

# ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN INDIA

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## ABSTRACT

*NGO is the most important serving sector in India. 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. But, the question arises that the NGOs are satisfying themselves through these services and what types of problems they are facing actually? To answer these questions, a study entitled "Role of Non-Governmental Organization in India-An Evaluation of District Sirsa" has been conducted to evaluate the performance of Non-Governmental Organizations in India.*

## INTRODUCTION

Sirsa is said to be one of the oldest places of North India and its ancient name was Sairishaka, which finds mention in Mahabharata, Panini's Ashatadhayayi and Divyavadan in Mahabharata, Sairishaka is described as being taken by Nakula in his conquest of the western quarter. It must have been a flourishing city in the 5th century B. C. as it has been mentioned by Panini.

According to local tradition, an unknown king named Saras founded the town in 7th century A. D. and built a fort. The material remains of this ancient fort can still be seen in the South-East of the present town. It is about 5 kilometers in circuit. According to another tradition, the name has its origin from the sacred river Saraswati which once flowed near it. During medieval period, the town was known as Sarsuti. It has been mentioned as Sarsuti by a number of medieval historians. The derivation of name Sirsa is also attributed to the abundance of siris trees [Albizia lebbok (Benth)] in the neighborhood of Sirsa which seems quite plausible for it finds some corroboration also in Panini and his commentator. In ancient period, Sirsa was also known as Sirsapattan.

The Sirsa district which comprised three tehsils of Sirsa, Dabwali and Fazilka was abolished and Sirsa tehsil (consisting of 199 villages) and 126 villages of Dabwali tehsil formed one tehsil and the same was merged in the Hisar district and the rest of the portion was transferred to the Ferozpur district (Punjab). There was no change till the independence of the country except that a village was transferred from Sirsa tehsil to the then state of Bikaner of 1906.

## **INTRODUCTION NGO**

A Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) is any association having a definite cultural, economic, educational, religious or social cause or any non-profit voluntary citizens group which is organised around specific issues, such as education, environmental conservation, social welfare, rural development sanitation, healthcare or human rights, on a local, national or international level. The World Bank defines NGOs as "private organisations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provides basic social services, or undertake community development. NGOs include an array of groups and institutions that are entirely or largely independent of government and characterised primarily by humanitarian or cooperative, rather than commercial objectives". According to a World Bank key document, the term NGO can be applied to any non-profit organisation, which is entirely or largely independent from government and exists to serve humanitarian social or cultural interests either of their memberships or of social as a whole. NGOs are typically value-based organizations, which depend, wholly or in part, on charitable donations and voluntary service. Although, the NGO sector has become increasingly professionalised over the last two decades, principles of altruism and voluntarism remain key defining characteristics (Muthupandian, 2006)1.

Volunteerism, defined as a voluntary spirit of individuals and communities to make interventions for community good, has played significant role in shaping the human civilization at each stage of its growth. Voluntary organisations have been generally defined as voluntary, autonomous, Non-Profit Organisations or groups of citizens established to address various issues/problems and disadvantages in the society. The term 'Volunteer' is normally used to denote someone who offers unpaid service to a good cause. Voluntary organisation ensures collective action with division of responsibilities and relieving the members from the unlimited financial responsibilities. Voluntary organisations, thus, can be said as an organisation which is initiated spontaneously at least at the level of persons who form it and governed by members without any external control and compulsion (Fadia et. al, 2008)2.

The sustainable organization is to be viewed from the context of a "social organization" or a voluntary organization or a Non Government Organization or popularly identified as charity or civil service organization. Commercial and profitable activity or service is not envisaged. If at all commercial or profitable activities are undertaken, the profit accrues to the organization and not to individuals and to this effect the organization copes with the law of the land for safeguards.

A sustainable organization is one, which is able to remain in existence for long, delivering the same or better level and quality of service, enduring and withstanding hardships, moving along its declared mission and striving towards the vision set (Mathew, 2008)<sup>3</sup>.

NGO/NPOs provide much needed services to their respective communities, and thorough planning during the start-up process is crucial to develop an effective and professional organization that is able to meet the myriad challenges faced by the world today.

There are many classifications of NGO/NPOs as determined by individual country's laws and regulations, including co-ops, credit unions, societies, people's organizations or community groups etc. The classification can also designate NGO/NPOs as religious, charitable, educational, scientific, literary or other organizations. These organizations may qualify for income tax exemption, or other financial benefits. Regional and local tax exemptions may also apply on a region by region basis<sup>4</sup>.

## **REVIEW OF THE STUDIES**

Pagaria (2006)<sup>42</sup> viewed that Non-Governmental organizations play a vital role in bringing the under privileged and least-advantaged to the common stream of the society. With the passage of time, there has been a big increase in their physical as well as financial activities. Their presence has also increased from the national to the international level and the source of funds has also diversified from private donations to international funding agencies.

