

POPULATION EDUCATION & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Paper- IV, Sem-II

Unit- IV

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

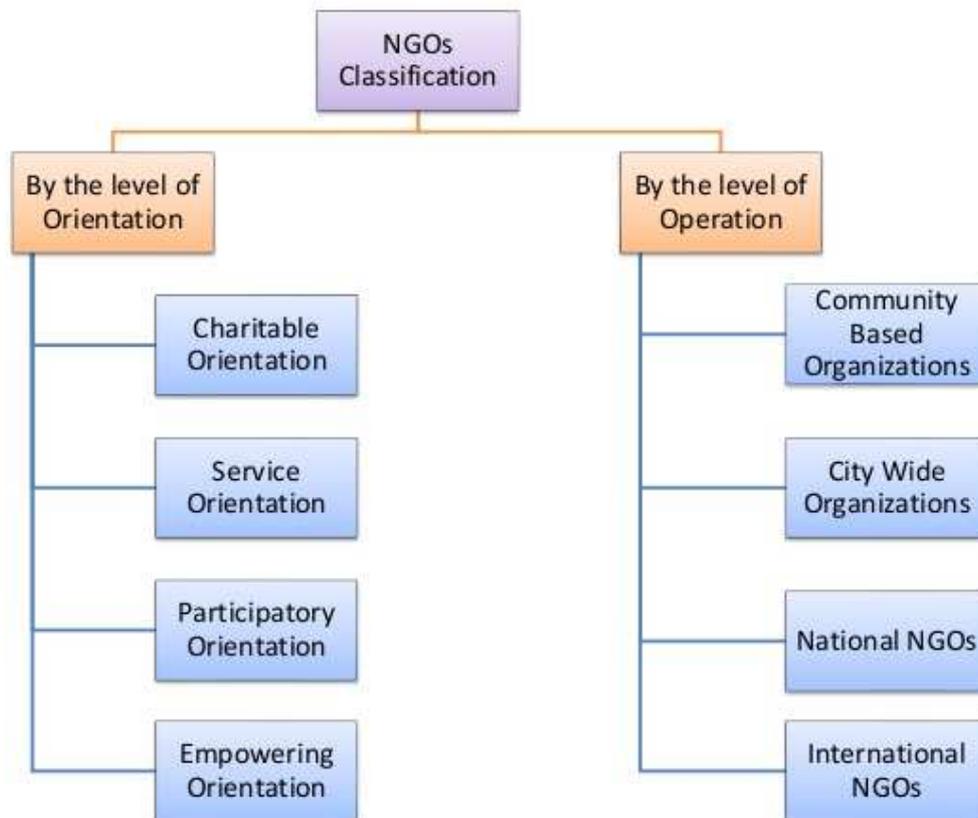
Dr. Sandhya Yadav
Assistant Professor
Department of Social Work
University of Lucknow, Lucknow
Email: sandhya9592@gmail.com

Non Governmental Organization: Meaning and Basic Principle

The term, "non-governmental organization" or NGO, came into use in 1945 because of the need for the UN to differentiate in its Charter between participation rights for intergovernmental specialized agencies and those for international private organizations. At the UN, virtually all types of private bodies can be recognized as NGOs. They only have to be independent from government control, not seeking to challenge governments either as a political party or by a narrow focus on human rights, non-profit-making and non-criminal. As of 2003, there were reportedly over 20,000 NGOs active in Iran. The majority of these organizations are charity organizations, and thus would not fall under the category of development-oriented NGOs. In this document the term NGO is primarily used for organizations other than charitable organizations.

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is a non-profit, citizen-based group that functions independently of government. NGOs, sometimes called civil societies, are organized on community, national and international levels to serve specific social or political purposes, and are cooperative, rather than commercial, in nature.

While the term "NGO" has various interpretations, it is generally accepted to include private organizations that operate without government control and that are non-profit and non-criminal. Other definitions further clarify NGOs as associations that are non-religious and non-military.



Two broad groups of NGOs are identified by the World Bank:

- **Operational NGOs**, which focus on development projects.
- **Operational NGOs**, which are organized to promote particular causes.

Funding:

As non-profits, NGOs rely on a variety of sources for funding, including:

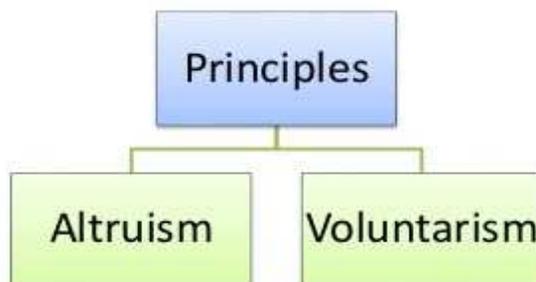
- membership dues
- private donations
- the sale of goods and services
- grants

Despite their independence from government, some NGOs rely significantly on government funding. Large NGOs may have budgets in the millions or billions of dollars.

