

Article

Status of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and their role in developmental activities in Nagaland, India

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The present study was carried out in the state of Nagaland, India. It has 11 districts and out of which, 6 districts have been selected purposively. In this study, 45 NGOs were selected and from each one higher level of employee was interviewed. In the present investigation, endeavours were mainly confined to explore the genesis, growth, nature; status and involvement of NGOs in different activities. In this connection, NGOs were classified into various categories as per their year of establishment, coverage of working areas, status of registration under society registration act-1860 and FCRA-1976, extent of operational area, and developmental activities undertaken. Some pertinent findings are: 60% of the NGOs studies were from local level, 82% were established during 1991 to 2010. Ninety three percent of NGOs got registered under the society registration act and 44% under FCRA. Sixty four percent of the studied NGOs were working within a single district where 4% implementing developmental activities in all the 11 districts. NGOs were involved in implementing 12 major activities of which health sector was the highly preferred sector and other notable area of activities are women empowerment, children welfare, etc.

Key words: NGO, growth, status, nature, developmental activities.

INTRODUCTION

Non-Governmental organization (NGO) is a legally constituted non-profit organisation that operates independently and is engaged in providing financial and non-financial services to the community. The World Bank defined NGOs as “private organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or undertake community development”. In development sector, voluntary organization and non-government organizations have been playing a significant role since time immemorial. NGO originated on pure

philanthropy or charity basis and this motivation sustained the effort all throughout history.

Despite all the efforts from the government sectors to reach quantitatively and qualitatively to all the resource poor people through sound development policies, programmes and strategies for improving the quality of life and livelihood, there has relatively been less impact on the life of the under privileged section. As a result, they are also pressurized to change their development approach and procreated an alternative development model to reach the lives of the marginalized, deprived and under privileged section of the society.

In the expedition for an alternative development model, the non-governmental organizations with their closeness to grass roots, people's mobilizing capacity, participatory

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approach, and profound knowledge on the needs of the people have emerged as alternative development agents. In the third world, the NGO/voluntary sector has existed as a viable third sector and placed just after the government sector and the private enterprises (task force report).

In India, registration of the NGOs under society registration act was approved in 1860 to confirm the legal status of the NGOs under government system. The vital role of NGOs and VOs (voluntary organizations) in the areas of social welfare and development has well been appreciated and recognized by government of India since the beginning of the first five-year plan in 1951. Another remarkable initiative in the history of VO-government relationships in India was establishment of central social welfare board (CSWB) in the year of 1953 with primary objective of encouraging and promoting VO and NGO efforts in social construction and welfare. The establishment of CSWB also marked the beginning of financial assistance towards NGOs and VOs in the form of grant-in-aid by government of India (Mohanty and Singh, 2011).

On the other hand, fund flows from international donors/funding agencies have increased remarkably in last decade. To avail the foreign contribution for the developmental work registration under foreign contribution regulation act (FCRA), 1976 was mandatory for NGOs and large numbers of NGOs have been registered under the same act.

Development basically means advancement of an area, revealing, unfolding or opening up something which is latent and a change that is desirable. It is referred to as a continuous and rigorous process of progress, mobilizing the people towards self reliance, assuring and /or ensuring equitable distribution or benefit of opportunity, resource and social justice among all sections of the society. It may be defined as the process of creating and maintaining a situation in which all citizens of the country can lead a desirable and satisfying life. India and all the third world countries are facing challenges in the areas of socio-economic development, unemployment, women empowerment, violence against women, health and family welfare, education, environmental pollution and all round development of the people.

Development practitioners, government officials and foreign donors considered that the NGOs by virtue of being small scale, flexible, innovative and participatory, are more successful in reaching the poor and vulnerable sections of the society and in poverty alleviation. This consideration has resulted in the rapid growth of NGOs involved in initiating and implementing activities which are either related to society or related to nature in broad sense, and some of the prominent activities are rural development, poverty alleviation, agriculture, education, health and family welfare, women empowerment, environment, eco-crisis, etc. in the country. Nagaland, the sixteenth state of India attained its Statehood on

December, 1963. As per CSO survey up to March 2008, in Nagaland 7330 NPIs that is the non-profit institutions (broadly synonymous with VOs or NGOs) are engaged in this state for all round development and welfare of the society which reveals that there are about 3.38 NPIs for 1000 persons.

Types and characteristics of NGOs are varied and different from one to others. Their way of activity and consideration of issues related to social problems are varied greatly.

