

ROLE OF NGOs IN DEVELOPMENT

The Performance of any organization Working in the field of socio-economic development of the masses, assessed in terms of qualitative change it brings in their leaves .Similarly, the nongovernmental organization are expected to play a significant role in the socio- economic transformation. Although they are not to replace the governmental efforts, yet their supplementary efforts are universally acclaimed. They resort to four clear-cut strategies in the accomplishment of the following specified objectives¹:

- (I) Supplementing welfarism of the state (simple charity).
- (II) Encouraging people's participation and in implementing programmes launched by the government for larger benefit of the community or village.
- (III) Involving people in programme planning, raising resources, implementing activities and sharing fruits of development.
- (IV) Conscience instilling and organising people enabling them to demand and undertake planning and implementation of development programmes beneficial to them.

From these strategies, it is very much clear that the NGOs have some what different type of functioning. In pohri block of shivpuri district there are more than 50 NGOs are working. In these NGOs some importort NGOs like Saharia kranti, Ekta parishad, Sambhav social services, Nandi foundation very much influencing the people by their activities and presence.

Concept of NGOs

Cumpur (1986) describes NGOs as organizations not mainly financed by the government, it stresses on the sense of distance from the state².

Duggel (1988) defines NGOs as are registered as public trusts or societies, programmes adopted by NGOs are welfare programmes and many a time it is government funded rural development programmes, NGOs as a rule do not generate their own funds completely but rely on external financial assistance from government agencies, both national and international NGOs are private organization, but their nature makes them some what different from what one gradually refers to the private sector- thus they are not supposed to make any profit³.

Dr. Rajasekhar examines the term the NGOs that undertakes voluntary action, social action and social movements four characteristics make the NGOs as distinct organizations⁴. These are:

- ❖ voluntary formation,
- ❖ working towards development and amelioration of suffering,
- ❖ working non-self serving aims,
- ❖ Relative independence.

As working definition, in the present study, We can assume “NGOs is voluntarily formed and registered organization working towards development and amelioration of suffering with non- self serving aims and free from the state control in managing day to day offers”, NGOs work within the parameters of government legislatives and policies formulated for them.

We can classify NGOs as per strategies of development, there are four types of NGOs i.e. Relief and welfare organization, community, Development organization, Sustainable systems development organization and people's organization.

The role of non government organizations is considered to be significant in the fields of sub-economic welfare of Saharia Tribe, The NGOs Sector as an agent of socio- economic transformation. Notably this sector has also influenced the theory and practices of public administration during the last quarter of the current century⁵.

In India, the seventh five year plan (1985-1990), for the first time, NGOs were given the freedom to plan their own schemes and follow the methodology they thought best to tackle poverty of schedule tribes in villages they were working. During that period, the Council for the Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART), was created to seek an integrated approach to rural development through NGOs⁶. CAPART was promoted as an autonomous organization under the union ministry of Rural development. People and NGOs, who were engaged in rural development related activities were members of governing body and general body of CAPART.

Roots of voluntary movement in India

In India NGOs have played a significant role in the field of tribal development and nation building the first traces of NGO movement for the tribal development can be traced as early as 1871, the bhil seva mandal came up in gujrat. A.V. Thakkar was the man behind the voluntary agencies

working for tribal welfare, there were more than 20 NGOs working in different parts of the country for the cause, under his leadership⁷.

The need for involving the NGOs in tribal development was highlighted by Balwantray Mehta committee (1957). Apart from the Five year plans many government committees pertinent to development recognition the necessity of NGOs. The Rural-Urban Relationship committee (1966) focused on the role of NGOs in mobilizing community support for local level development activities⁸. It identified NGOs as a like organization to keep constant and close contact with the people. The CAARD Report (1985), [Report of the committee of Review the Existing Administrative Arrangements for Rural development and poverty Alleviation programmes] had emphasized the need of for the involvement of NGOs in rural development activities⁸.

The Dhebar commission in its report on the scheduled areas and scheduled Tribes opined that the principle of active and purposeful participation of people at all levels could best be served by assigning an important role to nonofficial organization. The Sivaram committee set up by the government of India also recommended involvement of NGOs in planning and implementation of the integrated tribal development programmes. Therefore, there exists a wide spread agreement among all the concerned that NGOs have an important role to play in the overall development of rural areas.

