represent outgoings for purpose other than those of the trust.

Note: Income- Gross or net

The Supreme Court in CIT v. Programme for Community Organisation [2001] 248 ITR 1, has held that the assessee-trust was entitled to exemption u/s 11 at 25% (now 15%) of its total income derived, not on amount remained after expending money on charitable purposes out of its total income

Followed by the Hon'ble ITAT Lucknow Bench, in the case of Krishi Utpadan mandi samiti & Anr. V. DCIT, 136 TTJ 635

Judiciary on Meaning of 'Income'

CIT v. Trustees of H.E.H. Nizam's Supplemental Religious Endowment Trust (1981) 127 ITR 378 (AP). Held:

- Only Books of accounts have to be taken into consideration for determining the income and expenditure of the trust for the purpose of section 11(1)(a).
- Section 2(45) specifically defines "Total income" where as the expression used in the section 11 is only "income".
- Income which is left after the expenditure is required to be set apart or such of the money, which is left with the trust after meeting all the expenditure, that can be invested in securities
- Therefore for the purpose of assessing total income the AO may, as per the provision of the Act, include many items on notional basis, But they do not really constitute the surplus amount or the amount that would be left for the purposes of investment.
- Total income is not relevant for the purpose of investing the funds of the trust or for the purposes of assessing the income of the trust.

For purpose of S. 10 (23C), annual receipt is to be considered without excluding contribution towards corpus of trust...

Indian Medical Trust v. ITO [2012] 18 taxmann.com 223 (Jaipur - Trib.)

- Assessee-trust was running hospital and medical college. It claimed exemption u/s 10(23C) as gross receipt of assessee were below 1 crore. AO rejected same. Assessee contended that donation received could not be included in gross receipt because said donations were received towards corpus of trust.
- Whether for purpose sec. 10(23C), annual receipt is to be considered without excluding contribution towards corpus of trust - Held, yes
- Whether since receipt were more than 1 crore, exemption could not be granted to assessee-trust - Held, yes
- Whether, even if assessee-trust was not entitled to exemption u/s 10(23C) still it will be entitled to claim benefit given u/s 11 to 13 - Held, yes

Issue - Gross Receipt for the purpose of section 10(23C)

- For computing 'substantial government aid' so as to avail section 10(23C) exemption, receipts of individual institution are to be considered, and not aggregate gross receipts of various institutions run by society.
Jat Education Society v. ITO [2013] 37 taxmann.com 187 (Delhi - Trib.) ; PKD Trust v. ITO, [2017] 79 taxmann.com 282 (Chennai)

Exempt vis-à-vis Taxable Income.

■ Exempt Income.

- Income which is applied/accumulated to/for the purposes of the trust in India during the previous year to which the income relates is exempt. Further such application/accumulation should not be less than 85% of the income derived during the P.Y.

■ Taxable Income.

- Income which is not applied to the purposes of the trust in India during the P.Y. to which the income relates is taxable.
- Income received by Private religious trust.
- Income received by a trust for charitable purposes or a charitable institution created or established after March 31, 1962, is the trust or the institution is created or established for the benefit of any **particular religious community or caste or is applied for the benefit of the persons specified in section 13(3).**

Applicability of Section 14

- **DIT [Exemption] v. Girdharilal Shewnarain Tantia Trust (1993) 199 ITR 215 (cal.)** held that the income from property held for charitable or religious purposes cannot be equated with the income which is computed under the general provisions of the Act in respect of other assesseees who are not entitled to the benefit of the provisions of sections 11(1)(a), 11(1)(b), and 11(1)(A).
- The High Court also ruled that :
When the trust loses the benefit of accumulation, and as a result, when the trust income is brought to tax, the question of allowing any statutory deductions as contemplated by different provisions of the Act dealing with different heads of income does not arise. Therefore if a trust has property income among other receipts, it will not be entitled to a deduction of 25% for repairs and collection charges, but will be entitled to deduction of actual repairs and collection charges. **CIT v. Estate of V.L. Ethiraj [1982] 136 ITR 12 (Mad.)**

Treatment of Unrecorded Income.

CIT v. PSG and Sons Charities [1997] 223 ITR 831 (Mad.).

In case the property held under trust is a “Business Undertaking”, the AO shall have power to determine the income of such under taking in accordance with the provisions of the Act, in case the income so determined is in excess of the income as shown in the accounts of the undertaking such excess shall be deemed to be applied to purposes other than the Charitable or religious purposes.

Whether reflection of income in the profit & loss account is determinative

CIT v. M/s State Urban Development Society Date of Decision: 19.10.2011, ITA No. 210 of 2011 [P&H High Court]

Grants received by assessee society cannot be treated as its income where the same have been received by the assessee for disbursement and cannot be utilized for any other purpose, even if the same is credited to the profit & loss account. The entries in the books of account do not decide the nature of receipts.

Issue- INCOME

Income derived from property held under trust *wholly* for charitable or religious purposes – What the word Wholly represents here ?

- The word 'wholly' referred in the section refers to the object and not to the property held under trust, further the word wholly cannot be treated equivalent to the word mainly, further it would not be sufficient if some of the objects are charitable or religious in nature.

Dwarkadas Bhimji v CIT [1948] 16 ITR 160 (Bom.), East India Industries (Madras) Private Ltd V. CIT [1967] 65 ITR 611 (SC).

Issue- INCOME

Real Income v. Notional Income

- The exemption and the conditions thereof u/s 11 should be confined to the real income of the organization, Notional income cannot be considered for the purpose of accumulation and application.

CIT v. Jayashree Charity Trust [1986] 159 ITR 280 (Cal.)

Hindustan Welfare Trust v. DIT (Exemption) [1993] 201 ITR 564 (Cal.).

Interest on deposits – where deposits were the property of the assessee- exempt

CIT Vs. Haryana C. M. Relief Fund [2009] 309 ITR 0275 (P&H)

Issues

➤ **Recovery of loans whether treated as Receipt of Income?**

Yes, should be considered as a part of income in the year of receipt. *CIT v. Cutchi Memon Union [1985] 155 ITR 51 (Kar.)*, however the same is found unacceptable in *CIT v. Trustees of Kasturbai Scindia Commission Trust [1991] 189 ITR 5 (Bom.)*

➤ **Treatment of subscription and amounts taken to suspense account?**

Donations received kept in suspense account, such amount should also be treated as amount of voluntary contributions, so as to require either application or accumulation with permission. *CIT v. Divine Light Mission (2005) 278 ITR 659 (Del.)*

Issues

➤ CIT v. SRI MAGUNTA RAGHAVA REDDY CHARITABLE TRUST, [2017] 398 ITR 663 (Mad)

Where an educational trust earned profit from sale of land owned by assessee, the same could not be treated as business income and was eligible for exemption under section 11 read with section 2(15) as activity of sale of land was incidental to objects of trust and said profit had been applied for objects of trust

Issue – Carry forward of deficit of current year

➤ **DIT vs. Raghuvanshi Charitable Trust [2011] 197 Taxman 170 (HC- Delhi)**

A trust can be allowed to carry forward deficit of current year and to set off same against income of subsequent years.

Also, adjustment of deficit of current year against income of subsequent year **would amount to application of income** of trust for charitable purposes in subsequent year within meaning of section 11(1)(a).

[also refer: Management Development Institute, National Institute Of Urban affairs and; others, ITA No. 1075 of 2008, 930 of 2009, 30 of 2010 and others]

- It is open to the assessee to explain the shortfall in distribution with reference to excess distribution of an earlier year, so that to avail such excess for set off against current shortfall. **CIT v. Matriseva Trust (2000) 242 ITR 20 (Mad.), CIT v. Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation (1987) 164 ITR 439 (Raj.) and CIT v. Shri Plot Swetamber Murti Pujak Jain Mandal (1985) 211 ITR 293 (Guj.).**

Judgement in against : **Pushpawati Singhanian Research Institute for Liver, Renal and Digestive Diseases vs DDIT [2009] 29 SOT 316 [ITAT – Delhi]**

contd...

Other references: *CIT vs. Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation* [164 ITR 439 (Raj.)] , *CIT vs. Institute of Banking* [264 ITR 110 (Bom.)]; *CIT vs. Siddaramanna Charities Trust* [96 ITR 275 (Mys); and *CIT vs. Matriseva Trust* [242 ITR 20 (Mad.)]. Gujarat High Court in *Shri Plot Swetamber Murti Pujak Jain Mandal ,Commissioner of Income Tax vs. Shri Plot Swetamber Murti Pujak Jain Mandal* [211 ITR 293].

Issue- Is Earmarking of funds possible ?

No

CIT v. Thanthi Trust [1999] 239 ITR 502 (SC).

Nachimuthu Industrial Association v. CIT (1999) 235 ITR 190 (SC).

Merely making an entry in the accounts cannot be taken as any application of the income for any charitable purpose. Such entries could have been reversed if and when the trust choose to do so.

Issues- Application of income

- **Should Receipt of Income precede Application of Income?** – not necessary, the emphasize is on the spending of the income and not on confining the source of the amount spent to the income earned during the previous year. **Chotanagpur Diocesan Trust v. ITO [1986] 19 ITD 175 (Patna – Trib)**
- **Is it necessary that the money should be actually spent?**- No, if a liability for an expenditure has been incurred, the same is enough. **CIT v. Trustees of H.E.H the Nizam's Charitable Trust [1981] 131 ITR 497 (AP).**

Issues – Whether Application of Income

A. Payment of Taxes ?

Yes, CIT v. Trustees of H.E.H the Nizam's Supplemental Religious Endowment Trust [1981] 127 ITR 378 (AP), CIT v. Janaki Ammal Ayya Nadar Trust [1985] 153 ITR 159 (Mad.).

B. Repayment of Loans ?

Yes, if loan is for purposes of trust. CIT v. Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation [1987] 164 ITR 439 (Raj.), [2009]315 ITR 237(Mad) Director of Income-tax (Exemption) v. Govindu Naicker Estate

C. Grant of Loans?

Yes, CIT Vs. Saraswath Poor Students Fund [1984] 150 ITR 0142 (Kar)

Issues – Whether Application of Income

D. Expenditure for Revenue or Capital purpose?

Application of the amount can be for revenue or capital purpose towards object of the trust. *S.R.M. M.C.T.M Tirupanni Trust v. CIT [1998] 230 ITR 636 (SC)*

E. Donation to other Trusts ?-

Yes, if such donation should be utilized for charitable purpose only.

CBDT Instruction No. 1582 dated 19/10/1984.

CIT v. J.K. Charitable Trust [1992] 196 ITR 31 (All.), CIT Vs. Indian National Theatre Trust [2008] 305 ITR 0149 (Del), ACIT vs. U.P. Cricket Association, [2011] 9 taxmann.com 102 (LUCK. - ITAT), CIT v. Market Committee Narwana [2011] 10 taxmann.com 211 (Punj. & Har.)

Issues – Whether Application of Income

F. **Book Entries ?**

Yes, *CIT v. thanthi Trust [1999] 239 ITR 502 (SC)*

G. **Legal Expenses for defending specified persons ?**

Yes, *Ananda Marga Pracharaka Sangha V. CIT [1994] 76 Taxmann 88 (Cal.)*

H. **Remuneration to specified persons?**

Yes, if reasonable, *Director of Wealth tax v. R.P. Kayan Trust [2002] 253 ITR 30 (Cal.)*

I. **Advancement of loans by an educational institution to its employees, cannot be regarded as mis-application of funds for purpose of section 10(23c)(vi) of I. T. Act. Facilities like housing, loan, car loan etc., given by an educational institution would be regarded as expenditure spent on the object of education and not to any other purpose.** *[Kashatriya Sabha v. UOI 194 Taxman 442 (2010) (Punj. & Har.)]*

Issues – Whether Application of Income

J. Depreciation ?

The following sub-sections (6) shall be inserted to section 11 by the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2014, w.e.f. 1-4-2015:

“In this section where any income is required to be applied or accumulated or set apart for application, then, for such purposes the income shall be determined without any deduction or allowance by way of depreciation or otherwise in respect of any asset, acquisition of which has been claimed as an application of income under this section in the same or any other previous year.”

Note: Before this amendment, there are different views formed by the various Hon'ble High Courts

Issues – Whether Application of Income

It is clarified that in case capital cost has been claimed as an application, no further deduction on allowance of depreciation would be permitted. As held in the following cases:

ITO v. Ranganathan Rajeswari Charitable Trust, [2016] 75 taxmann.com 187 (Chennai); Southern India Mills Association v. ITO [2017] 77 taxmann.com 36 (Chennai); Raja Muthiah Chettiar Charitable & Educational Trust v. DDIT (Exemptions) [2017] 78 taxmann.com 231 (Chennai)

Issues – Whether Application of Income

K. Establishment or administrative expenses

These are considered as a charge to the income of the organization and therefore, only the net income after such expenses is available for charitable purposes. *Board Circular No. 5-P(LXX-6) of 1968 dated 19/06/1968,* however where certain elements of expenses could be directly attributed to the earning of income of a charitable trust, such expenses should be treated as application of income. *CIT v. Birla Janahit Trust [1994] 208 ITR 372 (Cal.)*.

