

# **88<sup>th</sup> Foundation Course**

## **Role of NGOs**

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# Origin, characters and spread

- 1945 UN invited certain agencies/organizations in consultative role to its committees. It defined NGO as “legally constituted corporation independent of any government”
- USAID defines NGO as “ private voluntary organization”
- Generally not-for-profit (Section 80G of IT Act)
- Social aims and political aspects (not politics)
- 3.3 Million NGOs in India (one for every 400)

# World Bank- Types of NGOs

- **Operational**- aim at small change through direct action through field level projects
- **Advocacy**- aim at large change by influencing political system/policy environment
- Classification based on Orientation and Level
  - Orientation- Human Rights, Environment, Development
  - Level- Local, Regional, National, International
- Charitable (paternalistic), Service (health/education), Participatory (self-help), Empowerment (rights)

## Some more types

- GONGO- Government Operated NGO
- INGO- International NGO
- CSO- Civil Society Organization

# GO-NGO Interface

- Initial stages- antagonism
  - GO not willing to hear a critique on their weaknesses
  - NGO not willing to understand field problems/utopian
- From 70s
  - Mutual appreciation
- From 80s
  - Collaborative work
  - Government funding to NGO (MORD, CAPART, DONORS)
  - GO learning from NGO pilot successes
  - Growing Mutual respect

# Initiatives in AP

- Major involvement in government programmes
  - Watersheds, SHG, VSS,(MYRADA/WOTR/BAIF)
- Mechanisms for decentralized spread
  - Grooming of new NGOs by bigger ones (RDT)
- Self-monitoring systems
  - District/state level networks (VANA 1991)
- State level coordination
  - GO-NGO committee headed by Hon'ble CM (2004)

# Significant Contributions

NGO	Area of Contribution
MYRADA	Watersheds and SHGs
BAIF	Livestock based livelihoods
WOTR	Watersheds
IBRAD	JFM
MVF	Primary Education and elimination of child labour
NAANDI	Health
RDT	Rural Development
SEWA	Women Empowerment

# Significant Contributions-Advocacy

NGO	Area of Contribution
NBA	Rights of Project affected families
NCPRI/MKSS	Right to Information
IAC	Fight against Corruption and Lokpal Bill
SOUL	Campaign for protection of urban water bodies



# International scenario

Agency	Area of Work
Greenpeace	Environment
Amnesty International	Rights of imprisoned
Medicins sans frontiers	Medical aid
Oxfam	Relief and Rehabilitation
World Social Forum	Alternate to WEF

## National Policy on Voluntary Sector 2007

5.1 The voluntary sector can play an important role in the development process, particularly through **community participation**. VOs can offer alternative perspectives; committed expertise; an understanding of the local opportunities and constraints; and perhaps most importantly, **the capacity to conduct a meaningful dialogue with communities**, particularly those that are disadvantaged.

## Summary of areas of contribution of NGOs

- Innovations for problem solving
- Experimentation of various alternatives
- Demonstration of ideas on field
- Community Mobilization
- Advocacy and empowerment
- Watch-dog on activities of government
- Policy Influence

# Issues

- Significant number of NGOs run by Family members as directors
- Tendency to over depend on government funds
- Level of Engagement with community questionable
- Professionalism questionable in some cases- no professionals
- Disease of Swapping agencies to become eligible for funding
- Self-regulation by NGOs still in initial state
- Many states do not have clear policy to engage NGOs
- Political background to NGOs raising question of objectivity
- Strategies for up-scaling success stories are yet to be regular

# THANK YOU