Though the role of the state in tribal development can never be undermined, NGOs are necessary to supplement government effort. A unique feature of NGOs is that they are capable of stimulating and

mobilizing voluntary action from among the target communities through personal touch and thereby progressively involve the said community in developmental activities⁹. NGOs are particularly useful where problems arise due to inflexibility of administrative apparatus, to fight against policies and actions that encourage exploitation and oppression of tribals and to provide help to social and tribal groups.

Therefore, The NGOs help supplement the efforts of the government in ensuring that the benefits of the various development programmes and policies reach the maximum number of tribal people. During the past two decades, there has been an exponential growth in the number of NGOs operating in India many of these are funded completely or partially by the ministry of tribal department to enable them to undertake projects beneficial for tribal welfare¹⁰. There are several NGOs has identified which have exhibited an pan India character and some are regional besides promoting selfless services to saharia tribals. A few of them and the activities undertaken by them are given below:

Ekta parishad

Ekta parishad is an activist movement founded in 1991 by Rajagopal P.V. a gandhian worker. This organization is a federation of nearly 11,000 community based organizations and has thousand individual members it is currently operating in 11 states including Madhya Pradesh. The two main activities are undertaking by this organization:

- 1 Dialoguing with the government at the state and national level.
- 2 Mobilizing the tribals for struggle at the grassroots level, the grassroots struggle is centred on the struggle for land rights.

Ekta parishad thus pressures the top and the bottom of the Indian political and administrative system, which is blocked due to corruption. This NGO helps the tribals by empowering them in order to defend their rights and provides a platform for tribals to share their experiences and ideas with the confidence that their voices will be heard.

Janadesh, 350 kilometer non-violent foot march between Gwalior to Delhi. Following this the Indian government promulgated the forest rights act in 2008. In 2012, this parishad organised a new march, 'Jan Satyagraha', with 10,000 people for fast implementation of forest rights act. In the year 2014 it organised Padyatra in the tribal belt of Madhya Pradesh from November 20 to December 10 to highlight the various problems faced by the tribal population because of inadequate implementation of the different legislations and policies adopted by the government for their welfare¹¹.

Now Ekta parishad taking a lead role in bringing different movements together for collective action given its knowledge and experience in leading people's movement through following campaign strategies:-

1. Promoting self reliance,
2. Reclaiming Land,
3. Promoting local leadership,

Bhartiya Adim jati sevak sangh

This NGO was founded by Amritlal Vithaldas Thakkar, Popularly known as Thakkar Bapa on October 1948. Its main objective is to work for the tribal communities and others weaker sections of society by promoting their Social, educational and economic development and projects their legal

rights. This NGO has opened several centres in tribal areas of pohri block that operate various educational and socio- economic projects. It has been pioneer in organizing several seminars, workshops and training programmes for saharia tribe, created a network of government, public institutions and individuals for solving tribal issues besides publishing books on saharia tribe with a view to preserving their culture¹².

In particular, This NGO has been working in several schemes for the welfare of the Saharia children, youths and women in distress in collaboration with the government departments. It has started short stay homes as a source of help to reestablish the status of tribal women and girls in society and enable them to be financially independent.

Other achievements of the sangh include:

1. Launch of tribal women cell in order to seek action participation of women in development activities.
2. Establishment of several homes for destitute tribal youth across various parts of Madhya Pradesh.
3. Weaving and art training centres for saharia tribe region.
4. Launch of tribal youth wing to encourage active participation of tribal youth in development activities in tribal areas.
5. An employment cell especially caring to unemployed tribal people.
6. A national tribal museum which exhibits tribal art and articles there by preserving tribal culture.

Sambhav Social Service Organisation

Sambhav is a voluntary organization engaged on the issues of tribal woman empowerment, health sanitation education and violence against women. It is engaging with tribal development processes and improvement in the quality of life of vulnerable sections of society like tribal women and children through direct program intervention and policy level advocacy. It has been actively involved in the organizing Saharia tribal communities to assert their rights of equality, Health, food and secured livelihood and respectful place in the society

With its inception in 1988 sambhav is completed two decade of working with the marginalized and deprived classes. Sambhav is completed two decade of working with the marginalized and deprived classes of the society. It works at present in Eight districts of M.P. with 1500 villages of Gwalior, Shivpuri, Bhind, Sheopur and Guna districts, primarily among saharia Advasis, Over the years Sambhav has been able to mobilize women and marginalized communities to get together and come up as a tribal pressure group at the village level like Shabari mahila mukti morcha, Mahila kranti manch, Saharia Jan andolan and Adivasi sangram parishad have Significantly contributed in amplifying the voice to demand for services and rights of marginalised communities¹³.