L. Accumulation of income u/s 11(1)(a) to be calculated on the basis of total income of trust & not its income as determined for the purpose of assessment of income tax after deducting administrative expenses. As held in *Krishi Utpadan mandi samiti & Anr. V. DCIT, 136 TTJ 635*

Issue – Application of income should be in India...

- Amounts spent by assessee-trust outside India for participating in a fair held in Germany could not be treated as application of income of trust for purpose of section 11(1)(a) and were rightly disallowed.

Case law: India Brand Equity Foundation v. ACIT [2012] 23 taxmann.com 323 (Delhi)(Trib.)

Application of income outside India

- Application of Income outside India does not disentitle educational institution exemption u/s 10(23C)(vi), however the prescribed authority is always empowered to grant registration subject to certain conditions.

The third proviso does not use the words in India in the matter of application or accumulation of income though in several other sections like Sections 10(20A), 10(22B) and 11(1)(a) etc., Parliament has used the words in India. Therefore, the words in India cannot be read into the third proviso to s.10(23C).

Case law: American Hotel Lodging Association Education Institute Vs CBDT 2008-TIOL-115-SC-IT

Taxation of trust under
different heads of Income

Income under different Heads....

- Where the trust derives income from house property, interest on securities, capital gains, or other sources, the word 'income' should be understood in its commercial sense, i.e., book income, after adding back any appropriations or applications thereof towards the purposes of the trusts or otherwise, and also after adding back any debits made for capital expenditure incurred for the purposes of the trust or otherwise. It should be noted, in this connection, that the amounts so added back will become chargeable to tax under section 11(3) to the extent that they represent outgoings for purposes other than those of the trust. The amounts spent or applied for the purposes of the trust from out of the income computed in the aforesaid manner should be not less than 75% (now 85%) of the later, if the trust is to get the full benefit of the exemption under section 11(1). **[Circular No. 5P (XX-6), dated 19-6-1968].**
- The income from the properties held under trust have to be arrived at in the normal commercial manner without classification under the various heads set out in section 14 of the Income-tax Act, 1961. The expression "income" has to be understood in the popular or general sense and not in the sense in which the income is arrived at for the purpose of assessment to tax by application of some artificial provisions either giving or denying deduction

- The computation under the different categories or heads arises only for the purposes of ascertaining the total income for the purposes of charge. Those provisions cannot be introduced to find out what the income derived from the property held under trust to be excluded from the total income is, for the purpose of the exemptions under Chapter II
- The income is arrived at after meeting the required expenses and charges including the expenses of maintaining the trust property, salaries and miscellaneous expenses, legal expenses connected with the affairs of the trust, depreciation, payment of income-tax and other taxes but excluding loss on sale of investment or apportioning any part of such expenses to capital donations received by the trust. The amount of depreciation debited to the accounts of the charitable institution has to be deducted to arrive at the income available for application to charitable and religious purposes. **[Sheth Manilal Ranchhoddas Vishram Bhavan Trust (Guj). See also Bhoruka Public Welfare Trust (Cal)].**

Note: In case capital cost has been claimed as an application, no further deduction on allowance of depreciation would be permitted from AY 2015-16

Section – 11(1)(d)
Voluntary Contribution

Voluntary Contribution with the specific direction that it will form part of the Corpus of the trust

Issues - Voluntary Contributions....

- **Whether Voluntary contributions shall be treated as income u/s 2(24)?**

Section 12 was inserted by the Finance Act 1972, w.e.f. 1/04/1973 and the insertion of this section was supported by insertion of clause (iia) to section 2(24) i.e. definition of income, where in voluntary contribution received by trust has been held as income.

CBDT Circular No. 108, dated 20/03/1973

- **If Voluntary contribution has to be considered on receipt basis or accrual basis ?**

S. 12 uses the word "received" as against S. 11(1), which uses the word "derived" and therefore S. 12 provides a separate treatment to voluntary contribution i.e. on receipt basis only

Issues - Voluntary Contributions....

- **Whether Government Grants are voluntary in nature and whether such grants qualify for exemption?**

Held yes. if same has been granted for a particular purpose of public utility or public importance, or to alleviate a situation affecting general public, and cannot be used for any other purpose. *Bihar State Text Book Publishing Corpn. V. CIT, Misc. Appeal No. 425 OF 2010*

- It is well known that the grants in aid are made by the Government to provide certain institutions with sufficient funds to carry on their charitable activities. On reading the conditions on which those grants in aid were given, it was obvious that the institutions or associations to which the grant was made had no right to ask for the grant and it was solely within the discretion of the governments to make grants to institutions of charitable nature. Again, the Government did not expect any return for the grants given by it to such institutions and there was nothing which was required to be done by these institutions for the Government, which could be considered as consideration for the grant. Therefore, none of the conditions attached to the grant affected the voluntary nature of the contribution. Hence, the impugned grant was exempt u/s 12.

CIT vs. Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council [1983] 13 Taxmann 13 (Bom.)

Issues - voluntary contributions....

Difference between voluntary contributions and subscription.

There is a distinction between voluntary contributions and subscription. When the sum is paid in the nature of gifts or a gratuitous payment to the trust without any consideration, it would be considered as voluntary contribution. Subscription is not to be treated as voluntary Contribution.

CIT v. Divine Light Mission [2005] 146 Taxmann 653 (Delhi.), Trustees of Shri Kot Hindu Steel Mandal v. CIT [1994] 73 Taxmann 648 (Bom.)

Issues - voluntary contributions....

- Where assessee carrying on charitable work received grants for specific purposes from certain agencies, these grants could not be considered voluntary contribution as per section 12.

DIT v. Society for Development Alternatives [2012] 18 taxmann.com 364 (Delhi)

Facts:

- Assessee-society was registered under sections 12A and 80G. It was carrying on charitable work. It received grants from certain agencies and maximum amount of grants remained unspent at end of year. AO invoked provision of sec. 12 and added said amount to income of assessee.
- Whether since (i) assessee had received grants for specific purposes, (ii) these grants were to be spent as per terms and conditions of grants, and (iii) amount, which remained unspent at end of year, got spilled over to next year and was treated as unspent grant, these grants were not voluntary contributions as per section 12 - Held, yes

ISSUE- Corpus-Nature

Asst. CIT v. Nagarjuna Educational Society [2011] 12 taxmann.com 375(Visakhapatnam)

- Whether it is only prerogative and privilege of concerned donor to specify purpose for which voluntary contributions are given and, hence, neither assessee nor Assessing Officer is authorized to change character of voluntary contribution from 'Corpus' to 'ordinary contribution' or vice versa - Held, yes
- Whether where assessee-society was running educational institutions and impugned donations received by it had been given with a specific direction that they would form part of 'Corpus' of institution, said voluntary contributions would remain as 'Corpus donations' exempt under section 11(1)(d) and Assessing Officer was not correct in changing character of corpus donations as ordinary receipts - Held, yes

ISSUE- corpus

- Any Contribution, which is for specific purpose and not for general purpose should be treated as corpus.

CIT v. Sri Plot Swetamber Murti Pujak Jain Mandal [1995] 211 ITR 293 (Guj).

- Donation received towards the corpus of the trust could not be taxed as deemed income of the trust under section 12(2).

CIT v. Amar Charitable Trust [1989] 42 Taxmann 101 (Bom), CIT Vs. Sthanakvasi Vardhman vanik Jain Sangh [2003] 260 ITR 366 (Guj).

Issues – Received shares as corpus and subsequent sale - [S. 11(1)(d) (S.13(d)).....

Sera Foundation v. ITO (2012) 79 DTR 210/150 TTJ 537 (Delhi) (Trib.)

- There is no restriction on accepting shares by a charitable institution. Assessee trust received equity shares from another trust towards corpus donation. However, clause (iia) of proviso to section 13(1)(d)(iii) entitles an assessee trust to hold the shares for a maximum period of 1 year before which they have to be converted into the modes of investment as prescribed in section 11(5). Contention of the Dept. Representative that the assessee has violated the provisions of section 11(1)(d) by selling the shares suffers from the basic fallacy in not recognizing that the assessee has merely converted one form of investment into another viz. Money by selling the shares.
- The corpus donations received by the assessee could not be considered as general donations merely on the ground of its utilization in the subsequent year for giving corpus donations to other charitable institutions.

Inter charity donations

Inter charity donations even could be towards corpus.

CIT v. Sarladevi Sarabhai Trust [1988] 172 ITR 698 (Guj.)

CBDT Instruction No. 1132 (1978), has clarified that if the donee organization does not utilize in the year of receipt, then the exemption to donor will not be effected.

- The Finance Act, 2002 has inserted an Explanation to S. 11(2), that prohibits the donations to other charitable trusts out of accumulated funds.
- The Finance Act, 2003 has inserted another proviso to sub section (3A) to section 11 which provides that inter charity donations out of accumulated funds will be permissible in case of dissolution of charitable organization.

Inter charity donations

- Whether application of income for charitable purposes should not be distinguished as one for revenue purposes and other for capital purposes - **Held, yes** - Whether, **even if expenditure has been incurred for acquiring capital asset**, assessee will be entitled for exemption as this will tantamount to application of income for charitable purposes - **Held, yes**
- Ref: ***Aryan Educational Society v. CIT 281 ITR (A.T.) 0072 (2006) [ITAT-Delhi]***.

Inter charity donations...

- Where assessee-trust received corpus donation, assessee was to furnish PAN and addresses of donors for verification by Assessing Officer before exemption under section 11 was allowed.

Madhavi Raksha Sankalp Nirmal Niketan v. DDIT, [2017] 83 taxmann.com 316 (Mumbai)

- Merely because an educational institution collected voluntary donations from some students, would not result in cancellation of its registration as a charitable trust.

Vignana Jyothi v. DIT, [2017] 81 taxmann.com 204 (Hyderabad)

CIT v. Shikshan Prasarak Mandali, [2017] 86 taxmann.com 7 (Bombay)

- Where activities of assessee trust in relation to its education activities was not doubted, simply because assessee had received donation from party which was involved in providing accommodation entries could not be basis for cancelling its registration under section 12AA

Dr. B.G. Memorial Trust v. CIT, [2017] 87 taxmann.com 225 (Kolkata)

Issue- Foreign Trust & application on activities outside India

➤ Whether foreign trust can claim exemption?

Yes, Sec. 11 does not require the trust should be established or registered in India.

➤ Income applied on activities outside India?

The Provisions of S. 11(1)(c.) are attracted only if actual expenditure is incurred outside India. Section 11(1)(c.) cannot be invoked only on the ground that the trust deed provides for activities outside India.

CIT v. State bank of India [1988] 169 ITR 298 (Bom.)

If an organization incurs expenditure outside India in contravention of section 11(1)(c) then the entire exemption will not be lost. Income to the extent not applied in India will not be eligible for exemption.

CWT v. Trustees of the Nizam's Religious Endowment Trust [1977] 108 ITR 229 (AP)

Section-11(2)

Exemption if income Accumulated
for specific purposes

Section-11(2) - Exemption if income Accumulated for specific purposes

Where eighty-five per cent of the income referred to in clause (a) or clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 11 read with the Explanation to that sub-section is not applied, or is not deemed to have been applied, to charitable or religious purposes in India during the previous year but is accumulated or set apart, either in whole or in part, for application to such purposes in India, such income so accumulated or set apart shall not be included in the total income of the previous year of the person in receipt of the income, provided the following conditions are complied with, namely:—

[(a) such person furnishes a statement in the prescribed form and in the prescribed manner to the Assessing Officer, stating the purpose for which the income is being accumulated or set apart and the period for which the income is to be accumulated or set apart, which shall in no case exceed five years;*

(b) the money so accumulated or set apart is invested or deposited in the forms or modes specified in sub-section (5);

(c) the statement referred to in clause (a) is furnished on or before the due date specified under sub-section (1) of section 139 for furnishing the return of income for the previous year:

***Note: Form No. 10 is prescribed under Rule 17. Application shall be furnished electronically before the expiry of time allowed u/s 139(1) for furnishing return of income.**

***Provided** that in computing the period of five years referred to in clause (a), the period during which the income could not be applied for the purpose for which it is so accumulated or set apart, due to an order or injunction of any court, shall be excluded.]*

Explanation.—Any amount credited or paid, out of income referred to in clause (a) or clause (b) of sub-section (1), read with the Explanation to that sub-section, which is not applied, but is accumulated or set apart, to any trust or institution registered under section 12AA or to any fund or institution or trust or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution referred to in sub-clause (iv) or sub-clause (v) or sub-clause (vi) or sub-clause (via) of clause (23C) of section 10, shall not be treated as application of income for charitable or religious purposes, either during the period of accumulation or thereafter.

Issues -Section 11(2)

➤ Whether accumulation over and above 15 % is possible ?

