

# THE ROLE OF NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION IN INDIA - WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO WARANGAL DIST AT TELANGANA STATE

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**Abstract:** *NGO are non-profit making agencies that are constituted with a vision by a group of likeminded people, committed for the uplift of the poor, marginalized, unprivileged, underprivileged, impoverished, down trodden and the needy and they are closer and accessible to the target groups. Flexible in administration, quicker in decision making, timely in action and facilitating the people towards self-reliance ensuring their fullest participation in the whole process of development. The achievements and success of NGOs in various fields and the excellent work done by them in specific areas is no doubt a tremendous task that has helped to meet the changing needs of the social system. However, inspite of its achievements in various fields, NGOs are facing different problems which differ from organization to organization, region to region.*

**Key Words:** *Non Governmental Organizations, Development, Role.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Even after 60 years of independence and in spite of concerted efforts of the successive Governments, the conditions in rural India remain unchanged. There are many hurdles to cross to see development in its fullest and glorious form in the rural areas. The successive Governments of various political parties with their political agendas of poverty alleviation in rural India and allocation of majority of funds through various schemes have failed in the elimination of poverty and in provision of facilities to the rural areas at par with the urban areas. Even the successive Five Year plans which have targeted poverty alleviation also failed. So poverty alleviation of rural folk or rural development has become a big challenge to any Government. All Governments failed equally at Rural Development. Rural India has 70 per cent of its billion plus population in the villages. The core problems at the rural level are poverty, unemployment, hunger, ignorance, illiteracy, ill health, high mortality etc.<sup>5</sup> The Governments failed in improving conditions and in solving these core problems through its limited machinery, giving way to the creation of other private institutions to take up this herculean task of rural development. These private institutions are called the Non Government Organisations (NGOs) or Voluntary Organisations who strive to alleviate poverty and address other problems at the grass root level with their programmes designed appropriately exclusive to the rural areas.

Development when applied to humans is the improvement of all the faculties: body, mind and soul which are the constituent parts of the humans. Similarly the Development of a nation is 'the improvement of various living conditions of all its citizens' in the narrow sense and 'nation building' in the broader sense. The conditions of life of the citizens of a nation are improved to see all the citizens comfortable, productive and effective where they enjoy equal status economically, socially, politically and in all other spheres of life that are the constituents of a nation. When nations are compared we compare the citizens, their living standards, and their status economically, socially, politically etc.

Non-Government Organisations, popularly known as NGOs are basically, service and development oriented organisations created out of the government to address particular issues, tasks or functions of a non- commercial nature. Such groups may be organised at a local, national or international level. They are dedicated to address these issues and are driven by people with a common interest. For the purpose of an operational definition, the World Bank's idea of an NGO can be taken which regards NGO as an organisation independent from the government, and that has a humanitarian or cooperative, rather than commercial objectives.

## 2. HISTORY OF NGO MOVEMENT IN INDIA:

There have been many societies working in India from times of history. Many of them were seen in medieval era which continued into British era working for social welfare, education, health and natural disaster relief most commonly. There were traces of voluntary effort for betterment of rural life before independence. Individuals and associations helped the rural poor. Social reformers initiated and sustained movements against certain types of social practices such as 'Sati', 'bride-price' and for 'widow re-marriages' etc. Most of these reform movements were led by concerned and likeminded upper caste individuals who had been exposed to western education<sup>21</sup>. The Atmiya Sabha and Brahmo Samaj in Bengal, Swaminarayan Sect and Manohar Dharm Sabha of Gujarat, the Prarthana Samaj (1854)

and Hindu Dharm Sabha in Maharashtra, and Arya Samaj (1875), Friend in Need Society (1858), Satya shodan Samaj (1873), National council for women in India (1875) were established with varying objectives. And many more followed. The Work of these organizations focused mostly on recognizing the access of untouchables to education and worship, and access of women to education and a better social status within Hindu society. The most active role in the field of rural development, largely in the inaccessible parts of the country, was played by the Christian missionaries since middle of the century, who aimed at an all round development of their converts. Two American Missionaries called Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Hatch devoted their services to YMCA programme for improved poultry and beekeeping for honey in the Marthandum taluk of the erstwhile Trivandrum State. Another Missionary called Dr. Leonard Elmbirst from United Kingdom, in collaboration with Rabindranath Tagore, worked on rural reconstruction and made Sriniketan as pioneering institution. A large number of Christian missionaries established educational institutions, hospitals and other charitable institutions for the poor even in remote rural areas.