It identifies community mobilization raising income, education, primary healthcare, conservation of natural resources and advocacy for civil and legal rights as essential program areas to fight poverty in the project areas. Other strategic objectives are:

1. Establishing and running schools health care centers for better women and child development.
2. Organizing activities like training on micro-enterprise and integrated development for socio-economic upliftment of women.
3. Receiving financial support and consultation from like minded organization, individual and Specialists. Organizing programmes against drug abuse and promotion of drug addiction.
4. Providing services like housing food and health for the dependent women and old aged.

Naandi foundation

This NGO was founded on November 1998 as a public charitable trust. It was expected to serve as a new experiment in the socio-economic development of Saharia tribble. It showcasing Large scale successful delivery of public service like elementary education specially for girl child, safe drinking water and sanitation, large scale cooperative irrigated farming in dry land areas, Skill development and employment for tribal youth early childhood development including tackling of malnutrition among children or any other socio-economic issue that is looking for an efficient solution¹⁴.

Naandi has expanded its footprint year on year across 16 states including Madhya Pradesh currently its demonstrating the value of creating new social entrepreneurs by setting up social businesses to Saharia community needs than traditional grant-funded activities.

Funding of voluntary organizations

The NGOs supplement the role of the government when it comes to executing various development schemes across the state for tribal welfare. There are essentially three ways in which the non- governmental organizations get access to funds for their purpose:

1. Self supporting,
2. Support from the government,
3. Donations and charity from networking.

Though it can be difficult to achieve self dependence initially, those NGOs that can support themselves financially find it easy to gather community support for their development work. The department of tribal affairs is the key governmental agency that provides funding to the NGOs besides giving them projects to implement in their area of operation¹⁵. NGOs should make all possible efforts to involve the community in their work. Community participation helps in building confidence among the people and in providing feedback for further improvement and reorientation of the programmes, besides expending their resource base.

Scheme in the voluntary sector

There are some ongoing schemes with the ministry, which are open to participation of the voluntary and nongovernmental organizations.

1. Grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations working for welfare for of scheduled tribes. The main objective of this scheme is to achieve overall improvement and development of the tribals in the areas

of education, health and sanitation, environment, drinking water and legal services as well as the need-bases areas.

2. Educational complex in low literacy pockets for the development of women's literacy in tribal areas (ECLP) this scheme was introduced in 1993-94 on 136 districts spread Over 14 states with less than 10 percent literacy rate among tribal women¹⁶.

The primary objective of the scheme is the promotion of education among tribal girls in the targeted of the country. The secondary objective is to improve the socio economic states of the economically backwards and the illiterate tribal masses. The scheme requires the setting up of educational complexes in scheduled areas not only formal education but also train student in agriculture.

3. Vocational training centers (VTC)

The need for this scheme was felt seeing that the tribal youth in absence of employment opportunities tend to take up anti-social and disruptive activities with the view of utilizing their energies towards more productive avenues. Vocational training centres were planned in order to open the prospect of meaningful employment for tribal youth.

Under the scheme 100 percent central help was proposed to be given to states NGOs for setting up and running of vocational training centres¹⁷.

4. Scheme for primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)

These are three tribal communities in Madhya Pradesh that are having low level of literacy, stagnant population, pre-agriculture level of technology and economically backward. These tribal communities have been indentified

and categorized as the primitive tribal groups (PTGs). These groups are said to be in urgent need of help from government and non-government agencies on a priority basis. Funds under the certain scheme are allocated on need basis in activities crucial for their very survival, protection against exploitation, growth and development. The activities under the scheme may include measures such as awareness generation and confidence-building, training for skill development of tribal youth. The scheme will be implemented through integrated tribal development projects (ITDP) tribal research institutes and requisite non government organizations¹⁸.

However, the problems and issues that confront tribals today are too large and complex to be solved government alone NGOs have tremendous strength. They are capable to taking positive action for betterment of society by using its resources, care competence, skills, location and funds for the benefit of people and environment.

Hence, it is clear that the role of the voluntary sector is significant in the development of the tribal regions. However, care has to be taken by the government that these NGOs that operate on public funds for providing tribal development make the best use of it in a selfless manner.