A charitable organisation is unconditionally allowed to accumulate 15% of its income annually and the provisions of S.11(2) and 11(3) would apply only to accumulations made over and above this 15% limit. [\[Addl. CIT v. A.L.N. Rao Charitable Trust\[1995\] 216 ITR 697 \(SC\)\]; Shri Prayagdharm Trust v. CIT, \[2017\] 86 taxmann.com 42 \(Mumbai\)](#)

➤ The AO rejected the claim of the assessee for exemption u/s 11 on the ground that the assessee accumulated profits without providing an explanation. The CIT (A) held that the utilization of accumulation was on the agenda of the governing body, the purpose of expenditure for accumulation was for building fund and equipment fund and the period was less than ten years. The Tribunal upheld the order of the CIT(A). Held, dismissing the appeal, **that when the assessee had specified the purpose and there was no fault in utilisation of the amount, the assessee was entitled to accumulation of income.** [\[CIT v. National Institute and Financial Management \[2010\] 322 ITR 694 P&H\] \[CIT v. Gokula Education Foundation, \[2017\] 81 taxmann.com 372 \(SC\)\]](#)

➤ Whether condition for excluding accumulated income of a charitable institution from total income is specification of purpose for which income was accumulated and deposited in specified mode - Held, yes [\[CIT v. Market Committee, Tohana \[2011\] 12 taxmann.com 252 \(P & H\)\]](#)

Issues – Sec. 11(2)

➤ Is Form No. 10 is mandatory ?

Yes, however CIT has power to condone delay. *CBDT circular No. 273, dt 03/06/1980, however in CIT Vs. G.R. Govindarajulu & Sons Charities [2004] 271 ITR 0145 [Mad],* hon'ble High Court has held that it is enough for the assessee to submit a statement along with the return to exercise such option.

➤ Modification in purposes if possible ?

Yes, Section 11(3A) permits the modification of the purposes specified in Form 10, under various circumstances.

➤ Effect of order of court or Injunction ?

Period of 5 years will exclude any period during which the income could not be applied due to an order or injunction of any court. *CBDT Circular No. 657 dated 30/08/1993.*

Issue – Sec 11(2)...

If Notice in form No. 10 to be given only in first year of accumulation or all in subsequent years also?

The assessee could file notice in Form No. 10 in respect of each year along with the return of income whenever the assessee was unable to apply its income to the extent of 85 per cent. to the charitable or religious purposes. But there was nothing in the provisions which prohibited the assessee from filing the notice in Form No. 10 for more than one year. It has been provided in Form No. 10 itself that an assessee can give notice in writing not only for the current year but also for subsequent previous years. The claim of the assessee could not be denied merely on the ground that in the subsequent year no further notice was given by the assessee. If notice is given in respect of all previous years commencing from the first assessment year, the authorities are not justified in denying the benefit of accumulation for the year under consideration. However, the AO would be at liberty to examine whether the provisions of section 11(5) had been complied with by the assessee or not.

Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council Vs. Income-tax Officer (Exemptions) [2009] 308 ITR (A.T.) 0182 ITAT (Mum.)

Issues- sec.11(2)....

- Is benefit of Accumulation is available for more than one purpose?

Yes.

DIT (Exemption) Vs. Eternal Science of Man's Society [2007] 290 ITR 535 (Del.), Director of Income-tax (Exemption) Vs. Daulat Ram Education Society [2005] 278 ITR 0260 (Del)

- If income is accumulated for more than one purpose, than is it necessary to specify all of those purposes particularly?

No, It is enough if the assessee seeks accumulation for the objects of the trust. That the assessee had sought to accumulate the sum for purposes of the trust and had specified such objects.

Bharat Krishak Samaj Vs. Deputy Director of Income-tax (Exemption) [2008] 306 ITR 153 (Del), Director of Income-tax Vs. Mitsui and Co. Environmental Trust [2008] 303 ITR 0111 (Del), Bharat Kalyan Pratisthan Vs. Director of Income-tax (Exemption) [2008] 299 ITR 0406 (Del).

Issues- Non-specification of purpose of accumulation in Form 10

DDIT (Exemptions) v. Envisions [2015] 378 ITR 483 (Kar.)

Assessee's claim for accumulation u/s 11(2) can't be denied merely because more than one purpose has been specified & details about the plan of such expenditure has not been given.

As long as the objects of the trust are charitable in character and as long as the purpose or purposes mentioned in Form 10 are for achieving the objects of the trust, merely because of non-furnishing of the details, as how the said amount is proposed to be spent in future, the assessee cannot be denied the exemption as is admissible u/s 11(2).

ISSUES-Form No. 10 during reassessment proceedings....

Association of Corporation & Apex Societies of Handlooms v. Asst. DIT [2013] 30 taxmann.com 22 (Delhi)

Form No. 10 could be furnished by assessee-trust for purposes of section 11(2), i.e., for accumulation of income, during reassessment proceedings

Held_ One has to keep in mind the fact that while reopening of an assessment cannot be asked for by the assessee on the ground that it had not furnished Form No. 10 during the original assessment proceedings, this does not mean that when the revenue reopens the assessment by invoking section 147, the assessee would be remediless and would be barred from furnishing Form No. 10 during those assessment proceedings. • Therefore, Form No. 10 could be furnished by the assessee-trust during the reassessment proceedings. [Para 6]

Issues- sec.11(2)...

- Merely because an educational institution accumulates income, it does not go out of consideration of section 10(23C)(vi).

It goes out only if application of income is for purposes other than education. If accumulation of surplus by assessee, an educational trust, is within parameters of section, it will be entitled to benefit of section 10(23C)(vi).

[Case law: Maa Saraswati Educational Trust v. Union of India 194 TAXMAN 84 (2010) (HP)]

- Where a trust was allowed exemption under section 11 in earlier years and there were no factual change in its activity in relevant assessment year, claim of trust for exemption under section 11 could not be denied in relevant assessment year

[Andheri Recreation Club v. ITO, [2017] 86 taxmann.com 36 (Mumbai)]

Section-11(4) & Section-11(4A)
Income from
Business Activities.

Section-11(4) & Section-11(4A)

Income from Business Activities

- (4) For the purposes of this section "property held under trust" includes a business undertaking so held, and where a claim is made that the income of any such undertaking shall not be included in the total income of the persons in receipt thereof, the Assessing Officer shall have power to determine the income of such undertaking in accordance with the provisions of this Act relating to assessment; and where any income so determined is in excess of the income as shown in the accounts of the undertaking, such excess shall be deemed to be applied to purposes other than charitable or religious purposes.
- (4A) Sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) or sub-section (3A) shall not apply in relation to any income of a trust or an institution, being profits and gains of business, unless the business is incidental to the attainment of the objectives of the trust or, as the case may be, institution, and separate books of account are maintained by such trust or institution in respect of such business.

Issues- income from Business activities

- Sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) shall not apply in relation to any income of a trust or an institution, being profits and gains of business, **unless the business is incidental to the attainment of the objectives of the trust or, as the case may be, institution, and separate books of account are maintained** by such trust or institution in respect of such business. *CIT Vs. Seethakathi Trust [2007] 295 ITR 520 [Mad.]; DCIT v. Chennai Kammavar Trust, [2017] 81 taxmann.com 365 (Chennai)*
- To judge the incidentality of business activity it is necessary to see the primary purpose of the organization and not the source of the income. *Asstt CIT v. thanthi Trust [2001] 247 ITR 785 (SC).*
- once exclusion contemplated under section 11(4A) is not applicable, exemption has to be allowed as sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) of section 11 become applicable even in respect of profits and gains *CIT vs Manav Mangal Society [2009] 184 TAXMAN 502 (P&H.)*

Issues

- Whether section 11(4A) and section 11(4) are complementary to each other and section 11(4A) does not restrict power under section 11(4)
- Held, yes - When a business income is used towards achievement of an object of a trust, it would amount to being incidental to achievement of object of trust, notwithstanding profit and gain involved therein and would be eligible for exemption u/s 11(4A).

DIT(Exemptions) v. Willington Charitable Trust, [2010] 195 TAXMAN 232 (MAD.)

Issues

CIT Vs. P. Iyya Nadar Charitable Trust [2006] 284 ITR 0404 (Mad.)

That the exemption u/s 11 will not be available to a trust that carries on any business unless the business is carried on “in the course of the actual carrying out of the primary purpose of the trust”, that is to say, unless the business is carried on in the course of actually accomplishing a primary purpose of the trust ; the business must, therefore, be carried on in the course of the actual accomplishment of relief of the poor, education or medical relief. That where the business was held by the trust as a part of the corpus and, hence, the trust did not directly accomplish any object or carry on the business in the course of the actual accomplishment of its objects. The assessee was not entitled to exemption u/s 11.

Issues

Is letting of property is a business activity ?

That the object of the assessee was education and the activities of the assessee in letting out properties and receiving lease rental was an activity carried on only to fulfill the object of the assessee. Hence, the income derived by letting out the properties could not be treated as business income of the assessee.

CIT Vs. Sri Rao Baghadur Adk Dharmaraja Educational Charity Trust [2008] 300 ITR 365 (Mad), CIT vs. Jyoti Prabha Society [2009] 177 Taxmann 429 (Uttarakhand)

Whether as admittedly assessee was carrying on business activities, only thing which could be done on facts of case was to ascertain business income, whether such income was incidental to objects, whether books were maintained for business and quantum thereof - Held, yes

D.D.I.T.(E), v. PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry [2011] 12 taxmann.com 161 (Delhi)

ISSUE- sale & purchase of mutual funds- whether a business activity

NO

[2011] 12 taxmann.com 297 (Delhi)- ITAT, ITO v. Jesuit Conference of India

- assessee had invested surplus money in mutual fund units and had been entering into frequent transactions related to purchase/switchover from one such mutual fund scheme to another .
- Held that **sale and purchase of mutual fund are not treated as business activity and, accordingly, benefit of sections 11 and 12 not denied.**

- Whether **since investments were made with intention of getting a better yield upon appreciation/dividends from such mutual funds**, in order to augment resources of trust and proceeds of mutual funds were applied by assessee for charitable purposes, in compliance of provisions of sections 11 and 12 , it could not be said that assessee had been carrying on business activity which was not incidental to its charitable activities and that such activity was carried on with sole objective of earning profits - Held, yes

Section - 11(1A)

Treatment of Capital Gains

Section 11(1A)

For the purposes of sub-section (1),—

- (a) where a capital asset, being **property held under trust wholly for charitable or religious purposes**, is transferred and the whole or any part of the net consideration is utilised for acquiring another capital asset to be so held, then, the capital gain arising from the transfer shall be deemed to have been applied to charitable or religious purposes to the extent specified hereunder, namely:—
- (i) where the whole of the net consideration is utilised in acquiring the new capital asset, the whole of such capital gain;
 - (ii) where only a part of the net consideration is utilised for acquiring the new capital asset, so much of such capital gain as is equal to the amount, if any, by which the amount so utilised exceeds the cost of the transferred asset;
- (b) where a capital asset, being **property held under trust in part only for such purposes**, is transferred and the whole or any part of the net consideration is utilised for acquiring another capital asset to be so held, then, the appropriate fraction of the capital gain arising from the transfer shall be deemed to have been applied to charitable or religious purposes to the extent specified hereunder, namely:—
- (i) where the whole of the net consideration is utilised in acquiring the new capital asset, the whole of the appropriate fraction of such capital gain;
 - (ii) in any other case, so much of the appropriate fraction of the capital gain as is equal to the amount, if any, by which the appropriate fraction of the amount utilised for acquiring the new asset exceeds the appropriate fraction of the cost of the transferred asset.

S. 11(1A)-Treatment of Capital Gains

Brief Analysis:

The capital gains will be deemed to have been utilized for the purpose of section 11(1)(a), if the net consideration received is reinvested in another capital asset.

➤ **S. 11(1A) first caters to main situations, viz,**

- a) Where the capital asset is property held under trust wholly for charitable or religious purposes;
- b) Where the capital asset is held under trust in part only for such purposes.

Within these main situations, the provision also caters to the following sub-situations:

- (i) Where the whole of the net consideration is utilized in acquiring the new capital asset.
- (ii) Where only a part of the net consideration is utilized for acquiring the new capital asset.

Issues- S.11(1A)

Is Benefit of Indexation available ?

When the indexation could be done ?

- The indexation benefit will **not be available** if the entire sales proceeds is used for purchase of another capital Asset, Indexation Benefit should be claimed only when the capital gain is offered for taxation under normal provisions.

Issues- S.11(1A)....

- Is Capital Gains, income from property held under trust ?- Yes,
as per definition of income u/s 2(24)
- Time limit for reinvestment ?- No time limit, thus to be
invested within the same year unless the option is exercised as
per Explanation of S.11(1).
- Is Sec 11(1A) distinguish between long term and short term
capital gains asset ?- NO

Issues- S.11(1A)....

Is Benefit u/s 11(1A) optional ?- Yes, if assessee doesn't exercise option available u/s 11(1A) then it can utilize the capital gains for charitable purposes u/s 11(1)(a)

Al Ameen Education Society v. DIT (Ex) (2012) 139 ITD 245 (Bang.)(Trib.)

- If capital gain is applied for charitable purpose of assessee not by acquiring a new asset but for other charitable purpose, then there is no reason why it should not be considered as application of income for charitable purpose enabling assessee to claim exemption u/s 11(1).

Issues- S.11(1A)

- **Is fixed deposit a capital asset ?**
CBDT vide Instruction No. 883, dated 24/09/1975, has clarified that investment in FD with a tenure of more than 6 months are considered as capital assets for the purposes of S. 11(1A), However in **CIT v. Hindustan Welfare Trust [1994] 206 ITR 138 (Cal.)** it was opined that the term of the deposit could not be the test of its being an asset, whereas **in DIT (Exemp) v. DLF Qutab Enclave Complex Medical Charitable Trust [2001] 167 CTR (Delhi) 120** it was opined that the investment for a fixed term in Scheduled bank is enough.
- **Time limit for retention of Asset ?**
No time limit has been provided u/s 11(1A), for retention of the new asset.

