

Emergence of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs): Global Context

In the global context, NGOs were emerged in 1904 due to the failure of the public sector in providing development and welfare services to the people. NGOs are the intermediary organizations working on voluntary basis without any profit (Robinson and White, 1997). They provide well-being services to the poor people parallel to the state service providers (Sahn and Stifel, 2003). The general emphasis of such organizations is on delivering services to the communities at grass root level. Majority of the NGOs adopted participatory development approach for poverty reduction and to achieve the objectives of development. During the procedure of rural development, social mobilization of community at grassroots level is very much essential (Khan and Khan 2004). Such organizations seek funding from different donor agencies in order to carry out rural development activities (Issa, 2004). In addition to that NGOS are the effective alternatives against the development efforts done the state (public sector) mainly in provision of well-being services to the people. Turner and Hulme (1997) reported some features which differentiate NGOs from other public sector departments in pursuing the development objectives.

These features are:

- Flexibility
- Responsiveness
- Capacity to learn from people's experiences
- Networking of processes and outcomes
- Ability to influence community participation

The similar concept was also pointed out by Kantanka (2013). He concluded that in most of the deprived and underdeveloped countries, NGOs become very much prominent in delivering

social services to the people within their social and cultural perspectives. Further he argued that NGOs are the facilitating authorities of public sector in implementing development policies. While categorizing the NGOs on the basis of their interventions related to rural development, Farrington and Bebbington (1993) concluded that there are two major approaches of NGOs interventions regarding agricultural and rural development. First one is production orientation which focuses on transferring of technology within the local context. The 2nd one is agro-ecological approach which supports the application of low input technologies keeping in view the local conditions and constraints faced by the community members.

2.3. Types of NGOs in Pakistan

A diverse variety of NGOs are working in Pakistan. NGOs can be differentiated on the basis of their size, working strategy, major field of work/function or scope of NGOs. Rahman (2005) described following three major types of NGOs as listed below:

1. Community based
2. Intermediary
3. Support

He divided NGOs on the basis of their functions and scope. He further described the level of above mentioned categories of NGOs in the form of pyramid as shown in the figure 1:

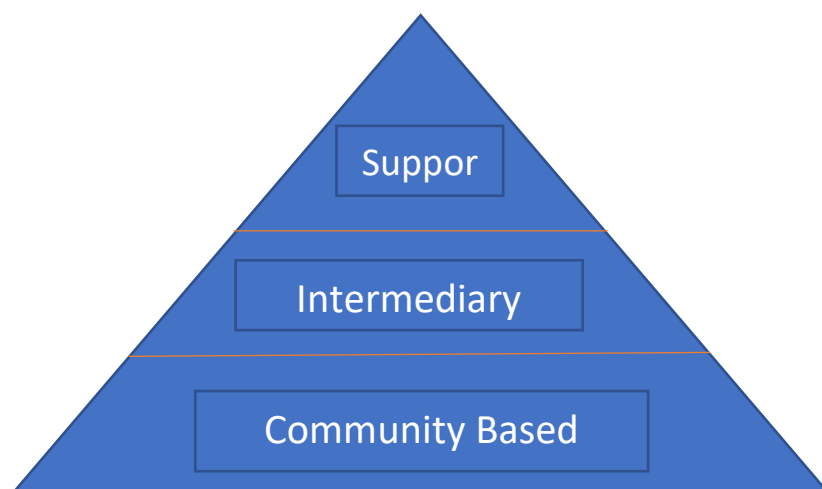


Figure 1.1: Pyramid on the basis of NGO typology (Source: Rahman, 2005)

1. Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

Community Based Organizations include local community groups, village level committees, religious groups, associations regarding trade or self-help groups etc. These groups or organizations concentrate on welfare work for community. They work on grassroots level. Such organizations are regarded as the 1st generation of NGOs. The activists or voluntary members of such organizations are said to be front line workers in the development discourse. The involvement of such Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in community development work were also explained by Luqman et al., (2013) while describing the typology of CSOs in rural development activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan.

2. Intermediary Organizations

Intermediary Civil Society Organizations are also known as midlevel organizations working on delivery of development services like education, health, family planning, sanitation, environment etc. In most of the cases such organizations are involved in philanthropic activities at local or national level. These organizations are also provide as support basis for CBOs or Grass Roots Organizations (GROs) in terms of financial or technical support. Mostly these organizations depend on external donor agencies for carrying out development activities at community level. Such organizations develop linkages with CBOs or GROs on one side and on the other side they

also developed strong linkages with donors or funding agencies. Moreover, these organizations have well organized structure of paid employees. However, they also get help from volunteers for working (Rahman, 2005).

3. Support Organizations

Support organizations are providing support to both the above mentioned types of NGOs; community based organizations and intermediary organizations. These organizations are commonly involved in capacity building and advocacy related activities. They are not involved in service delivery to the community. Such organizations work through their partner organizations so that the efficiency and effectiveness of their working can be enhanced. They also involved in providing financial support to the local level organizations (Rahman, 2005).

2.4. Role of NGOs in Rural Development in Pakistan

The number of NGOs during the last two decades has increased to more than ten thousands in Pakistan. Out of these majority of the NGOs are working on development issues especially where poverty, socio-economic inequality and food insecurity is very common. Rural Support Programmes (RSPs) are among the most successful examples of such NGOs working on the community participation model after the prominent results of AKRSP in Northern Areas of Pakistan. The basic working strategy of these NGOs is to facilitate the development work at grassroots level through encouraging participation of local community and grouped them into village based organizations (Bennett, 1998). **The detailed description about role and involvement of NGOs in rural development work in Pakistan has discussed in chapter 2 of thesis (Review of Literature).**

2.4.1. National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) at glance

National rural Support Programme (NRSP) was established in 1991 and is one of the largest development organization working at National level. NRSP is one of the major components of Rural Support Programme Network (RSPN). According to annual report of NRSP (2014) other members of RSPN are listed below:

1. Agha Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP)
2. Serhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP)
3. Ghazi Barotha Taraqiati Idara (GBTI)
4. Thardeep Rural Development Programme (TRDP)
5. Punjab Rural Support Programme (PRSP)
6. Baluchistan Rural Support Programme (BRSP)
7. Sindh Graduate Association (SGA)
8. Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO)
9. Institute for Rural Management (IRM)
10. Azad Jammu & Kashmir Rural Support Programme (AJKRSP)
11. Foundation for Integrated Development (FID)

NRSP is working in all the four provinces of the country including Azad Jamu and Kashmir. It has become one of the largest RSP in the country among the other above mentioned RSPs with regard to outreach and development activities in all over the country. It is registered as non-profit organization having mandate to alleviate poverty and socio-economic inequalities using participatory development paradigm. The head office of NRSP is located in Islamabad. Currently NRSP is working with more than 2.4 Million poor and marginalized people and striving hard to reduce social and economic inequalities (NRSP, 2014). Multiple tasks are being performed by NRSP at national level. The mandate of NRSP is to alleviate poverty through binding potential of

communities and start developmental activities in the least developed areas of Pakistan. Currently NRSP is working in following major areas concerning rural development:

- Agriculture
- Education/Capacity building
- Health
- Advocacy
- Micro-credit/Micro-finance
- Social Mobilization
- Human Resource Development
- Gender and Development
- Enterprise Development
- Physical Infrastructure and Technology Development
- Environment and Natural Resource Management
- Poverty Alleviation