Introduction to NGO

A **Non Governmental Organization (NGO)** is any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group which is legally constituted, organized and operated on a local, national or international level.

They are Task-oriented and driven by people with a common interest



Some are organized around specific issues:

- Human rights
- Environment
- Health
- Poverty eradication
- Rehabilitation
- Employment

Definition :

The World Bank defines NGOs as "Private organisations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or undertake community development." In wider usage, the term, „NGO“ can be applied to any non-profit organisation which is independent from government. NGOs are typically value based organisations which depend, in whole or in part, on donations and voluntary service.

The United Nations describes an NGO as: Any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group which is organized on a local, national or international level. Task-oriented and driven by people with a common interest, NGOs perform a variety of services and humanitarian functions, bring citizens' concerns to governments, monitor policies and encourage political

participation at the community level. They provide analysis and expertise, serve as early warning mechanisms and help monitor and implement international agreements.

In simple terms, NGOs can be defined as "self-governing, private, not-for-profit organizations that are geared to improving the quality of life for disadvantaged people" (Vakil, 1997).

Working Culture of NGOs:

- NGOs perform a very important role in helping the needy people.
- NGOs are of great help in case of natural disaster / calamity like earthquake,– tsunami or floods.
- NGOs act as a link between people and the government which act as a– communicator, facilitator or active force for solving the problem.
- NGOs have a significant role in improving the standard of living and reducing– the poverty. NGOs are also contributing in important research and education for– development of the country.
- NGOs supplements government efforts. Today"s youth is nation"s future hope.– NGOs play a vital role in education.
- NGOs try to reach the under privileged children and youth and make sure they get education.
- NGOs help to bring about sustainable development of the country since NGOs– are active in most of the fields that bring about the economic and social growth and concern for the environment.
- Many NGOs are actively bringing about social mobilization on issues like– empowerment of women, human rights, environment concern through campaigns, rallies or workshops. The corporate

sector along with the NGOs are bringing sustainable–development.

- NGOs play an important role in CSR activities. NGOs being more knowledgeable about social structure and social problems, expert advice or assistance of NGOs is very useful for corporate sector in executing their CSR activities.

Principles of NGOs:

There are seven principles of financial management for NGOs. They provide a high-level guide for trustees and senior managers, to help them make sure that their organisation is using funds effectively and that staff are working appropriately.



1. Management:

The organisation must take good care of the resources it is entrusted with and make sure that they are used for the purpose intended. The board of trustees has overall responsibility for this. In practice, managers achieve it through careful strategic planning, setting up appropriate controls, considering risks, and by setting up systems that work in tune with the two golden rules of NGO field work.

2. Accountability:

The organisation must explain how it has used its resources and what it has achieved as a result to all stakeholders, including beneficiaries. All stakeholders have the right to know how their funds and authority have been used. NGOs have an operational, moral and legal duty to explain their decisions and actions, and submit their financial reports to scrutiny.

3. Transparency:

The organisation must be open about its work, making information about its activities and plans available to relevant stakeholders. This includes preparing accurate, complete and timely financial reports and making them accessible to stakeholders, including beneficiaries. If an organisation is not transparent, then it may give the impression of having something to hide.

4. Integrity:

On a personal level, individuals in the organisation must operate with honesty and propriety. For example, managers and trustees should lead by example in following procedures and by declaring any personal interests that might conflict with their official duties. The integrity of

financial reports depends on the accuracy and completeness of financial records.

5. Viability:

Expenditure must be kept in balance with incoming funds, both at the operational and the strategic levels. Viability is a measure of the NGO's financial continuity and security. The trustees and managers should prepare a financing strategy to show how the NGO will meet all of its financial obligations and deliver its strategic plan.

6. Accounting Standards:

The system for keeping financial records and documentation must observe internationally accepted accounting standards and principles. Any accountant from anywhere around the world should be able to understand the organisation's system for keeping financial records.

7. Consistency:

The organisation's financial policies and systems must be consistent over time. This promotes efficient operations and transparency, especially in financial reporting. While systems may need to be adapted to changing needs, unnecessary changes should be avoided. Inconsistent approaches to financial management can be a sign that the financial situation is being manipulated.