Section - 11(5)

The forms & modes of investing or depositing the money for accumulated income

Section – 11(5)

- (5) The forms and modes of investing or depositing the money referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (2) shall be the following, namely :—
- i. investment in savings certificates as defined in clause (c) of section 2 of the Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959 (46 of 1959), and any other securities or certificates issued by the Central Government under the Small Savings Schemes of that Government;
 - ii. deposit in any account with the Post Office Savings Bank;
 - iii. deposit in any account with a scheduled bank or a co-operative society engaged in carrying on the business of banking (including a co-operative land mortgage bank or a co-operative land development bank).

Explanation.—In this clause, "scheduled bank" means the State Bank of India constituted under the State Bank of India Act, 1955 (23 of 1955), a subsidiary bank as defined in the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 (38 of 1959), a corresponding new bank constituted under section 3 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 (5 of 1970), or under section 3 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980 (40 of 1980), or any other bank being a bank included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (2 of 1934);

- iv. investment in units of the Unit Trust of India established under the Unit Trust of India Act, 1963 (52 of 1963);
- v. investment in any security for money created and issued by the Central Government or a State Government;

- vi. investment in debentures issued by, or on behalf of, any company or corporation both the principal whereof and the interest whereon are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by the Central Government or by a State Government;
- vi. investment or deposit in any public sector company:
Provided that where an investment or deposit in any public sector company has been made and such public sector company ceases to be a public sector company,—
 - (A) such investment made in the shares of such company shall be deemed to be an investment made under this clause for a period of three years from the date on which such public sector company ceases to be a public sector company;
 - (B) such other investment or deposit shall be deemed to be an investment or deposit made under this clause for the period up to the date on which such investment or deposit becomes repayable by such company;
- viii. deposits with or investment in any bonds issued by a financial corporation which is engaged in providing long-term finance for industrial development in India and which is eligible for deduction under clause (viii) of sub-section (1) of section 36;
- ix. deposits with or investment in any bonds issued by a public company formed and registered in India with the main object of carrying on the business of providing long-term finance for construction or purchase of houses in India for residential purposes and which is eligible for deduction under clause (viii) of sub-section (1) of section 36;

- ixa. deposits with or investment in any bonds issued by a public company formed and registered in India with the main object of carrying on the business of providing long-term finance for urban infrastructure in India.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this clause,—

(a) "long-term finance" means any loan or advance where the terms under which moneys are loaned or advanced provide for repayment along with interest thereof during a period of not less than five years;

(b) "public company" shall have the meaning assigned to it in section 3 of the Companies Act, 1956 (1 of 1956);

(c) "urban infrastructure" means a project for providing potable water supply, sanitation and sewerage, drainage, solid waste management, roads, bridges and flyovers or urban transport;

- x. investment in immovable property.

Explanation.—"Immovable property" does not include any machinery or plant (other than machinery or plant installed in a building for the convenient occupation of the building) even though attached to, or permanently fastened to, anything attached to the earth;

- xi. deposits with the Industrial Development Bank of India established under the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964 (18 of 1964);

- xii. any other form or mode of investment or deposit as may be prescribed.

Whether Investment in specified assets u/s 11(5) could be treated as application ?

Section 11(1) requires application of income of the year for the objects of the trust or institution, while section 11(5) deals with investment of the available funds with it. **Investment therefore, need not be out of income, even if such investment is made out of income, it cannot be construed as application.**

Whether Interest-free loan provided is Investment

- Interest-free loan provided by one charitable trust to another is not deposit or investment u/s 11(5)
CIT V. Kanpur Subhash Shiksha Samiti [2013] 36 taxmann.com 536 (Allahabad)

Issue - Subscription to chit fund...

Sethu Valliammal Educational Trust v. ITO (Exemptions)-III [2013] 32 taxmann.com 42 (Chennai - Trib.)

- Subscription to chit funds amounted to utilization of funds of assessee since right of assessee was only to prize a chit or participate in a draw of lots and it was not an investment or deposit of a money which was available as surplus with assessee. Therefore, AO fell in error in concluding that such subscriptions were investments which violated modes specified u/s 11(5)

Circumstances of forfeiture of
Exemption u/s 13

Analysis of provisions.....

- **Sec.13(1)(a) - Income not applied for public benefit.**

For the purpose of S.13(1)(a), is that the element of public benefit has to be satisfied. It does not matter where the control lies, if the benefit accrues to public at large but the control is with specific group of persons then S. 13(1)(a), will not be attracted. **Smt. Ganesh Devi Rami Devi Charity Trust v. CIT [1969] 71 ITR 696 (Cal.); Kendriya Academy Vidhyalaya Shiksha Samiti v. ACIT, [2016] 73 taxmann.com 391 (Jaipur)**

- **Sec. 13(1)(b)- Income applied for particular religious community or caste.**

Denial of exemption will not be applicable to organizations created for the benefit of scheduled castes, backward classes, and schedule tribes, or woman and children. ***(As per explanation 2 to section 13.)***

- S. 13(1)(b) is applicable only to those organizations which have been established for charitable purposes and is not applicable to organisations which are established specifically for religious purposes.

CIT v. Barkate Saifiyah Society [1995] 213 ITR 492 (Guj.), CIT v. Shri Maheshwari Agarwal Marwari Panchayat [1982] 136 ITR 556 (MP), Commissioner of Income-tax Vs. Chandra Charitable Trust [2007] 294 ITR 0086 (Guj).

- **Sec.13(1)(c)- Benefit to Interested persons.**

In case donation of shares by the concern, in which the founder had substantial interest received by the trust as donation did not amount to investment u/s 13(2)(h) and therefore exemption could not be denied. *CIT v. J.K. Charitable Trust [1992] 196 ITR 31 (All.), Commissioner of Income-tax Vs. Shreyas Nidhi, Swasti Hidhi, Venu Nidhi and Swasthya Nidhi [2002] 258 ITR 0712 (Guj).*

Where huge sums of money advanced to company having substantial interest in trust without charging any interest charged nor adequate security taken, exemption was properly denied. *Kanahya Lal Punj Charitable Trust Vs. Director of Income-tax (Exemption) [2008] 297 ITR 0066 (Del)*

- **Sec. 13(1)(d)- Investment other than Specified manner.**

Violation related with s. 11(5) i.e. investment in non – specified securities, should always be read with S.13(1)(d) because for violation of S.11(2) only the contravened portion of the income will be taxed but for violation u/s 13(1)(d), the entire exemptions may be lost. Therefore in case of withdrawal of exemption u/s 11(3) only contravened portion of income shall be taxable, however u/s 13 whole of the exemption available u/s 11 & 12 shall be forfeited.

Mandatory to file ITR of trust on or before due date

New sub-section was inserted after sub-section (8) and before Explanation 1 by FA, 2016 w.e.f. 01/04/2016:

"(9) Nothing contained in sub-section (2) of section 11 shall operate so as to exclude any income from the total income of the previous year of a person in receipt thereof, if—

- (i) the statement referred to in clause (a) of the said sub-section in respect of such income is not furnished on or before the due date specified under sub-section (1) of section 139 for furnishing the return of income for the previous year; or*
- (ii) the return of income for the previous year is not furnished by such person on or before the due date specified under sub-section (1) of section 139 for furnishing the return of income for the said previous year."*

Issues....

ITO v. Human Resource Development & Management Trust (ASBM Trust) [2011] 12 taxmann.com 478 (Cuttack - ITAT)

- Whether once it is held that trust exists for purpose for which it received registration u/s 12AA and there is no violation u/s 13, capital expenditure incurred by trust has to be allowed as application of funds - **Held, yes**
- Whether provisions contained in section 13(1)(c) do not bar payment of reasonable salary for services rendered by an interested person and, it is only when such payment is found unreasonable or excessive that stipulation of clause (c) of section 13(2) would be attracted - **Held, yes**

Further held: in view of guidelines issued by Ministry of Human Resources, IGNOU and AICTE, finishing school run by assessee-educational trust was not an incidental activity rather it was a part of activity of imparting management education by trust and, thus, provisions contained in section 11(4A) would not apply in respect of finishing school run by it

Issue- Accumulated income would be deemed to be income of year in which breach of conditions of section 13 occurred...

Escorts Heart Institute & Research Centre v. CIT [2013] 30 taxmann.com 4 (Delhi)

Facts:

- Assessee was a scientific research society approved by competent authority u/s 35(1)(ii). Assessee transferred its properties to its sister concern and AO thus taking a view that assessee violated provisions of section 13(2)(g), r.w. section 13(3)(b), initiated reassessment proceedings. During reassessment proceedings, AO having invoked provisions of section 11(3), brought balance of accumulated income at end of each relevant year to tax.
- In view of provisions of section 11(3), entire accumulated income shall be deemed to be income of assessee of previous year in which breach of conditions or contingency occurs.
- It was impermissible in law for AO to entertain a reason to believe that income chargeable to tax for all assessment years in question had escaped assessment.
- Therefore, In terms of section 11(3), entire accumulated income would be deemed to be income of assessee institution in year in which breach of conditions of section 13 occurred.

Issue- Providing interest-free loans.....

- Providing interest-free loans by a trust to its associate societies, cannot be regarded as contravention of section 13(3), and, thus, assessee remains entitled to claim exemption u/s 11.

CIT v. Maa Vaishnav Education Society [2013] 38 taxmann.com 193 (Madhya Pradesh)

Issue- Rent & electricity expenses paid to its President

- Rent & electricity expenses incurred by a trust in respect of rented office premises shall be deductible even if such premises is owned by its President. If the assessee maintains separate account for paying genuine charges, exemption cannot be denied.

CIT -II v. Foundation For Social Care [2013] 37 taxmann.com 389 (Allahabad)

Issues

Funds Diverted to business organizations where trustees were having substantial interest, since interest @ of 18% was charged, the educational institution shall not be disentitled from exemption u/s 10(23C)

A. R. R. Trust vs. Asst. CIT (ITAT-Chennai) [2006] 280 ITR (A.T.) 0152

Issues –No cancellation of registration without giving any contrary finding, Object remained same even after amendment ..

Krupanidhi Educational Trust v. DIT(IT) (2012) 139 ITD 228 (Bang)(Trib.)

Mere finding that objects of trust has been altered without consent of department would not be sufficient to exercise power under section 12AA(3) without giving a finding that objects of trust are no longer charitable. Where assessee education-trust was formed with main object of imparting education, mere fact that it amended clause of trust deed to include technical and medical education within its ambit and it paid commission to persons who solicited students for studying in assessee's education, it could not lead to conclusion that assessee was not imparting education. Therefore, Director (Exemption) was not justified in cancelling registration u/s 12AA(3).

Issues – S.13: Trust or institution-Exemption-Education-....

ACIT v. Indicula Trust Society (Regd). [(2012) 52 SOT 1 (Delhi)(Trib.)

Exemption to the Educational Institute cannot be denied on the ground that high salary was paid to office bearers of management committee, unless it was established that it was not open market remuneration.

Fact:

Assessee society was formed with the object to provide education including opening of schools and colleges. The AO took a view that assessee had debited high amount of salary in P & L account. However A.O. had not brought any independent evidence on record which could show how much salary various office bearers of management committee could fetch in open market. Also the 6th pay commission had resulted into a handsome enhancement in salary of employees including Government teaching staff. In view of the aforesaid the CIT(A) deleted the disallowance and the ITAT upheld the order of the C.I.T (A) as no independent evidence was being led by the A.O. to sustain the said disallowance.

Section 12A

*Conditions For application of
sections 11 and 12*

Clarity of procedure in respect of change/ modifications of object & filing of return of income in case of entities exempt u/s 11 & 12

New Clause (ab) in section 12A(1) (Conditions for applicability of sections 11 and 12) inserted w.e.f. 1st day of April, 2018

“(ab) the person in receipt of the income has made an application for registration of the trust or institution, in a case where a trust or an institution has been granted registration under section 12AA or has obtained registration at any time under section 12A [as it stood before its amendment by the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1996], and, subsequently, it has adopted or undertaken modifications of the objects which do not conform to the conditions of registration, in the prescribed form and manner, within a period of thirty days from the date of said adoption or modification, to the Principal Commissioner or Commissioner and such trust or institution is registered under section 12AA;”

New Clause (ba) in section 12A(1) inserted w.e.f. 1st day of April, 2018

“(ba) the person in receipt of the income has furnished the return of income for the previous year in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (4A) of section 139, within the time allowed under that section.”

Section 12AA (Procedure for registration) amended so as to give reference to new clauses w.e.f 1st day of April, 2018

- (a) in sub-section (1), after the word, brackets and letters “clause (aa)”, the words, brackets and letters “or clause (ab)” shall be inserted;
- (b) (b) in sub-section (2), after the word, brackets and letters “clause (aa)”, the words, brackets and letters “or clause (ab)” shall be inserted.