## 2.1 Characteristics of NGOs

- (1) Spontaneous in nature, government or private establishment.
- (2) Larger than voluntary organizations in size.
- (3) Work not only at local level but also in the national as well as international level.
- (4) They have to register under Societies Registration Act 1860 in order to get legal identity.
- (5) Responsible for their work.

## 2.2 Formation of NGOs in India

The process of formation and registration of NGOs in India depends on the following features:-

- (a) Charitable Trust
- (b) Society
- (c) Section- 25 companies

## 2.3 Formation of an NGO as a Charitable Trust:

The public charitable trust is a possible form under the section 3 of the Indian Act. According to section 7 of the Indian Act, a public charitable trust may be created by every person competent to contract and by or on behalf of a minor. In India, trusts can be established for a number of purposes, i.e., for the relief of poverty or distress, medical relief, education, provision of facilities for recreation and for the object of general public utility. Trusts may be public charitable trusts or private trusts.

## 2.4 Formation of an NGO as a Society:

An NGO may be formed as a society under the Society Registration Act, 1860. It is an association of persons united together by mutual consent to deliberate, determine and act jointly for some common purpose. An NGO can be constituted as a society for the following purposes; grant of charitable assistance, creation of military orphan funds, society established for the promotion of science, literature or the fine arts, for instruction, the diffusion of useful knowledge, the diffusion of political education, foundation or maintenance of libraries or reading rooms for general use of the members or the public, public art museums and galleries, and certain other types of museums. Societies are governed by the Societies Registration Act 1860, which is an all India Act. At least seven individuals are required to form a society. There is no upper limit to the number of managing committee members. The Board of Management is in the form of a governing body or council or a managing or executive committee. The general body of members delegates the management of day-to-day affairs to the managing committee, which is usually elected by the members. It must register the society with the State Registrar of Societies having jurisdiction in order to be eligible to apply for tax-exempt status. A society for its inception requires.

## 2.5 NGOs in India

In the early years of 19th century, voluntary agencies provided services to the under-privileged and weaker sections of the society. The areas of operation were largely in the fields of religion and social reforms. Raja Rammohan Roy (1772 -1833), Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (1820-1891), Sasi Pada Banarjee (1842-1925), Keshab Chandra Sen (1838-1884), Swami Dayanand Saraswati (1824-1883), Swami Vivekanand (1863- 1902), Mahatma phule (1827-1888), Pandit Ramabai (1858-1922), Maharshi Karve (1858-1962), Sir Sayyed Ahmed Khan (1817-1898), Behramji Malbari (1853-1912) were the people who worked with dedication towards removal of caste restrictions, improving conditions of widows, women education, orphans and destitute women etc,. In the latter part of 19th century, Christian Missioners also did pioneering work in the field of social welfare. They also took interest in spreading education among women, tribals, and others, and in improving their health and living conditions. In the early decades of 20th century, besides relief and rehabilitation programmes in times of natural calamities like earthquakes, floods and famines, NGOs were also engaged in various fields like education, health and labour welfare.

According to Chowdhry, “After Independence, leadership in India was provided by social workers who had worked under the leadership of Gandhi. As a matter fact, they were the ones who started the movement of voluntary action. As per data available with the Planning Commission 2000, there are 12265 NGOs in the country of which 91% are involved in Social sector activities- 52.75 percent in Rural Development (RD), 17 percent in Human Resource Development (HRD), 10.15 percent Social Justice & Empowerment (SJ & E), 6.2 Percent in Health & Family Welfare (H &FW), and 4.8 percent in Youth Affairs & Sports (YA & S).

## 2.6 The picture of Region-wise NGOs in India is as follows:

About 25 percent NGOs are working in the southern states of which telangana 4.20 percent, Andhra Pradesh 4.55, 4.15 percent in Karnataka, 2.84 percent in Kerala and 7.85 percent in Tamilnadu. About 36 percent NGOs are working in the demographically weak States including newly formed States 15.84 percent in U.P., 4.5 percent in M.P., 9.33 percent in Bihar, 2.9 percent in Rajasthan, 1.7 percent in Jharkhand, 1.3 percent in Uttaranchal and 0.35 percent in Chhattisgarh. About 30 percent NGOs are working in other major states West Bengal 9.73 percent, Orissa 6.78 percent, Maharashtra 4.95 percent, Delhi 4.08 percent, Gujarat 2.59 percent, Haryana 1.5 percent and Punjab 0.36 percent. Again 7.35 percent NGOs are working in North Eastern States Assam 2.1 percent, Manipur 2.9 percent, Meghalaya 0.18 percent, Mizoram 0.28 percent, Nagaland 0.47 percent, Arunachal Pradesh 0.2 percent and Tripura 0.37 percent.

