

9.03.21

Recommendations of 2nd ARC

- The role of Govt. in the growth & development of SHG movement should be that of a facilitator & promoter. (not provider).
- Since a large no. of rural households in the North-East & Central eastern part of India do not have adequate access to formal sources of credit, the presence of NABARD should be much more pronounced in these places.
(C. Rangarajan had said that there is inadequate reach of the institutions & weak community network)
- Commercial Banks & NABARD in collaboration with State Govt. need to continuously innovate & design new financial products for these groups.

- Special step should be taken for training / capacity building of govt. functionaries so that they develop a positive attitude & treat the poor & marginalised as viable & responsible customers & ^{as} possible entrepreneurs.
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Q. SHG has proved to be one of the most effective poverty alleviation & women empowerment programme. Elaborate.

Q. The penetration of SHG in rural areas in promoting participation in development programme is facing socio-cultural hurdles. Examine.

Civil Society

Examples -

1. Registered Societies formed for specific purposes
2. Trusts & Charitable organisation
3. Self Help Group
4. Professional Self Regulatory Bodies
5. Cooperatives

Barey
forest

Terminologies

Advocate → Baliapal movement
(National test firing range, 1986)

Representative →

Agitator → Barey forest Issue

Educator → Dr. Sonam Wangchuk

In 1994, operation New Hope
Movement began in Leh.

The pass percentage of class Xth rose
from 5 to 55% in 7 years & now

it is more than 75%

- Mobiliser → RTI →
FRA →
RTE →
NREGA →

Each of these acts has been preceded by years of local movement & intense negotiations with the Govt.

(Civil Society promotes participation of people in election. Work for protection of civil rights. They expose corruption & malpractices)

- Service Provider — [SPARC] → Working with Slum dwellers.

- Capacity builders : Lok Bhiradari Prakash
↓
{ Dr. Prakash Dmte } working with Gond &
Dr. Mandakini Dmte } Madia types tribes

- Social Monitor → Oxfam
ASER Survey by Pratham.

Indiaspend

Experts → Todogyan

for practical learning in schools
for an education which is meaningful.
Supplements govt. efforts / fills gaps.

Eklavya → teach the poor children.

In playing these roles, civil society actors need to ensure they retain their core mission, integrity & high level of trust. The world will always need independent organisation & individuals to act as a watchdog, ethical guardian & advocates of the marginalised or under represented. Civil society in all its forms has an important role in holding all stakeholders, including itself, to the highest levels of accountability. Civil society derives its strength from the Gandhian tradition of ~~voluntarism~~ volunteerism.

It fills gaps left by the Govt. in development process.

Role of Civil Society has increased as now people have global exposure & also have certain common issues, e.g. terrorism, environment etc.

Their aspirations & requirements have also increased. Though they are very important, but we have to ensure there is no hijacking of the agenda by vested interest. We have to give space & scope for decent dissent when expressed democratically.

National Policy on Voluntary Sector 2007

- Creating an enabling environment that not only stimulates their effectiveness but also protects their identity & safeguards their autonomy.

- Enabling voluntary organisation to legitimately mobilise the necessary financial resources from India & abroad.
- National Accreditation Agency for NGO
(Diverse character of voluntary organisation should not have single uniform regulatory authority)

NGO

The World Bank defined NGOs as private organisations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interest of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social service or undertake community development.

3.2 million registered in India,

4 NGOs / 1000 people in Urban India,

2.3 " / 1000 " in Rural "

More than 70% have one or no paid staff.

Types of NGOs

- Traditional Development NGOs
- Activist NGOs — Narmada Bachao Andolan
- Research NGO — Centre for Science & Environment

Lets under which NGOs are registered

- Societies Registration Act, 1860
 - Indian Trust Act → 1882
 - Companies Act → 2013 → Election
- } Election/Appointment

While societies are non-profit companies requires a fair deal of accountability such as annual general meeting & annual reports, trusts are exempted from this requirement. Societies & non-profit companies require a periodic election & change of membership on board, trusts boards are usually managed by a few who have set up the NGO. Trusteeship is usually for life & new trustees are only appointed by serving trustees.

Role of NGOs in development & governance

CONARE
↓
Chonchu
- PVT4

NGOs play a catalytic role in enabling communities to define their own priorities. (empowerment). They enhance the efficiency of the delivery of many services. They address the needs & the aspirations of the people. NGOs with profound knowledge about the community develop adopt a culturally sensitive approach to bring the desired change. Such approaches ~~based~~ build a trustworthy relationship with the people. They are innovative & flexible. They operate with little investments but ensure greater participation of the community. They recruit local youth & trained them to achieve the objectives of the organisations. They build confidence in the people, NGOs have been instrumental in the formation & capacity building of farmers & women's self-help group.

They conduct research on key issues affecting the country & engaged with government on policy dialogue. Findings from these help in mid-course correction. They provide analysis & expertise, serve as early warning mechanism & help monitor & implement international agreements. NGOs have worked hard to include children with disability in schools, end caste based discrimination, prevent child labour & promote gender equality. During natural calamity they have played an active role in relief & rehabilitation effort. NGOs can provide a more continuous supply of aid compared to governments, which can be affected by elections. They act as channels for donors to provide international development fund to lower income countries. Their work spans a wide spectrum, from judiciary to legislature to media.

There is hardly any ministry that does not support or engage an NGO. Due to its wide reach, the civil society is called as the third sector.

Evolution of NGOs

Until 1970s, govt. tended to see NGOs relevance in terms of humanitarian & emergency work. In the 6th 5 year plan, the govt. identified new areas in which NGOs as new actors could participate in development. The 7th plan envisioned a more active role for NGOs as primary actors in the efforts towards self-reliant communities. (Govt. gave 170 million dollars to NGOs to work in primary health care, education, rural housing, afforestation etc.) The 9th plan proposed that NGOs should play a role in development of PPP model.

Challenges of NGOs :

- Lack of funds.
- Misuse of funds. (Because of the 2% CSR, now more money is flowing in which may lead to corruption)
- Transparency & accountability.
- poor governance & networking (they lack broad perspective.
- Lack of their presence / low presence in rural areas.
- Lack of dedicated leadership

- Inadequate trained personnel.
- Lack of support from govt. organisation
- Due to tax exemption they may absorb black money.

NGO controversy

I. B. submitted a report identifying several foreign funded NGOs that are negatively impacting economic development affecting 2-3% of GDP. It identified many sectors/projects that got stalled because of NGO creating agitations against nuclear power plants, uranium mines, coal fired power plants, mega industrial projects, hydro electric plants etc.

(Green Peace, Cordaid, Amnesty)