Brief Impact

1. Fresh registration required within 30 days in case of fresh adoption or modification of objects.
2. Return of income mandatorily to be filed within prescribed time limit u/s 139(4)
3. Failure of above shall lead to cancelation of registration.
4. As per Section 139(4A), the trust is required to furnish return as if it file return u/s 139(1). **However, the memorandum refers to time allowed u/s 139 which may include 139(4) also.**

Section 115TD, 115TE,
115TF

Levy of tax where the charitable institution ceases to exist or converts into a non-charitable organization

[Effective from 1st June, 2016]

A new Chapter XII-EB *is inserted* 'Special Provisions Relating to Tax on Accreted Income of Certain Trusts and Institutions' as under:—

- Section 115TD.** (1) *Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, where in any previous year, a trust or institution registered under section 12AA has—*
- (a) *converted into any form which is not eligible for grant of registration under section 12AA;*
 - (b) *merged with any entity other than an entity which is a trust or institution having objects similar to it and registered under section 12AA; or*
 - (c) *failed to transfer upon dissolution all its assets to any other trust or institution registered under section 12AA or to any fund or institution or trust or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution referred to in sub-clause (iv) or sub-clause (v) or sub-clause (vi) or sub-clause (via) of clause (23C) of section 10, within a period of twelve months from the end of the month in which the dissolution takes place,*

then, in addition to the income-tax chargeable in respect of the total income of such trust or institution, the accreted income of the trust or the institution as on the specified date shall be charged to tax and such trust or institution, as the case may be, shall be liable to pay additional income-tax (herein referred to as tax on accreted income) at the maximum marginal rate on the accreted income.

Brief Impact:

- Accreted income of the trust or institution shall be taxable @ Maximum Marginal Rate
 - on conversion of trust or institution into a form not eligible for registration u/s 12 AA **or** **Specified date means the date of Conversion**
 - on merger with an entity not having similar objects & registration u/s 12AA **or** **Specified date means the date of Merger**
 - on non-distribution of assets on dissolution to any charitable institution registered u/s 12AA or approved u/s 10(23C) within 12 months from the end of the month of dissolution.
Specified date means the date of dissolution

Note: Registration u/s 12AA shall include any registration obtained u/s 12A as it stood before its amendment by the Finance (No. 2) Act, 1996

(2) The accreted income for the purposes of sub-section (1) means the amount by which the aggregate fair market value of the total assets of the trust or the institution, as on the specified date, exceeds the total liability of such trust or institution computed in accordance with the method of valuation as may be prescribed:

Provided that so much of the accreted income as is attributable to the following asset and liability, if any, related to such asset shall be ignored for the purposes of subsection (1), namely:—

- i. any asset which is established to have been directly acquired by the trust or institution out of its income of the nature referred to in clause (1) of section 10;
- ii. any asset acquired by the trust or institution during the period beginning from the date of its creation or establishment and ending on the date from which the registration under section 12AA became effective, if the trust or institution has not been allowed any benefit of sections 11 and 12 during the said period:

Provided further that where due to the first proviso to sub-section (2) of section 12A, the benefit of sections 11 and 12 have been allowed to the trust or the institution in respect of any previous year or years beginning prior to the date from which the registration under section 12AA is effective, then, for the purposes of clause (ii) of the first proviso, the registration shall be deemed to have become effective from the first day of the earliest previous year:

Provided also that while computing the accreted income in respect of a case referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (1), assets and liabilities, if any, related to such asset, which have been transferred to any other trust or institution registered under section 12AA or to any fund or institution or trust or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution referred to in sub-clause (iv) or sub-clause (v) or sub-clause (vi) or sub-clause (via) of clause (23C) of section 10, within the period specified in the said clause, shall be ignored.

Brief Impact:

- “**Accreted income**” shall be amount of aggregate of FMV of total assets as reduced by the liability as on the specified date. The method of valuation is to be prescribed in Rules.
- While calculating accreted income, the following will be excluded:
 - The assets acquired out of agricultural income,
 - The assets acquired during the period from creation of trust or institution & date of grant of registration, if the trust or institution has not been allowed any benefit of sec. 11 & 12 during the said period.
 - The asset & the liability of the charitable organisation which have been transferred to another charitable organization, on dissolution, within specified period of 12 months.

- (3) For the purposes of sub-section (1), a trust or an institution shall be deemed to have been converted into any form not eligible for registration under section 12AA in a previous year, if,—
- (i) the registration granted to it under section 12AA has been cancelled; or
 - (ii) it has adopted or undertaken modification of its objects which do not conform to the conditions of registration and it,—
 - a) has not applied for fresh registration under section 12AA in the said previous year; or
 - b) has filed application for fresh registration under section 12AA but the said application has been rejected.

Brief Impact:

- The trust or institution shall be deemed to be converted into a form not eligible for registration u/s 12 AA in following cases:
 - If the registration u/s 12AA is cancelled;
 - The date of Conversion will be the date of the order cancelling the registration**
 - If fresh application u/s 12AA is not made after amendment in *the objects that are in violation of the conditions of the registration*;
 - If fresh application u/s 12AA made after amendment in *the objects that are in violation of the conditions of the registration* is rejected

The date of Conversion in above 2 cases will be the date of adoption or modification of the objects

(4) Notwithstanding that no income-tax is payable by a trust or the institution on its total income computed in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the tax on the accreted income under sub-section (1) shall be payable by such trust or the institution.

(5) The principal officer or the trustee of the trust or the institution, as the case may be, and the trust or the institution shall also be liable to pay the tax on accreted income to the credit of the Central Government within fourteen days from,—

- i. the date on which,—*
 - a) the period for filing appeal under section 253 against the order cancelling the registration expired and no appeal has been filed by the trust or the institution; or*
 - b) the order in any appeal, confirming the cancellation of the registration, is received by the trust or institution, in a case referred to in clause (i) of sub-section (3);*
- ii. the end of the previous year in a case referred to in sub-clause (a) of clause (ii) of sub-section (3);*
- iii. the date on which,—*
 - a) the period for filing appeal under section 253 against the order rejecting the application expires and no appeal has been filed by the trust or the institution; or*
 - b) the order in any appeal, confirming the cancellation of the application, is received by the trust or institution, in a case referred to in sub-clause (b) of clause (ii) of sub-section (3).*
- iv. the date of merger in a case referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (1);*
- v. the date on which the period of twelve months referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (1) expires.*

Brief Impact:

The tax on accreted income is to be paid within 14 days of

(i) receipt of cancellation order

(ii) end of the previous year in which object clause were modified, where no fresh application under 12AA was made

(iii) receipt of cancellation order against any fresh application for 12AA registration

(iv) date of merger

(v) at the end of 12 months from the month in which dissolution took place.

(6) The tax on the accreted income by the trust or the institution shall be treated as the final payment of tax in respect of the said income and no further credit therefor shall be claimed by the trust or the institution or by any other person in respect of the amount of tax so paid.

(7) No deduction under any other provision of this Act shall be allowed to the trust or the institution or any other person in respect of the income which has been charged to tax under sub-section (1) or the tax thereon.

Brief Impact:

- The taxes paid shall be treated as the final payment of tax i.r.o. the accreted income & no further credit shall be available to the trust or the institution or any other person in respect of the said.
- The tax paid on the accreted income is not eligible for any deduction under the provision of Income Tax Act, 1961.

Cost of Acquisition of capital assets of entities in case of levy of tax on accreted income under section 115TD

Sub-section (8) to Section 49 newly inserted by Finance Act, 2017 with retrospective effect from 1st day of June, 2016

“(8) Where the capital gain arises from the transfer of an asset, being the asset held by a trust or an institution in respect of which accreted income has been computed and the tax has been paid thereon in accordance with the provisions of Chapter XII-EB, the cost of acquisition of such asset shall be deemed to be the fair market value of the asset which has been taken into account for computation of accreted income as on the specified date referred to in sub-section (2) of section 115TD.”

Brief Impact:

Cost of acquisition of assets sold by a trust or institution which has paid tax on its accreted income u/s 115TD shall be deemed to be **fair market value of the asset** which has been taken into account for computation of accreted income as on the specified date referred to in sub-section (2) of section 115TD.

Section 115TE.

Where the principal officer or the trustee of the trust or the institution and the trust or the institution fails to pay the whole or any part of the tax on the accreted income referred to in sub-section (1) of section 115TD, within the time allowed under sub-section (5) of that section, he or it shall be liable to pay simple interest at the rate of one per cent for every month or part thereof on the amount of such tax for the period beginning on the date immediately after the last date on which such tax was payable and ending with the date on which the tax is actually paid.

Brief Impact:

In case of failure to pay tax within the time provided, simple interest @ 1% for every month and part thereof of such failure shall be payable for the period **from** the last date on which such tax was payable **till** the date on which amount is paid.

Section 115TF.

- (1) If any principal officer or the trustee of the trust or the institution and the trust or the institution does not pay tax on accreted income in accordance with the provisions of section 115TD, then, he or it shall be deemed to be an assessee in default in respect of the amount of tax payable by him or it and all the provisions of this Act for the collection and recovery of income-tax shall apply.*
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), in a case where the tax on accreted income is payable under the circumstances referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 115TD, the person to whom any asset forming part of the computation of accreted income under sub-section (2) thereof has been transferred, shall be deemed to be an assessee in default in respect of such tax and interest thereon and all the provisions of this Act for the collection and recovery of income-tax shall apply:*

***Provided that** the liability of the person referred to in this sub-section shall be limited to the extent to which the asset received by him is capable of meeting the liability.'*

Brief Impact:

- In case of nonpayment of taxes, the principal officer or the trustee and the trust or the institution shall be deemed to be an assessee in default and the provisions of collection and recovery shall apply accordingly.
- In case of dissolution of the trust or institution, the person to whom assets are transferred shall be deemed to be an assessee in default and the total recovery of amount including taxes, interest or penalties should not exceed the value of the assets.

Section 56(2)(x)

Levy of tax where the charitable institution receives money or property for inadequate or no consideration.

A new clause (x) in section 56(2) has been inserted to broaden the scope and to cover the charitable trust under its ambit. **[Effective from 1st April 2017]**

In order to prevent charitable trust practice of receiving money or the property for inadequate consideration or without consideration, it is proposed to introduce a new clause (x) in section 56(2). With the insertion of this section the money or the property received by any person for inadequate consideration or without consideration in excess of Rs. 50,000 shall be liable to income-tax under the head “Income from other sources” in the hands of the recipient. It is also anticipated to enlarge the scope of present exceptions by incorporating the receipt by certain charitable/ religious trusts or charitable institutions and any receipt by way of transfers which does not regard as transfer U/s 47 of the Income Tax Act.

Consequently, now if any property is being received by the charitable trust or by any private trust for inadequate consideration or without consideration in excess of Rs. 50,000 then it will chargeable to income-tax under the head “Income from other sources” under section 56(2)(x) in the hands of the recipient.

Brief Impact:

Previously charitable trusts accepting properties or money donated by any person without consideration was non-taxable under section 56(2). However, from FA, 2017, a New Clause (x) is inserted under section 56(2) that if any donation above INR 50,000 accepted by any trust without adequate consideration, then that is taxable and they have to file income tax against it, in accordance with the new clause (x). Such amount must be mentioned under the “Income from other sources” head while filing ITR by the taxpayer. This amendment was made w.e.f. 01/04/2017. Hence, the consequential changes are made in New ITR 7 for A.Y. 2018-19. However, there are few exception as well under the proviso that this clause shall not apply to any sum of money or any property received:

- from any fund or foundation or university or other educational institution or hospital or other medical institution or any trust or institution referred to in clause (23C) of section 10; or
- from or by any trust or institution registered under section 12A or section 12AA; or
- by any fund or trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution referred to in sub-clause (iv) or sub-clause (v) or sub-clause (vi) or sub-clause (via) of clause (23C) of section 10; or
- from an individual by a trust created or established solely for the benefit of relative of the individual.

Applicability
of
Section 60 to 63

ISSUES

Lawful ownership of the property held in the trust ?

The Trust should be the lawful owner of the property from which the income is derived. If the property belongs to the settler and only income from such property is assigned for charitable purposes then the exemptions u/s 11 would not be available in terms of S.60.

CIT v. Maharajadhiraj Sir Kameshwar Singh [1953] 23 ITR 190 (Patna), Ganpatri Sagarmall (Trustees) for Charity Fund v. CIT [1963] 47 ITR 625 (Cal.).

ISSUES

In case of, Revocation of Property ?

- If any clause of the trust deed empowered the author to revoke the properties vested in the trust then the income from such properties will be taxable at the hands of transferor. *CIT v G.D. Naidu Industrial Educational Trust [1942] 10 ITR 358 (Mad.)*
- The Trust deed provided that the property would be revocable at the discretion of a central council. Further, the deed provided that the properties could go only to religious and charitable trust bodies. The Supreme Court held that even if the trust was revocable the properties were not going back to the Central Council on revocation and therefore provision of section 61 could not be applied. *Radhasoami Satsang V. CIT [1992] 193 ITR 321 (SC).*

ISSUES

➤ How trust deed could be treated as revocable or irrevocable ?

Supreme Court in CIT v. Jayantilal Amratlal [1968] 67 ITR 1, laid down the principles, based on which trust deed could be treated as revocable or irrevocable.

- The presence of term 'reassumes power directly or indirectly' – Trust deed shall become revocable
- A discretion to the settler to choose the charitable activities would not vitiate the concept of an absolute transfer for charitable purposes – Trust deed shall not become irrevocable.
- Veto power of the settler in the Management and administration of the trust in a particular manner cannot be construed as a provision for retransfer or revocation of property. The same would be true for any special power with regard to investment of funds in any particular manner. - Trust deed shall not become irrevocable.