Grewal (2007)<sup>43</sup> stated that India can learn from across the Radcliff line. Unable to cope with the growing need of educating the young in Pakistan, several NGOs, some even with their own funding have come up with innovative ideas and schemes raising levels of literacy in the Islamic State. Unable to achieve a 100 per cent enrolment in primary education, Pakistan has recorded a 50 percent dropout rate, meaning thereby that half of the students who join a school drop out before completing class V. This happens despite providing free education till primary classes as a constitutional obligation of the government. An NGO Pulse Report released by Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and McGill University (Canada) says most NGOs were clear that their role was not to replace the government, but to ensure that the government effectively covered the educational needs. In other words the independent NGOs act as pointer for the government.

Gopiseti and Venkateshwarlu (2008)<sup>44</sup> has advocated that Self Help Group (SHG) is a mechanism to extend mutual help and support through sharing ideas, experiences. Information, other services and resources. The groups may be viewed as a process or an institution for socio-economic transformation leading to empowerment of the rural poor. It is worth to note that access to financial services is a basic objective of SHGs, and may be a dominating one. However, they are basically credit plus groups; Credit plus implies that apart from credit facility, other activities related to economic business and social development are also undertaken with equal emphasis.

The main thrust of the Self Help Group's scheme is helping and promoting self-employment among the rural poor. The scheme also envisages skill training to take up different production activities. These activities enhance the economic and social self-reliance, Ramesh (2004)-t5 has advocated that improving conditions for independent and less stressful working lives NGOs can explore ways in which childcare provision can be improved. This can be local action and organising a childcare centre or lobbying to change government policy on childcare. Lack of childcare is one of the reasons women have to leave paid work and one of the main reasons why they take up home working but also one the reasons why working at home is difficult-one cannot do two jobs at once. NGOs that work with women workers have a pivotal role to play in threedistrict ways:

They can help women organise as workers: how they do this depends entirely on the women themselves, their present position, their level of awareness and their most pressing problems.

They can provide background support by providing legal or technical information and training.

They can help workers and their representative's plan a strategy for organising NGOs have shown themselves to be dynamic actors in defense of the rights of women workers. Where there is no trade union, or where the union will not or cannot defend its women members, NGOs mediate on behalf of workers with the employer and with state.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In view of exploratory research carried out by collecting information from the knowledgeable persons and review the existing literature, the following hypotheses have been developed:

H1: All NGOs in Sirsa are performing best. H2: All NGOs have sound financial position.

Initially, study used exploratory design to get the objectives clearly defined and to formulate the hypotheses. Afterwards, the research used descriptive design by forming a structured questionnaire and surveying the NGOs.

## CONCLUSION

The NGO sector has noble intentions of serving the society but healthy finances among other things are a critical component for the success of this sector. The present section is on conclusions, which are as under:

- 1) Most of the NGOs are working in Sirsa as mean value is 1.03 favours "1" and they are not interested to do the work for betterment or welfare as mean value is 1.5 favours "2" continuum.
- 2) Maximum NGOs are working in urban areas for uplifting the society ( $x=1.03$ ) whereas, they are working less in rural areas ( $x=1.1$ ).

- 3) Most of the NGOs not having any Self Help Groups (SHGs) as the mean value 1.73 favours the "2" continuum for "no" response. Statistically, it is found that there is a significant difference among the NGOs with regard to SHGs. Consequently, the first hypothesis may be accepted that there is significant difference among the NGOs for their SHGs.
- 4) The mean values for active male and female members are 12.67 and 3.2 respectively shows that the participation of active male members is more than female members.
- 5) In the case of passive members the mean values for male and female are 4.9 and 2.3 respectively also depict the dominance of male in NGOs.
- 6) As far as staff is concerned, the mean value for male staffs is also more than the mean value for female i.e. 23.63 as compare to female mean i.e. 5.47. Mostly NGOs are financed themselves in terms of donation as well as membership fee ( $x=1.03$ ) and  $x=1.1$ ) respectively.
- 7) The provision of finance on the part of Government is just negligible ( $x=1.53$ ).
- 8) Most of NGOs are much busy in the conduct of programmes and help to needy persons followed by donation.

### **SUGGESTION OF FUTURE WORK**

Always keep in mind, "Never work without reward and never expect reward without work". This should be the motive of everybody's life. Then your efforts will prove icing and the cake for the NGOs. Try to put life and soul in work and lay put all the best efforts for which the social work has been started. Never acclaim politicians for grinding own axe, or just for the name and fame of the NGOs, only then the NGOs can fetch success to attain its entity in the world and surely turn over a new leaf. Eagerness in work is essential and one should not be aggression even in crucial circumstances. 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 cannot 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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