## 2.7 Different Types of NGOs in India

In India there are several types of NGOs performing different activities. The types of NGOs in India include volunteer sector, civil society, grassroots organizations, private voluntary organizations, social movement organizations, self-help groups (SHGs) etc. and many other related organizations. Different types of NGOs have been categorized by different persons. These are mentioned below Cousins (1991) classified NGOs into two categories on the basis of their Orientations and Level of Operations.

## 2.8 NGO types by Orientation or aims: -

- (i) Charitable it involves a top down paternalistic effort with little participation by the beneficiaries includes NGOs with activities directed toward meeting the needs of the poor. During the period of natural calamities or man-made disaster, NGOs undertake activities such as distribution of food, clothing, medicine, provision of housing and transport etc.
- (ii) **NGO types by level of Operations :-** Community-based organizations (CBOs) are involved out of peoples own initiatives. It can includes sports club, religious rganizations, neighborhood organizations and educational institutions. Here CBOs are involved to raise the consciousness of the urban poor or helping them to understand their rights in gaining access to needed services while in providing such services.

## 4. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Michael Banton's essay (1957) on the Anthropological Aspects of Voluntary Associations notes that “Voluntary Associations become more common and significant as societies advance in technology, complexity and scale”. According to Banton, the associations function as a means of “organizing people in order to achieve new ends, such as the raising of capital, the regulation of prices and the provision of extra labour (Stefanovic et al., 2010). David Sills, a sociologist, emphasizes the latent functions as opposed to the manifest functions of voluntary associations and distinguishes between the functions of associations for individuals and those for society. David Smith has also reviewed the contributions of formal voluntary organizations for society, attempting to fit his analysis into a Parsonian framework. He asserts that the organizations perform a role in each to Talcott Parsons four structural – functional categories of analysis, thus contributing to societal goal attainment, integration, pattern maintenance and adaptation.

**K.A. Suresh's (1990)** study deals with the levels of participation of beneficiaries in the development programmes of select NGOs in Kerala. The author found that NGOs are not working as participatory organizations to the extent desired. The rates of participation of beneficiaries and institutional arrangements for participation are found to be very low. The beneficiaries are also found to be not keen in getting represented in decisionmaking bodies and planning process.

**Vanitha Vishwanath's (1993)** study evaluates and compares the role of two NGOs i.e Integrated Development Service and Gram Vikas in promoting women development. She found that Gram Vikas is working more effectively than Integrated Development Service. This is because that Gram Vikas programmes are designed in such a way that they yield quick results and are sensitive to the immediate needs of the people

**James (2004)** remarked that there was rather a proliferation of a large number of organizations which were variously called Voluntary Agencies, Social Action Groups, Grassroots Organizations, NGOs etc. Their activities were centered around participatory development as an alternative to the mainstream growth path followed by the government. The sudden rise of NGOs to international respectability was due to a large number of interpenetrating developments having economic, political, cultural and ideological ramifications at a global level. There was the

collapse of the welfare state concept due to the rise of Neo Liberalism since 1970s. Today NGOs have evolved in to an inalienable adjunct of neo liberal globalization projecting themselves as an alternative paradigm to the state led socio-economic development of the past decades.

**Prasad (2003)** observed that the social mobilization was a participatory process where people got educated, organized, motivated and enabled to undertake social enquiry and analysis for understanding their life situations and taking decisions and actions to change it for their well being. In the different phases of social mobilization, it was necessary to identify and study the functioning of NGOs and other development partners and seek their support for possible collaboration. The author suggested that there should be an institutional framework for social mobilization in which the NGOs and the other development partners could be included. The quality, size, resources, expertise, credibility and spread of NGOs were critical at this phase of social mobilization. The basic principle of social mobilization was that whatever output achieved in the society must be consolidated through a better facilitation, supervision and monitoring of the activities of the beneficiaries under the project interventions and here the NGOs and other voluntary agencies had a very important role.