Anonymous donations

Sec. 115BBC

Inserted vide Finance Act, 2006 w.e.f 01/04/2007.

Anonymous donations - Section 115BBC.....

Sub-Section(1):

Where the **total income of assessee**, being a person in receipt of income on behalf of any university or **other educational institution** referred to in sub-clause (iiiad) or sub-clause (vi) or any hospital or other institution referred to in sub-clause (iii ae) or sub-clause (vi a) or any fund or institution referred to in sub-clause in (iv) or any trust or institution referred to in sub-clause (v) of clause (23C) of Section 10 or any trust or institution referred to in S. 11, **includes any income by way of any anonymous donation, the income tax payable shall be the aggregate of –**

- (i) The amount of income-tax calculated at the rate of 30% of the aggregate of anonymous donation received **in excess of the higher of the following, namely:- (w.e.f 1-4-2010)**
- (A) five percent of the total income of the assessee or**
- (B) Rs. 1,00,000/-; and**
- (ii) The amount of income tax with which the assessee would have been chargeable had his total income been reduced by the aggregate of anonymous donations received.

The following clause (ii) shall be substituted for the existing clause (ii) of sub-section (1) of section 115BBC by the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2014, w.e.f. 1-4-2015:

“(ii) the amount of income-tax with which the assessee would have been chargeable had his total income been reduced by the aggregate of anonymous donations received in excess of the amount referred to in sub-clause (A) or sub-clause (B) of clause (i), as the case may be.”

Sub-Section(2):

The provision of sub section (1) shall not apply to any anonymous donation received by –

- (a) Any trust or institution created or established **wholly for religious purposes;**
- (b) Any trust or institution created or established **wholly for religious and charitable purposes** other than *any anonymous donation made with a specific direction that such donation is for any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution run by such trust or institution.*

Bhagwan Shree Laxmi Narain v. ITO [2014] 50 taxmann.com 23 (Delhi - Trib.)

Where the assessee trust formed with objects of wholly and exclusively for religious purpose, provisions of Section 115BBC could not be invoked.

Meaning of Anonymous donation...

Sub-Section(3) of Section 115BBC:

For the purposes of this section, "anonymous donation" means any voluntary contribution referred to in sub clause (iia) of clause (24) of Sec. 2, where a person receiving such contribution does not maintain a record of the identity indicating the name and address of the person making such contribution and such other particulars as may be prescribed.

Analysis of Provisions of Sec. 115BBC....

- Provisions applicable to institutions referred u/s 10(23C)(iiiad), (iii ae), (vi), (via), (v), (iv) and u/s. 11
- Anonymous donations includible on total income
- **Taxability:** income tax payable shall be aggregate of :
 - i) income tax calculated @ 30% on excess of anonymous donation over 5% of total donations received by the assessee or Rs. 1,00,000/-, *whichever is higher*
 - ii) The amount of Income tax on income other than anonymous donation [as amended by Fin.(No.2) Act, 2009]
- Sec. 115BC shall not apply to Trust or Institutions created or established wholly for religious purpose

Issues....

- A. Whether anonymous donation is subject to condition of accumulation?
- B. If violation given u/s 13, in respect of anonymous donation, would it be subjects to double taxation.
- C. Can provisions of Sec 68,69A to 69C be applicable in case of anonymous donation?
- D. Can project donations may be anonymous donation?

View on Issues A & B

- As per sec 13(7) nothing contained in Sec 11 or 12 shall operate to exclude anonymous donation from total income and provisions of Sec 11/12 are for claiming exemptions, since in case of Anonymous Donation NPO have to pay tax at a specified rate. There will be no limit of accumulation as given in Sec 11.
- As per sec 13(7) provisions of sec 11 & 12 not applicable and it will be subject to tax at specified rate. SC in Laxmipat Singhania VS CIT (1969) 72 ITR held that income can't be taxed twice unless there is express provision for double taxation in the tax Law itself . Since there is no express provision for double taxation therefore Anonymous Donation shall be subject to single taxation u/s 115 BBC.

View on Issues C & d

- Sections 68 and S. 69A to 69C will be applicable only if assessee does not treat particular receipts as income in the books of account. Therefore the assessee NPO must account for the receipt as income in order to avoid provisions to sec 68 & 69C.
- In case of project grant / donation there is specifies donor and conditions of donor therefore such grant / donation can't be within meaning of Anonymous donation.

Issues - Maintenance of other particulars as referred u/s 115BBC of the Act...

It was held by Hon,ble ITAT-Delhi in the case of *Hans Raj Samarak Society v. ACIT [2011] 16 taxmann.com 103* that

- Where a person receiving contribution does not maintain name and address of contributor and other particulars, such contribution would fall within ambit of 'anonymous donation'
- Further, the benefit of accumulation of income u/s 11(2) cannot be availed in absence of filing of form No. 10 before completion of assessment

The view is also affirmed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court that a donation cannot be assessed as income u/s 68, where receipt issued by assessee were already in custody of Department containing details of name & address. *[DIT v. Hans Raj Samarak Society [2013] 35 taxmann.com 642 (Delhi)]*

Taxability of a Trust

Taxability of a Public Trust at a glance

Sources of Income	U/S	Tax Rates
Voluntary Contributions (being corpus donations)	11(1)(d)	Exempt
Income not applied / accumulated to the extent > 15%	11(1)(a)	AOP Rate
Income received on 31st March carried forward to next year for utilization but not utilized in that next year [Explanation 2(b) to Section 11(1)(d)]	11(1B)	AOP Rate
Income accumulated u/s 11(2) is not invested / utilized / donated to another trust	11(3)	AOP Rate
Excess Business Income as assessed by the AO	11(4)	AOP Rate
Income derived u/s 13(1)(a) & 13(1)(b)		AOP Rate
Income derived u/s 13(1)(c) & 13 (1)(d)		MMR
Anonymous Donations u/s 115BBC		30%

Section 11 vis-à-vis Section 10(23C)

Clauses of Section 10(23C)

- a) **Clause (iiiab)**: Any university or other educational institution existing solely for educational purposes and not for purposes of profit, and which is wholly or substantially financed by the Government.
- b) **Clause (iiiac)**: Any hospital or other institution for the reception and treatment of persons suffering from illness or mental defectiveness or for the reception and treatment of persons during convalescence or of persons requiring medical attention or rehabilitation, existing solely for philanthropic purposes and not for purposes of profit, and which is wholly or substantially financed by the Government.

[Explanation.—For the purposes of sub-clauses (iiiab) and (iiiac), any university or other educational institution, hospital or other institution referred therein, shall be considered as being substantially financed by the Government for any previous year, if the Government grant to such university or other educational institution, hospital or other institution exceeds 50% (Rule 2BB) of the total receipts including any voluntary contributions. (Added vis Finance (No. 2) Act, 2014 w.e.f.01.04.2015]

Clauses of Section 10(23C)

- c) **Clause (iiiad):** Any university or other educational institution existing solely for educational purposes and not for purposes of profit **if** the aggregate annual receipts do **not exceed** prescribed limit of **Rs. 1 Cr. (Rule 2BC(1))**

- d) **Clause (iiiæ):** any hospital or other institution for the reception and treatment of persons suffering from illness or mental defectiveness or for the reception and treatment of persons during convalescence or of persons requiring medical attention or rehabilitation, existing solely for philanthropic purposes and not for purposes of profit, if the aggregate annual receipts of such hospital or institution do not exceed the amount of annual receipts as may be prescribed. (Amount prescribed is Rs. 1 Crore-Rule 2BC(1))

Clauses of Section 10(23C)

- e) **Clause (iv):** Any other fund or institution established for charitable purposes which may be approved by the prescribed authority, having regard to the objects of the fund or institution and its importance throughout India or throughout any state or states; or
- f) **Clause (v):** any trust (including any other legal obligation) or institution wholly for public religious purposes or wholly for public religious and charitable purposes, which may be approved by the prescribed authority, having regard to the manner in which the affairs of the trust or institution are administered and supervised for ensuring that the income accruing thereto is properly applied for the objects thereof;

Clauses of Section 10(23C)

- e) **Clause (vi)**: Any university or other educational institution existing solely for educational purposes and not for purposes of profit, other than those mentioned in sub-clause (iiiab)/ (iiiad) and which may be approved by the prescribed authority*.
- f) **Clause (via)**: any hospital or other institution for the reception and treatment of persons suffering from illness or mental defectiveness or for the reception and treatment of persons during convalescence or of persons requiring medical attention or rehabilitation, existing solely for philanthropic purposes and not for purposes of profit, other than those mentioned in sub-clause (iiiac) or sub-clause (iiiae) and which may be approved by the prescribed authority*.

* *With effect from 15-11-2014 prescribed authority is Commissioner of Income-tax (Exemptions). [rule 2CA]*

Amendment by Finance (No. 2) Act, 2014 related to issue of claiming depreciation as well as capital expenditure...

Amendment in Section 11 and 10(23C) [w.e.f. 01.04.2015]

Under the existing provisions and judicial pronouncements, the trusts or institutions claim double benefit in respect of applicability of income on account of purchase of capital asset i.e. depreciation allowance as well as capital expenditure.

It is clarified that in case capital cost has been claimed as an application, no further deduction on allowance of depreciation would be permitted.

Amended the provisions to prevent the practice followed by the trusts claiming exemption u/s 10 in respect of taxable income to avoid tax liability.

Insert a new section 11(7) to provide specifically that Trust or an institution registered for the purposes of availing exemption u/s 11, and the registration is in force for P.Y., cannot claim any exemption under any provision of section 10 *[other than that relating to exemption of agricultural income and income exempt u/s 10(23C)]*.

Also, the entities approved/ notified for claiming benefit of exemption u/s 10(23C) would not be entitled to claim any benefit of exemption under other provisions of section 10 *(except for agricultural income)*.

Legal Compliances.....

<u>Basis of Differences</u>	<u>Section 10(23C)</u>	<u>Section 12 AA</u>	<u>Section 80G</u>
When is Application required to be made?	Required to be made by institutions not substantially financed by the Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other institution/ trust [Clause (iv) & (v)] • Educational institutions where Gross annual receipt exceeds Rs. 1 crore [Clause (vi) & (via)] 	Required to be made by all NGOs in order to claim exemption u/s 11	Required to be made by all NGOs which wishes to take the benefit under this section
Form for the above Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other institution/trust- Form 56 • Educational institutions - Form 56D 	Form 10 A	Form 10 G
Rules applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other institution/trust- 2C • Educational inst. - 2CA 	17A	11AA
Time limit for filing of application	On/ before 30 th sep. of the relevant A.Y (i.r.o appl. On or after 1-06-2007)	No time limit. However, in view of s.12AA(2), exemption be available from the immediately following A.Y to F.Y in which appl. is made	NA.

<u>Basis of Differences</u>	<u>Section 10(23C)</u>	<u>Section 12 AA</u>	<u>Section 80G</u>
Time limit for approval	Within 12 months from the end of the month in which application is received [9 th proviso]	Within 6 months from the end of the month in which application is received [s.12AA(2)]	Within 6 months from date of application
Time period for exemption	Lifetime <i>Circular No. 7/2010 [F.No.197/21/2010-ITA-I], Dated 27-10-2010</i>	Lifetime	Lifetime <i>Time limit of Upto 5 Years is omitted by Finance (No.) 2 Act,2009</i>
Withdrawal of approval	By CCIT	By CIT	By CIT/CCIT

<u>Basis of differences</u>	<u>Section 10(23C)</u>	<u>Section 12AA</u>	<u>Section 80G</u>
Exemption w.e.f.	The year in which it is granted and thereafter	The year in which it is granted and thereafter	
Appeal on rejection	Orders passed by the prescribed authority under section sub-clauses (vi) and (via) of clause (23C) of section 10 made appealable before ITAT	Lies to Appellate Tribunal	Lies to Appellate Tribunal
Form of Audit Report	Form 10BB (Rule 16CC) [10 TH Proviso TO S. 10(23)(C)]	Form 10B (Rule 17B) [s.12A(1)(B)]	
Form of Application for accumulation	Not prescribed	Form 10	
Last date of filing of form for accumulation	Before the due date of filing of return u/s 139 [ref: s. 139(4C)/(4D)]	Before the due date of filing of return u/s 139 [s.139(4A)]	
Power to condone belated application	No	No	
Form for filing of return	ITR 7	ITR 7	

Note: In case of Private Trusts the Return has to be filed in ITR 5

Impact of ICDS

ITR Form AY 2017-18	ITR Form AY 2018-19	Requirement under ICDS
<p>Form No.: ITR-7</p> <p>For persons including companies required to furnish return under sections 139(4A) or 139(4B) or 139(4C) or 139(4D) or 139(4E) or 139(4F)</p>		<p>No ICDS schedule</p> <p>Note:- ICDS would also not apply for the purposes of computing exemption under sections 11 to 13, where, as clarified by the CBDT vide its Circular no. 5-P (LXX-6) dated 19th June 1968, the computation of exemption is based on the commercial concept of income. However, where such income loses exemption, the computation would be under the various heads of income, and to the extent of such income falling under the heads "Income from Business or Profession" and "Income from Other Sources", the provisions of ICDS would apply if the books of account are maintained on mercantile system.</p>
<p>Note:- ICDS is applicable as there is no specific exclusion for such taxpayers covered under ITR-7 , but there is no such requirement to disclose the effect of the same in ITR 7 Form. The absence of such a clarification may lead to litigation.</p>		

Other
Miscellaneous Issues

Establishment of educational activities taking place in India is required

Oxford University Press v. CIT 247 ITR 0658 (2001) [Supreme Court of India]

- i. that for the purpose of exemption under sec. 10(22) of the I.T. Act, 1961, the University or other educational institution need not exist in India,
- ii. that, however, the university or other educational institution has to engage in educational activity in India not for profit. It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that Parliament should be willing to forgo a very small percentage of its revenue for the purposes of education, even though it might mean the education of people outside India, if that education was being provided by a university or other educational institution whose sole purpose was to provide education and not at all to make a profit.
- iii. Even a university or other educational institution established or incorporated outside India can be eligible for the exemption under section 10(22) provided that it exists solely for educational purposes and not for purposes of profit.