Here, an attempt have been made to evaluate the impact of the selected schemes implemented by the NGOs, this study was carried out to examine the role of NGOs in socio-economic welfare of Saharia tribe in pohri block of shivpuri district to cover various aspects of NGOs. The present study was conducted in villages, Agrra, Daurani, Madkheda, Ghatai, Nonheta, Parasari, Dobha, Aiswaya, Mahaloni and Upsil of pohri block.

the main objectives of the study are to discuss the process of planning, programming, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of social welfare schemes of the NGOs in pohri block of shivpuri district, To study personal weaknesses of NGOs, To study coordination links with other agencies to know and understand the extent of political and bureaucratic interference in their working, To assess role and performance of voluntary organization in social welfare , To know the views of beneficiaries as out the real working of NGOs for contributing to their socio-economic status ,To evaluate the accountability of NGOs on the beneficiaries and to make suggestions to improve the organization, working and efficiency of the nongovernmental organizations.

On the basis of information provided by the office - holders of the selected NGOs and face-to-face discussions with beneficiaries of Saharia tribe community as well as a careful examination of the concerned NGOs annual report. These served beneficiaries got benefits under multiple services, generation awareness, counselling, dedication and detoxification, financial and material assistance, formal education and training, Health services and providing opportunities for career advancement etc. These selected beneficiaries hail from above panchayats of pohri block. They were both males and females.

Socio- Economic Background of Selected Beneficiaries:

Each society has been divided into structures, functions, and processes. This stratified differentiation has always been prominently placed in all the studies in social science. We had preconceived notion that beneficiaries, who got benefit from the selected NGOs might have been

from lower level or between middle and lower level strata of the Saharia tribe society. Therefore it is necessary to have an idea of social characteristics of the respondents, who directly or indirectly served by the selected NGOs. We have obtained information from the sample respondents pertaining to their age, sex, educational status and primary occupation. These have been discussed below:

Age

The age-wise distribution of selected respondents has been presented in

Table 5.1

Distribution of selected Respondents According to their Age

Sr. No.	Age [in years]	No.of Respondents	Percentage
1	Upto 25	162	51.59
2	25-35	73	23.25
3	35-45	29	9.24
4	Above 45	50	15.92
	Total	314	100.00%

The data in the table shows that as many as 162 (51.59%) of the selected respondents were upto 25 years of their age this includes school going student and college students and other vulnerable groups. The age group of 26-35 years covers 73(23.25%) while 29 (9.24%) respondents fall in the age group of 36-45 years these groups represent youths, addicts, destitutes and other downtroddens. The NGO, also have been extending facilities to the aged through institutional and non- institutional service. The

number of the respondents which we put into the category of above 45 years was found 50(15.29%) most of them were exceeding 60 years. An analysis of the data depicts that as many as 235 (74.84%) out of 314 total selected respondents were in their prime youth as they were upto 35 years. Thus the youth in majority were taking more benefits.

Sex

Table 5.2 gives information relating to sex-wise distributions of the selected respondents.

Table 5.2

Distribution of the selected respondents according to their sex

Sr.No.	Sex	No of the respondents	Percentage
1	Male	165	52.55
2	Female	149	47.45
	Total	314	100.00

It is evident from the table that male respondents outnumbered the female beneficiaries. Their representation in the terms of sex was as follows female 149(47.45%) males 165 (52.55%). Though there is a little difference in Sex ratio yet a Conclusion that follows table is that both sexes were given due representation. However, the reason for a Coverage of higher number of women has been that the government has diverted more funds for the development of females through NGOs.

Impact of the Selected Schemes and Perception of Respondents

The immense impact of the services rendered by the concerned NGOs to the respective respondents can be observed easily. Their wide range of activities had left unfathomable bearing on the respondents, this impact cannot be measured in economic indicators but also as non-economic indicators exclusively. Social welfare as a profession, practice and service as multidimensional aspects which cover material, non-material, economic and non economic benefits. Hence, to know the impact of the services we have obtained information from the selected respondents implying economic and non-economic changes in their lives

Satisfaction with Services

Table 5.3

Sr. No.	Respondents	Satisfied	Unsatisfied
1	314	57(18.2%)	257(81.8%)

If the respondents are found satisfied with the Services given by the voluntary (NGOs), this will show positive impact. To Know the views of selected respondents, we put the question i.e. "Are you satisfied with the services, assistance given by NGO's" An Overwhelming majority (81.8%) of the respondents responded in negative and rest (19.02%) of them responded in positive. Thus, we find that the respondents by large, unsatisfied with the services assistance given by the selected non government organizations.