**Kris M.Y. Law (2009)** in his paper investigated the key factors affecting the sustainability development strategies adoption and implementation in nongovernment organizations. Research framework linking the key factors affecting company's adoption of sustainability development strategies, the willingness and the current situation of applying sustainable strategies is proposed. Results have suggested the significant correlation between motivating factors from the four key dimensions, the willingness of NGOs' adoption of sustainable development strategies, and the impacts on the practices of companies to integrate sustainability strategies in business operations. This paper focuses on a study undertaken among a number of non-government organizations in Hong Kong. The study reveals a significant influence from the management on the willingness of adoption and sustainable development performance. This further confirms the importance on promoting the sustainability development at the operational level, with top management to provide clear strategic direction and supportive resources and environment.

## 5. NGO- STATE RELATIONS:

There is no doubt that with increasing demands on the state by the citizens, the state can no longer be the sole provider of goods and services. It is also true that the support and interest in NGOs has grown as a result of the failure by state agencies to deliver services. Thus, the state and NGOs need each other. In terms of their relation with the state, Clark (1991) provides a liberalist view in terms of three options; they can complement, reform, and/or oppose the state. In their role of complementing the state, they act as the implementers of development activities. In this case as argued by Thomas, (1992) NGOs fill the gaps left by the public service. The role of the state becomes more of an enabler rather than a provider of services. In their reforming role NGOs are seen as agents of advocacy and contribute immensely to policy dialogue. NGOs are able to represent the interests of the people they work with and in this case can ensure that policies are adaptable to real life situations. Finally, NGOs can oppose the state. They can do this by acting as watchdogs and holding the state accountable. This can be achieved through several methods including lobbying or even overtly supporting groups which are adversely affected by the policies of the government (Thomas, 1992). From the foregoing, it is clear that NGO-government relationships are complex and diverse and are likely to affect the management of NGO activities. The relationships are affected by the specific contextual factors which may include the nature of NGOs objectives and strategies, the area of operation of an NGO, the behavior of the donor and the nature and character of the regime (Turner & Hulme, 1997). These relations also differ from country to country. In some countries certain regimes are favourable to NGOs while in others the relations are antagonistic.

## Warangal District Profile

Warangal is spread over 12,84,000 ha with merely one-fourth of the geographical area under forests. Gross cropped area is 5,50,000 ha and net sown area is 29.1%. The cropping intensity is 123%, the highest among the NAIP districts. Areas under permanent pastures constitute 3.3%, highest next to Nalgonda. The district has a total population of 32,46,004 of which 17% belong to Scheduled Castes and 14% to Scheduled Tribes. The literates in the rural area constitute 52%. About 68.1% of the workers are engaged in agricultural activities. The proportion of those engaged in non-agricultural activities is 32%. The total adult cattle units in the district is numbered at 13,79,897, the third highest among the NAIP districts, of which 5,61,887 are cattle 4,86,779 are buffaloes and 3,31,231 are sheep / goats. Grazing present is 8.5 ACU/ha grazing area.

NGO is the most important serving sector in Telangana state. It is the prime mover of Indian society. Funding problem, political interference political problem, interference from other NGOs, lack of devoted manpower, co-option of NGOs by Government is very bed for the sector. Keeping constant updates from micro to macro is very difficult being in the field. It is not providing only food, shelter and clothes for needy persons of the nation with a population of 102.7 crore in 2001 and employment for million but it is also a source of providing justice for the weaker section of the country. It is the main source of transferring services from rich to poor healthy to needy and publicly enforcement of efforts in the favour of those who are not able to put their efforts for moving in the country. NGOs are also



provided their services in the field of water arrangements, tree - plantation, sanitary/sanitation, sports and also do awareness among people.

## 7. ROLE OF AN NGO:

The Government has enunciated welfare state as one of the Directive Principles of State Policy and essentially the society and social organizations also have a role to play in providing basic needs and amenities to and addressing the problems of downtrodden, destitute, and the weak sections (women and children). The Government has identified, considering the social pattern of living and needs of citizens, schemes in which NGOs and voluntary organizations can participate. These are broadly: Age Care, Agriculture, Animal Welfare, Art & Craft, Children, Cities & Urban, Culture & Heritage, Disability, Education, Environment, Health, Human Resource, Rural Development, Science & Technology, Tribal People, Waste Management, Welfare, Women Development, Other Social and Cultural Activities. NGOs provide expert analysis in the field; serve as early warning agents and help monitor and implement international agreements. NGOs also help raise public awareness of issues, play a major role in advancing UN goals and objectives and contribute essential information at UN sponsored events. NGOs advocate many of the causes of concern to the United Nations, volunteer resources and execute and oversee development projects

### **Bala Vikasa's Reach Through its Community Driven Development Program**

Bala Vikasa empowers communities in 6000 villages in all 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and is slowly expanding its programs to neighboring states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa and Tamil Nadu.