Contd....

- iv. Interpretation of a statutory provision granting exemption which does not stand the test of rationality and will lead to absurd results cannot be accepted.
- v. Each one of the exemptions in section 10 is intended to serve a definite public purpose and is meant to achieve a special object.
- vi. The expression "existing solely for educational purposes and not for purposes of profit" qualifies "a university or other educational institution".
- vii. Giving a purposeful interpretation of section 10(22), it will be reasonable to hold that in order to be eligible to claim exemption there under the assessee has to establish that it is engaged in some educational activity in India and its existence in this country is not for profit only.

- ix. In a case where a dispute is raised whether the claim for exemption from tax by the assessee is admissible or not, it is necessary for the assessee to establish that it is a part of a university which is engaged solely or at least primarily for educational purposes and not for purposes of profit and the income in respect of which exemption is claimed is part of the income of the university. The label "university press" is not sufficient to establish that the assessee is engaged in any educational activity.

The imparting of education is service to the society. From the language of section 10(22), it does not appear that without any such service in India, the Legislature intended to exempt the total income of the assessee. The requirement of imparting education or some other educational activity in this country can be read into section 10(22). That is the basic assumption of section 10(22). A university established in a foreign country is not excluded from the ambit of section 10(22) in case it is imparting education in India or has some educational activity in India. It is evident that for the purposes of granting exemption under section 10(22) the Legislature assumed the existence of educational activity in India by a university or other educational institution. The basic requirement of the section is the existence of "educational purpose" which, in other words, means the imparting of education which has to be in India. The absence of the words "India" in this provision is inconsequential. It has to be read into section 10(22).

Oxford University Press v. CIT 247 ITR 0658 (2001) [Supreme Court of India]

ISSUES

DDIT (Exemptions) v. Cutchi Memon Union [2013] 38 taxmann.com 276 (Bangalore - Trib.)

- Where a charitable trust is having income from different sources and a part of such income is taxable, and if such income is not allocable to a particular head, then statutory deductions for different heads of income cannot be allowed, **while deciding percentage of application or accumulation under section 11.**
- Whether since income for purposes of section 11(1) has to be computed in normal commercial manner, amount of depreciation debited in books is deductible while computing such income **Held, yes**

Note: In case capital cost has been claimed as an application, no further deduction on allowance of depreciation would be permitted from AY 2015-16

ISSUES

- If donations received were applied for charitable purposes as per law, the exemption under s.11 could not be denied if identity of donors was not proved. The assessee had produced PAN and confirmations from donors. The AO relied on statement of some donors. However, no cross examination was allowed to the assessee. Some donors had admitted making donations. The exemption from tax could not be denied. CIT vs. Geetanjali Education Society [2008] 174 Taxmann 440 (Raj.)
- The CIT had rejected the assessee's application for registration u/s 12A. The appeal against CIT's order was pending before the Tribunal. It was not entitled to claim exemption from tax u/s 11. The assessee would be at liberty to get the appeals revived in case the matter was decided in its favour by the Tribunal. U.P. Forest Corpn. vs DCIT 295 ITR 1 (SC)

ISSUES

- Delay in presenting application for approval to avail exemption u/s 10(23C)(vi) cannot be condoned as there is **no provision for condonation of delay** in the Act.
[Roland Educational and Charitable trust v. CCIT & 221 CTR 88 (2009) (Ori)]
- **Distinguished from**
Padmashree Krutarth Acharya Institute of Engineering and Technology v. Chief CIT 309 ITR 13 (2009) (Orissa)
Wherein it was held, that the Commissioner was to decide the application for condonation of delay on the merits.

Issues

- There cannot be any limit on the fees charged in order to fulfill such object of setting up an educational institution. *Sikkim Manipal University of Health, Medical & Technological Sciences v. CIT, Siliguri [2010] 8 TAXMANN.COM 279 (KOL. - ITAT).*
- Only authority empowered to grant approval can do so. Power cannot be delegated.

[Maharashtra Academy of Engineering and Educational Research v. DGIT (Invest) 319 ITR 399 (2009) (Bom.)]

Issues

Lease rent to the sons and wife of the school principal- whether a ground for denying exemption.

Shree Saket Mahavidyalaya Samiti v Dy. CIT (2010) 132 TTJ (Lucknow) (UO) 39.

Exemption u/s 10 (23C) (iiiad) could not be denied the assessee society established for educational purposes on the ground that the society had paid lease rent to the sons and wife of the principal of the school who were owners of the land on which school building was constructed where such lease rent was reasonable. Salary to the principal also cannot be a ground for refusing the exemption.

Issues

Whether non availability of evidence can be a reason of denying the exemption u/s 10.....

Ajay Jadeja v Dy CIT (2010) 5 ITR (Trib) 233 (Del)

Where the objects and activities of the assessee institution are educational in nature and the revenue has not brought any material on record to show that the college account was having surplus or profit, year after year and the revenue has not disputed that surplus was only because of salary grant from the State Government and another grant from UGC , revenue 's plea that the college run by assessee was for profit motive cannot be accepted .Expenditure on conducting entrance examination being application of income, **non availability of evidence cannot be reason of denying the exemption u/s 10 (23C)(iiiab).**

ISSUES

- Whether claim for exemption u/s 10(23C)(iiiad) can be considered at appellate stage

Al-Farook Educational Centre v. ITO [2009] 124 TTJ 286(Coch. Trib.)

Where assessee had in fact filed its return on ground that assessee was claiming exemption u/s 11 but assessee's claim was rejected, as assessee was otherwise coming within ambit of section 10(23C)(iiiad), it was permissible in law that claim of assessee u/s 10(23C) being backed by provisions of law, **could be considered even at appellate stage.**

Issues

- ***Does Educational activity necessarily to be taken place for claiming exemption u/s 10(23C)?***
Held no, where assessee-trust was existing solely for educational purposes and not for purposes of profit and, thus, it was entitled to exemption u/s 10(23C)(iiiad). ITO v. Baba Dhall Educational Society of India [2009] 27 SOT 391 (DELHI - ITAT)
- ***Whether exemption can be denied on disallowance of certain expenses***
Held No.
ITO v. Virendra Singh Memorial Shiksha Samiti 121 TTJ (Luck.) 829 (2009)/ [2009]18 DTR 502.
Other rulings - DIT (Exemption) v. Raunaq Education Foundation [2004] 294 ITR 76 (Delhi)

Issues

City Montessori School (Regd.) v. Union of India[2009] 315 ITR 048(All)

Society providing not only traditional education but also preparing students by providing guidelines to get admissions in professional institutions to pursue their higher studies--Society engaged in educational activities falling under "charitable purpose"--Society satisfying all statutory requirements for getting exemption under section 10(23C)(vi)--No material to prove surplus earned by society utilised for personal profit or gain of anyone including founder-manager/director--Chief Commissioner directed to grant approval under section 10(23C)(vi) .

exemption u/s 10(23C)(vi) cannot be denied solely on the foundation that there has been some surplus profit. *St.Lawrence Educational Society (Regd.) v. CIT*
2011]9Taxmann.com233(Delhi)

Issues

IK Gujral Punjab Technical University Vs CIT, ITA No. 910/Chd/2017, Order Date - 23-02-2018, ITAT- Chandigarh

Where the predominant objective of the educational university is to earn profit, accumulate it and invest the same for further earning of interest income. The income and surplus generated by the Applicant-University would itself show that the applicant is not engaged in any charitable activity. The educational universities purely running on commercial basis with predominant object of earning profits, are not eligible for exemption u/s 10(23C)(vi).

Issues

DIT Vs Delhi Public School Society, [2018] 92 taxmann.com 132 (HC-Delhi)

The main object of assessee society was to establish educational institutions. Memorandum of association of assessee society, as well as joint venture agreements entered into by assessee society with satellite schools validated motive of an educational purpose that assessee aimed through its business activities. Assessee had maintained accounts which had been audited in detail for relevant years and such accounts had been maintained in compliance to seventh proviso to section 10(23C)(vi) and section 11(4A). On review of assessee's audited accounts, it could be observed that surpluses accrued by assessee society were being ploughed back into maintenance and management of DPS schools themselves. Thus, usage of gains arising out of its agreements were incidental to its educational purpose outlined by its objective. Therefore, it is concluded that assessee fulfilled requirements under section 10(23C)(vi) to qualify for exemption.

Issues

Society running educational institution is also entitled to exemption

Section 10(22) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, exempts income of a "University or other educational institution existing solely for educational purposes" from income-tax. The word "institution" has not been defined in the Act. There is no reason why an educational society cannot be regarded as an educational institution if that educational society is running educational institutions.

[The High Court directed the Income-tax Officer to consider afresh whether the assessee, a society running educational institutions, came within the ambit of section 10(22)]

Katra Education Society v. ITO [1978] 111 ITR 0420 [All.] further approved in (1997) 90 Taxman 528 (SC) Aditanar educational Institution vs. Additional CIT

- A society with a main object of spreading education has opened 3 schools, where in the turnover from the schools individually do not exceed Rs. 1 crore, however on aggregate basis it exceeds Rs. 1 crore. Application of S. 10(23C)(iiiad) or S. 10(23C)(vi) ?

The limit of one crore shall be considered with regard to any university or other educational institution. In the instant case education society is itself an educational institution. *Aditanar Educational Institution v. Addl. CIT [1997] 224 ITR 310 (SC).*

- A trust or a society which runs, maintains or assists such institution may well be eligible for exemption, even if it does not own the institution, if its sole object is education.

Ref: *Secondary Board Of education v. ITO (1972) 86 ITR 408 (Ori.), Katra Educational Society v. ITO [1978] 111 ITR 420 (All.), CIT v. Sindhu Vidhya Mandal Trust [1983] 142 ITR 633 (Guj), Director of Income-tax Vs. Sir Shri Ram Education Foundation [2003] 262 ITR 0164, DCIT vs Mahathama Educational Society 2007 15 SOT 44 ITAT - Hyderabad.*

Issues

Where the institution is in process of starting educational activity but not yet commenced any such activity.

Shavak Shiksha Samiti vs CIT 104 TTJ 127 (ITAT – Delhi)

The applicant trust was a society registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 and was in the process of setting up a school on a plot allotted to it. The trust's main object of imparting education came within the purview of charitable purpose and it did not exist for profits, since the surplus, if any, were not to be distributed among its members. Therefore, the trust was entitled to registration under s.12A.

- Petitioner-board was set up by Government of India as an autonomous society under Societies Registration Act, 1860, to promote integrated development in Horticulture - Petitioner further submitted that it was exempt under section 10(23C)(iv) in years from 1987-88 to 2007-08 and was also registered as a trust under section 12A - However, after amendment of section 10(23)(iv) on 30-3-2007, authority to grant exemption was vested in Chief Commissioner instead of Central Government and petitioner made an application to said authority.

[National Horticulture Board v. CCIT 176 TAXMAN 167 (2009) (P & H)]

Chief Commissioner dismissed application on ground that audit reports in Form No. 10BB were not filed with returns and same were filed later, but were not dated as required under 10th proviso to said provision. Whether provision having been substantially complied with, audit report should have been taken into account even if, strictly speaking, it was not filed with return and not in Form No. 10BB but in Form No. 10B as stated in impugned order .Held, yes.

Issues

Pinegrove International Charitable Trust vs unionof India 188 TAXMAN 402 (2010) (P & H)

- To decide entitlement of an institution for exemption u/s 10(23C)(vi), **test of predominant object of its activity** has to be applied by posing question whether it exists solely for education and not to earn profit and merely because profits have resulted from activity of imparting education would not result in change of character of an institution that it exists solely for educational purpose .

- And that capital expenditure incurred wholly and exclusively for objects of education is entitled to exemption and would not constitute part of total income.
- Educational institutions, which are registered as societies, would continue to retain their character as such and would be eligible to apply for exemption under section 10(23C)(vi).