Role of NGOs in Rural Development:

Role of NGOs in Rural India:

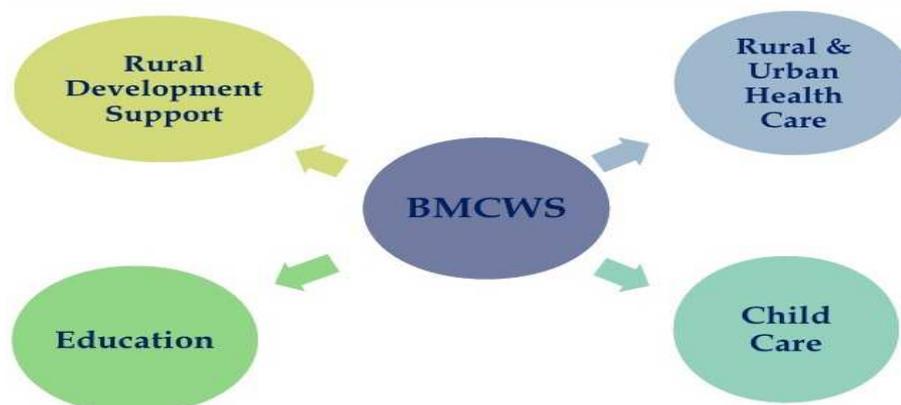
The roles that the NGOs perform today in India are numerous. They are advocates, educators, catalysts, monitors, whistle blowers, mediators, activists, mobilizers (of both men and resources), protectors of human rights, conscientizers, animators, and conciliators. Notable is the fact that these roles are never played in an affable climate in India. NGOs, mainly those that perform advocacy roles and critique government policies, have constraints in their working environments. Sometimes there are occasions in which the organizations are silenced by the mechanism of co-option. Allocation of grants in aid and respectable positions in government bodies with perks and privileges are being used to woo voluntary workers. Co-option can come not only from those in power but from other political actors as well, including the opposition, as happened in some Arab countries. For them, NGOs are instruments that can be used for political support and influence.

NGOs are playing a promising interlocutors role in all development activities in existing academic as well as development studies. In recent times, responding to Grass-roots level initiative and voluntary action became necessary to develop the rural areas. The increasing demands for the NGOs are itself a response to recent trends relating to socio-economic issues and their corresponding development interventions in academic and policy-oriented research.

"Doing is difficult than Saying". Yes, of course, saying depends greatly on the knowledge. But comparatively it requires lesser physical energy whereas doing requires extensive physical labour, approach and

determination apart from the strategic application of the knowledge and experience. Moreover, development administrators and change agents have to keep this fact in mind while working on any development project/programme that require deep thinking, sincere attempts and extensive involvement. Either organizations or individuals those who know this fact hardly try to make an attempt through short-cut methods for the development of their communities or the communities they work for. It is only this distinguished quality of them attracts one to focus their attention to such organizations and individuals involved in social uplift of deprived and underprivileged sections of the society.

There is an urgent need for accepting the changing role of NGOs in the implementation of child care, women development, anti-poverty and minimum needs programmes. While the role of NGOs has been accepted in supplementing governmental effort, still there is general confusion and lack of understanding on how best they involve themselves directly in the mainstream of development process. Now, this is a turn to recognize the changes that have taken place in the society that there are many other economically and social vulnerable groups like small and marginal farmers, agricultural labours, scheduled castes and tribes, bonded labours, rural artisans, rural women, etc., who also need to be brought in the mainstream of development process.



Role of NGOs in Rural Reconstruction:

India has a predominantly agricultural base and nearly 70 per cent of its population lives in rural areas. Practically after the introduction of new technology in every field of human life there is a visible change even in the thinking pattern and understanding, but, it is very clear that we need a corresponding change in the rural areas too. Such changes bring about a better standard of living and better overall economic, social and cultural environment, where a rural folk can grow up, get educated through formal and non-formal system and be good citizens of India is called Rural Reconstruction.

An attempt is made to explain the major role need to be played by the NGOs in rural reconstruction and they are indicated as follows:

- To supplement government efforts in implementing various programmes relating to rural reconstruction and development projects,
- NGOs are expected to mobilize their local resources initiative and promote self employment activities in rural areas
- To organizing and mobilizing rural people for social action to create awareness among them,
- They should build self-reliant for sustainable society by acting as mediator between people and government,
- To help the specific target example women, children, SCs and STs, landless agricultural labours and downtrodden people.
- Act as a supporter and partner of government programmes in activating delivery system and in implementing rural development programmes etc.

- To promote appropriate technologies and conducting demonstrations, where and when there is a need.
- To generate self-confidence, self-help and to enhance decision-making capacity among the rural communities.
- Activating social legislations Acts like Dowry, Minimum Wages, Abolition of Child and Bonded Labours, and Abolition of Female Infanticide and AIDS
- Factor of transformation, concretization and improvement of the living standards and welfare of the poor.
- They should act as facilitator of development, education, training, professionalization, etc.
- Dissemination of needed information especially information pertaining to modern agricultural technology as well as appropriate technology for promoting eco-friendly industrial activity.
- To promote rural health, sanitation, population control family planning activities.



The NGOs role is that actual function played by an individual or organization in the relevant unit of society. NGOs are expected to play a crucial role in all conceivable aspects of rural reconstruction and development. Since India is a country of diverse cultures with different languages, religions, castes, customs, traditions and mores across different strata of different societies of various states, considerable achievement is not possible if the basics of development in terms of the socio-cultural aspects are ignored in the real development of people of a nation.