### **Sarvodaya Youth Organization, Warangal**

Purpose : Health, education, agriculture, micro finance, women empowerment, right to information, right to food.

Aims/Objectives/Mission : To uplift the poor lives.

### **MARI – Modern Architects for Rural India, Warangal**

Purpose:Networking

Aims/Objectives/Mission : Sustainable development through community empowerment

## 8. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- Provide support for socio-economic development of the rural poor, especially women. Plan, implement, monitor, evaluate development programs.
- Provide institutional support to partner organizations. Impart required training for interested community based organizations.

## 9. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

The study was conducted in the entire area of Warangal district of Telangana in India. The study area was thus selected keeping in view the operations of NGOs. As the NGOs selected for the study (450) consist of those from Social Service Centre and only a representative sample of 150 NGOs from other than Social Service Centre (but including government agencies), the findings of the study were limited to the NGOs selected for the study. Though, general references were drawn yet the study findings, keeping in view the limitations of resources with the researcher, were largely limited to the NGOs selected for the study. There are many voluntary organisations working for rural development in this area. The present study is confined to one such organisation i.e. Social Service Centre. Hence the findings may not be useful to form an opinion about the other organizations in general. The present study is relied more on the perceptions of the respondents for assessing the impact and it could not evolve any quantitative methods or tools to measure the impact.

## 10. ANALYSIS OF DATA:

Data collected was subjected to simple frequency tables and also different statistical techniques were used to verify the consistency of opinion expressed by the respondents. The analyzed data would be presented in tabular form and needful analytical description would be derived for the purpose of study. In addition to these, statistical techniques like correlation coefficient, probable error and other mathematical techniques were used while tabulating, analyzing and interpreting the data.

## 11. CONCLUSION:

The present endeavor is an effort to find out civil society's responses to foreign direct investment particularly in Indian context. The study explores the role and reactions of nongovernmental organizations vis-a-vis multinational companies. When state is rolling back, under liberalisation, NGO's have to fulfill the gap between state and individual. In a developing country like India, there are numerous gaps left by the government in the development sector,

sometimes deliberately and sometimes because of lack of funds and awareness. These are the gaps that many NGOs are trying to fill in modern India. They have come up to work in areas like education, healthcare, rescue and relief operations in natural calamities, where the government's effort had proved inadequate. The relationship between state and market in 21st century is in great debate. The effectiveness of the state and market in economic intervention depends on the nature of the state and the structure of market. Since their inception, state has always tried to intervene in market. Till World--War II, state and market were rival to each other. But in the era of globalization, the role of the state as producer and distributor of resources has diminished. Its role as regulator has been increased. Further, liberalization and privatization has reduced the welfare activities of the state.

The Swarnjayanti Gram SwarozgarYojana [SGSY] is being implemented by the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) with the active involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), banks, line Departments and the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs). However, With respect to the NGO Partnership system [NGO-PS] of Planning Commission only 1340 NGOs have been signed on the registry out of a total of 59452. Framework of non-governmental channels is comprehensive but need to be put along through a common thread of sustainable and synchronised route of development efforts. Always try to finish the work that is being started and for this there is a need to get wedded to the matter and also try to endorse the available commodities, either these are financial help or products but the best utilization of other equipments is necessary. A work should be done with dedication and never stop a work in the lurch until it has been completed. Render services to others and these services require time, devotion resolution and dedication. Any institute can not go longer if people are not industrious and cordial. Selfless motives and services lead to success. One has to put one's cent percent to make it successful, only then the life can be meaningful and efforts can get fruition. Co-operation and devotion are the pillars of an organization. Everybody must work together as it is not the responsibility of the organizers only. The approach should be pragmatic. Each person must put his life and soul in the service of mankind (society), Try to help others as much as possible. Fictitious promises should not be done and be firm to keep the word, maximum progress should be the motive. The general public should come forward and never depend on the Govt. Completely. The members of the organizations should render their services and money as much as they can.

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