Ruling followed in: *Vanita Vishram Trust v. CCIT (Bombay High Court) [2010] 327 ITR 121 (Bombay)*

Issues

- Assessee-society was established in year 1969 and was duly registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860 - Since its inception, assessee was imparting education to public at large by running schools in various cities. For relevant assessment years, assessee-society filed application seeking continuation of exemption of its income under section 10(23C)(vi). **Digember Jain Society for Child Welfare v. DGIT (Exemption 185 TAXMAN 255 (2009]) (DELHI)**
- DGIT(Exemptions) refused to grant exemption mainly on ground that assessee-society was having multiple objects, of which education was one of them; it would mean that assessee could pursue even non-educational objects in coming years, if it deemed fit - It was seen from record that assessee-society had mainly been formed with objective of carrying out educational activity and there was no profit motive

- It was also noted that **respondent had denied exemption to assessee-society merely on suspicion that it might deviate from its objective of education in future** – Held that in aforesaid circumstances, assessee could be given benefit of exemption under section 10(23C)(vi) subject to an affidavit of undertaking given by assessee-society that it would not breach any of conditions or stipulations imposed by respondent in terms of third proviso to section 10(23C)(vi) and further, that surplus funds would be utilized only for educational purposes and would not be diverted to other non-educational objectives.

Issues

ITO vs. Sir Kikabhai Premchand Trust [2010] 8 TAXMANN.COM 70 (MUM. - ITAT), ITA NO. 5308 (MUM.) OF 2009

Where assessee did not file audit report in Form No. 10B along with return of income due to oversight rather, it filed report of auditor required to be given under Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950, in view of fact that report in Form No. 10B was similar to report under Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950, it was to be held that assessee had complied with provisions of sec. 12A(1)(b), and, therefore, it was entitled to exemption u/s 11.

Issues

CIT v. Gulab Devi Memorial Hospital Trust, [2017] 391 ITR 73 (Punjab & Haryana)

In case of assessee institution enjoying exemption u/s 80G, even if substantial surplus is generated, but same is ploughed back for building infrastructure or assets, which in turn are used for charitable purposes. Then, assessee would not lose its charitable character and, thus, its claim for renewal of exemption cannot be rejected. The Tribunal, held that there was no mis-utilization of funds by the assessee and that generating of surplus was not fatal to the grant of exemption u/s 80G if such surplus was utilized for charitable purposes.

Issues

- Rejection of application for grant of exemption under section 10(23C)(vi) cannot be a basis for cancelling registration u/s 12A. ***The Sunbeam English School Society v. CIT [2011] 9 taxmann.com 228 (All. - ITAT)***
- Order rejecting application for exemption under section 10(23C)(vi) must be a reasoned order. ***Sahitya Sadawart Samiti v. CCIT, 2011] 12 taxmann.com 248 (Raj.)***

Issues- order denying exemption to state reasons

- There must be some reasons recorded in order passed by Commissioner while withholding exemption under section 10(23C)(vi) .
- When no reasons had been assigned for declining exemption for A.Y. 2007-08 and % of surplus income of assessee, after deducting all expenses including depreciation was less than previous A.Y., i.e., 2006-07 for which exemption had been granted, action of Commissioner denying exemption for A.Y. 2007-08 was arbitrary and illegal and not sustainable.

Dalhousie Public School Educational Society v. CCIT [2011] 9 taxmann.com 15 (PUNJ. & HAR.)

Issues

- Assessee-trust, formed for propagation of Vedas, is entitled to registration u/s 12A in status of a religious and charitable trust. **Kasyapa Veda Research Foundation v. CIT [2011] 12 taxmann.com 286 (Cochin - ITAT)- 139 TTJ 641**
- Whether once a trust is duly registered u/s 12AA, unless and until, it violates terms and conditions stipulated in section 12 or 13, exemption cannot be denied - **Held, yes. Gagan Education Society v. Addl. CIT [2011] 10 taxmann.com 156 (Agra)]**

For purpose of granting registration u/s 12AA, a single non-operative clause of commercial nature could not obliterate whole range of charitable activities undertaken by assessee-society

Baba Amarnath Educational Society v. CIT [2012] 18 taxmann.com 222 (Chandigarh - Trib.)

- Assessee-society was formed with object of imparting education including technical and vocational education.
- Assessee filed an application seeking registration u/s 12AA - Commissioner finding that a particular clause in object clauses mentioned to promote exports of computers hardware/software, telecommunication, internet, e-commerce and allied services, took a view that objects of assessee were not charitable in nature within meaning of section 2(15). He thus rejected assessee's application for registration. It was apparent from records that assessee had carried out concrete activities to achieve charitable purpose of imparting education. Moreover, impugned object clause had been deleted in accordance with sec. 12 & 12A of the Societies Registration Act, 1860, as was applicable to State of Punjab.
- Whether on facts, single non-operative and deleted object clause could not obliterate whole range of charitable activities undertaken by assessee-society - Held, yes
- Whether, therefore, impugned order passed by Commissioner was to be set aside and, registration applied for by assessee was to be granted - Held, yes

Issues

CIT v. Spring Dale Educational Society [2012] 204 Taxman 11 (P. & H.) (Mag.)

- While examining application seeking registration u/s 12AA, *manner of application of funds of trust do not fall within purview of Commissioner.* The Commissioner should only satisfy himself about genuineness of aims and objects of trust/institution and genuineness of its activities as enumerated in clause (b) of sub-sec.(1) of sec. 12AA.

Issues

Ajmer Jila Maheshwari Sabha Sanstha Vs CIT, ITA No. 710 & 709/JP/2017,

Date of Pronouncement: 20/02/2018, ITAT – Jaipur

- Where the assessee, for obtaining registration u/s 12AA, failed to produce any of the original documents regarding registration of the society and the rules and regulations, the compliance as per law remain to be complied, the registration u/s 12AA of the Act cannot be granted. Further, since the assessee has failed to get the registration u/s 12AA of the Act, exemption U/s 80G(5)(vi) of the Act can also not be granted

Issues

Institute of Self Management Vs. CIT [2011] 16 taxmann.com 331(ITAT-Chennai)

Where assessee society, managed by highly qualified persons, filed an application for registration u/s 12AA after 21 years of its formation, assessee's plea of ignorance of law could not be accepted and, thus, registration could not be granted to it with retrospective effect.

Fact:

Assessee-society was registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975 on 24-1-1983. Declared objects of assessee were providing adult education, community development especially in rural areas and also providing education and healthcare and self employment to rural women. It applied for registration u/s 12AA after a delay of 21 years. According to Commissioner, delay was not properly explained by assessee. Thus, Commissioner held that registration could not be granted to assessee since its inception and registration could be granted only with effect from assessment year 2006-07. Assessee filed instant appeal contending that it could not file application earlier because it was not aware of an independent procedure necessary for registration under Act.

Issues

Nooral Islam Trust v. CIT [2012] 18 taxmann.com 110 (Ker.)

- While disposing of assessee's application for registration u/s 12AA, an opportunity was to be granted to it to get amendment in trust deed declared valid by a competent civil court.

Facts:

Assessee, a public charitable trust, was running educational institutions. Assessee having applied for registration u/s 12AA, withdrew its registration application. Thereafter trust deed was amended elaborating object clause specifically including its main object as running a dental college. When amended deed was presented for registration, Commissioner rejected it for reason that original deed did not contain any provision for amendment of deed. On appeal, Tribunal upheld order of Commissioner (Appeals). On instant appeal, assessee pointed out that u/s 92 of Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, read with sec. 26 of Specific Relief Act, 1963, it was entitled to file scheme suit and get amendment declared valid by a competent civil court.

Issues

- Mere charging of fee from members or non-members for rendering services like training, conducting seminars would not ipso facto lead to denial of exemption. The dominant object of the assessee remains charitable and the aforesaid activities are only incidental to the main activity of the assessee. Also, the activities of the assessee are benefiting the public at large.

CIT v. FERTILIZERS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA, [2017] 399 ITR 209 (Del)

Circular No. 7/2010 [F.No.197/21/2010-
ITA-I], Dated 27-10-2010.....

Clarification regarding period of validity of approvals issued under section 10(23C)(iv), (v), (vi) or (via) and section 80G(5) of the Income-tax Act

It appears that some doubts still prevail about the period of validity of approval under Section 80G subsequent to 1.10.2009, especially in view of the fact that no corresponding change has been made in Rule 11A (4). To remove any doubts in this regard, it is reiterated that any approval under Section 80G (5) on or after 1.10.2009 would be a one time approval which would be valid till it is withdrawn.

Issues.....

- Where assessee carrying on charitable work received grants for specific purposes from certain agencies, these grants could not be considered voluntary contribution as per section 12.

DIT v. Society for Development Alternatives [2012] 18 taxmann.com 364 (Delhi)

Facts:

- Assessee-society was registered under sections 12A and 80G. It was carrying on charitable work. It received grants from certain agencies and maximum amount of grants remained unspent at end of year. AO invoked provision of sec. 12 and added said amount to income of assessee.
- Whether since (i) assessee had received grants for specific purposes, (ii) these grants were to be spent as per terms and conditions of grants, and (iii) amount, which remained unspent at end of year, got spilled over to next year and was treated as unspent grant, these grants were not voluntary contributions as per section 12 - **Held, yes**

Issue - Payment of taxes under VDIS...

DIT (Exemption) v. National Association of Software and Services Companies [2012] 21 taxmann.com 213 (Delhi)

Payment of taxes under VDIS is to be deducted before arriving at commercial income of assessee-trust that is available for application to charitable purposes.

Issues – Business commenced with aid & assistance of borrowings from sister concerns.....

CIT v. Mehta Charitable Prajnalay Trust [2012] 28 taxmann.com 73 (Delhi)

- If the business was commenced by trustees with aid and assistance of borrowings from sister concerns it could not be case of 'property being held under trust' but would only be a case of business being carried on or on behalf of trust

Issues – Failure to maintain Receipts and Expenditure A/C regularly.....

- Failure to maintain Receipts and Expenditure A/C regularly by a charitable trust amounts to contravention of section 80G. However, such contravention if not proved cannot cause denial of registration to the assessee.

Director of Income-tax v. Neel Gagan Charitable Trust [2013] 38 taxmann.com 305 (Delhi)

Issues – Education trust applying horticultural income for education is exempt -

Orissa Trust of Technical Education and Training v. Chief CIT, Orissa (2012) 209 Taxman 552 (Orissa) (High Court)

Horticultural income from trees standing in land acquired by trust for establishment of educational institution has been utilized in educational activities and infrastructure development, trust cannot be denied exemption

Fact:

- Application of trust for grant of exemption u/s. 10(23C) (vi) was rejected on grounds that assessee was engaged in non educational activities of horticulture and generating income from same, and that trust had collected fees under head 'placement and training' from students which was not in conformity with fees prescribed. It was held that amount received from horticulture had been utilized in educational activities of institutions and for infrastructural development, it could not be treated that profit was earned for non educational activities. Denial of exemption was held to be not valid.

Issues- Received donation by way of post dated cheque.....

DIT (Exemption) v. Raunag Education Foundation [2013] 29 taxmann.com 150 (SC)

Where assessee-trust by way of donation received a post dated cheque from a company before 31-3-2002 and issued receipt on same day. Assessee had shown amount of donation as donation receivable in balance sheet prepared as on 31-3-2002 and donor company in which trustees were substantially interested did not avail any advantage of said donation during relevant accounting year. Then there was no violation of provisions of section 13(2)(b) & (d) by assessee

Issues - Expenses for charitable & religious purposes have been incurred in earlier year but adjusted against income of subsequent year

CIT v. Gujrati Samaj (Regd.) [2013] 31 taxmann.com 68 (MP)

Where expenses for charitable and religious purposes have been incurred in earlier year and said expenses are adjusted against income of subsequent year, income of that year can be said to have been applied for charitable and religious purposes in year in which expenses incurred for charitable and religious purposes had been adjusted

Issues – Income from management development program, hiring premises is eligible for exemption u/s 11...

ADIT v. Shri Vile Parle Kelvani Mandal, Mumbai ITAT, ITA No. 7106/Mum/2011, Dt. 05-10-2012, (Mum)(Trib.)

- Income from management development program earned by educational institute considered as eligible for exemption;
- Income from hiring premises and advertisement rights since applied for educational activities eligible for exemption;

Return of Income

Under Income Tax Act, 1961

Furnishing of return....

Form of return – ITR -7 [Rule 12 of the Rules, 1962]

(For persons including companies required to furnish return u/s 139(4A) or section 139(4B) or section 139(4C)¹ or section 139(4D) or section 139(4E)² or section 139(4F)³]

Time limit for filing return

- (i) Where accounts of the trust are not subject to audit 31st July
- (ii) Where accounts of the trust are subject to audit 30st September

- 1) Universities and hospitals referred in sub clause (iiiab) and (iiiac) of clause (23C) of section 10 are now mandatorily required to file return of Income U/s 139(4C) [Ins. by Act No. 20 of 2015 (w.e.f. 1-4-2016)].
- 2) Inserted by the IT (Seventh Amdt.) Rules, 2015, w.r.e.f. 1-4-2015
- 3) Inserted by the IT (Ninth Amdt.) Rules, 2016, w.e.f. 1-4-2016

Fee for delayed filing of return

A new section 234F was inserted to levy fees in case of delay in filing of return from AY 2018-19 and onwards:

In case return is furnished after the due date but on or before 31 st December of the relevant assessment year	Rs.5,000/-
In other cases	Rs.10,000/-

Penalty for non filing of return

If any person fails to furnish the return of income u/s 139 (4A)/(4C) or to furnish it within the time allowed and in the manner required under those sub-sections, a Penalty of a sum of Rs. 100 for every day during which the failure continues [**Section 272A**]



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