Perception of the respondents about infrastructural Facilities

Table 5.4

Sr.	Respondents	Satisfied	Unsatisfied
1	314	47(15%)	267(85%)

It was expected that the NGO's would play an effective role in the field of socio-economic welfare. This requires that they should have sufficient infrastructure having this expectation in mind, we put a question "Do you agree that the NGOs has sufficient volunteers and building, equipment, to meet schemes requirements?" In response to this questions, the majority of respondents (85%) responded in against, where as remaining (15%) reported that NGOs have sufficient infrastructure. Those who responded in negative mentioned inadequacy of staff, untrained volunteers, Indifferent attitude, lack of other facilities and malpractices as main weaknesses

Impact on different Aspect of life

Table 5.5

Sr. No.	Respondents	Generate Awareness	Raise Living standard	Can't Say
1	314	142(44.91%)	105(33.44%)	67(21.65%)

Money being an indirect measuring rod has been considered as an imperfect yardstick, because it fails to give a complete or true picture of the relatives, especially in our society, where there is large scale unemployment and inequalities of income and poverty. The beneficiaries were asked "What had been a strong impact on aspects of your life by the NGO's?" As many

(44.91%) respondents said, that the assistance through NGO's generated awareness about social problems, grave NGO's attitudes, helped in relising political and administrative realties and raised the educational awareness it was followed by (33.44%) respondents who experienced that their income raised, living standard improved, socio economic status generated. awareness about social problems generated. Rest of the respondents did not say anything.

From the analysis pertaining to the nature of impact, we can infer that the services and assistance arranged by the NGO's not only help in some extent improving their socio economic condition but also have little on certain other aspects like raising of confidence, raised awareness level , generated awareness about their land rights and social and legal legislations.

Practicability and usefulness of NGO's

Table 5.6

Sr. No.	Respondents	Valuable	Average	Poor
1	314	144(46%)	75(24%)	95(30%)

The responses of respondents about practicability and usefulness, the response of 46.5% respondents perceived as commendable and valuable while others considering it as enough to meet requirement it is obvious from the data that on the whole, the practicability and usefulness of NGOs in the opinion of selected respondents have been valuable and enough to meet the requirements.

Perception about supplementary role

Table 5.7

Sr. No.	Respondents	Negative	Positive
1	314	198(62.8%)	116(37.2)

We have asked the question to selected respondents as to “whether they think that nowadays NGOs have been supplementing administrative efforts?” In response to this question, as many 62.8% respondents responded in negative, while the remaining 37.2% viewed their role as supplementing administrative efforts. Those responded in positive were asked again, "What areas do you think can be entrusted to NGO's? Almost all of them mentioned such areas in education awareness, women & child development, evaluation of government programmes & raising awareness against forward caste exploitation and raising knowledge about government legislation and Rules.

Perception about spirit of voluntarism

Table 5.8

Sr.	Respondents	Positive	Negative
1	314	106(33.76%)	208(66.24%)

To know the views of the selected respondents, we put a question before them. “It appears that spirit of voluntarism has been diminishing over the years and asked them to give their opinion”, as many as 33.76% respondents said that the spirit of voluntarism had remained stable and constant with slight change. While 57.24% Respondents were of the view that the spirit of voluntarism had been fading away the remaining could not

express their opinion though, those who reported it as fading away cannot be ignored, to cross examine the views expressed by the Respondents, we have also obtained the views of the selected volunteers.

A volunteer who has been working in field for last 30 years said that "the voluntarism has been declining due to three factors":

- (i) The society has recognized the material success and achievement which was not so much in earlier days.
- (ii) Avenues of flow of money made man greedy.
- (iii) There is inverse proportional relation between money and humanity.

Some other NGOs like Saharia kranti said that changing value system, treating NGO sector as a secondary profession, politicization, social milieu and diminutive image of voluntary efforts and erosion of old virtues among workers have contributed to large extent for this sorry state of affairs.

we have examined all factors of NGOs affairs and reached the conclusion that some variables which differ from person to person and village to village include traits of character and personality, extent of self esteem, area and Size of village, family surroundings and changing social and cultural values. This analysis supports the views of the respondents that the spirit of voluntarism is fading away to large extent. Thus the NGOs should pay attention to save the situation from further deterioration.

A close examination of the inferences drawn from the analysis clearly shows that among many NGOs those are working in pohri block only few have remained successful in bringing Socio-economic improvements in the lives of saharia Tribe.

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