Recent past, development in the global scenario has also facilitated the emergence of private agencies, commercial firms, NGOs, etc. in the area of rural development, social welfare and agricultural extension.

Therefore, taking into all the above mentioned considerations, a study has been undertaken with following objectives.

Objectives of the study

The present research is designed to study systematically the status of NGOs in Nagaland and their involvement in different developmental works for the society. The specific objectives are: To study the status and nature of NGOs working in Nagaland; and to examine the different developmental works performed by NGOs.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study has been carried out in the state of Nagaland, one of the states of North Eastern India. Nagaland is bounded by the states of Arunachal Pradesh on the North, Manipur on the South, Myanmar on the East and Assam on the West. Geographically, the state is triangular in shape, lying in an area of lofty hills and valleys situated in the North-Eastern Hill region of the country having a geographical area of 16,579 square kilometers of which 92% is under undulating hilly situation (Raatan, 2004). The State lies between 25°60' North and 27°40' North latitudes and 93°30' East to 95°15' East longitudes (Govt. of Nagaland, 2006). The altitudes vary between 194 to 3840 meters above the mean sea level. The state has a beautiful landscape and consists of 11 districts and out of which, 6 districts have been selected purposively for the present study.

A list of promising NGOs working in Nagaland was collected from different reliable sources. Out of total 85 NGOs identified, 50 NGOs were interacted upon and finally 45 NGOs were selected based on the positivity of the responses received from the respondents and their activeness in working. From every selected NGO, 1 respondent from the higher level of employees was considered for this study. Higher level of employees of an NGO includes the top level of functionaries, like director, secretary, topmost functionaries of sub-office of the large NGOs. Accordingly, 45 higher levels of employees were interviewed as respondent in the present study.

For selection of appropriate variables for study, the expert of the NGOs and personnel of the NGOs of Nagaland were consulted, considering the available information from reliable sources. By following specific objectives of the study, the theoretical basis for selection of variables and their empirical measures related to the study were done by following nominal level of measurements that is frequency and percentage.

Table 1. Classification of NGOs according to coverage of working area and status of registration in Nagaland.

Classification of NGO	Number of NGOs	No. of registered NGOs under Society registration act, 1860	Registered under FCR act 1976
Local	27 (60.00)	25 (92.6)	8 (29.6)
State	12 (26.70)	11 (91.7)	7 (58.3)
National	3 (6.66)	3 (100.0)	2 (66.7)
International	3 (6.66)	3 (100.0)	3 (100.0)
Total	45(100)	42 (93.3)	20 (44.4)

Figure in parentheses indicates percent to total.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the present investigation, endeavours were mainly confined to explore genesis, growth, nature; status and involvement of NGOs in different developmental activities. In this connection, NGOs were classified into various categories. According to the coverage of working areas NGOs were classified. Government recognition is an important consideration for the identification of status of any organization, and government recognition means organization registered under society registration act-1860, accordingly, NGOs were classified. To avail and access the foreign contribution by any NGO for developmental and welfare work another special type of government registration is required under foreign contribution regulation act-1976 and accordingly, NGOs were classified. Year of establishment of NGOs were considered as an indicator of status of NGOs and classified according to decades of establishment. Further, it was also considered for classification of NGOs on the basis of extent of operational area, and developmental activities undertaken by NGOs.

Classification and status of NGOs in Nagaland:

Table 1 depicts the categorization of NGOs or status of the NGOs according to their coverage of area of operation and status of the registration. The local level of NGOs were the organizations whose area of work was limited either to a particular area (within a village or villages, within a town, within a numbers of villages of a block or blocks) or within a district. While, the state level of NGOs worked in more than one districts in a state. National level NGOs covered the area of work in more than one States, and international level NGOs were the organizations, whose area of work was in more than one country. In this study, all the international NGOs were seen to be the branches of NGOs whose main establishments were located outside the country.

Study shows that 60% of NGOs of the study were local level NGOs, whereas around 27% of NGOs were state level. Further, it can also be seen that almost 7% each of

NGOs of the study were in the status of national and international level (Table 1).

Table 1 reveals the details of the registration of the NGOs under the society registration act of 1860 and FCR act 1976. Registration of the NGOs under society registration act was approved in 1860 to confirm the legal status of the NGOs under the system of government of India. It is cleared from the table that 93% NGOs (of total sample size) got registered under the society registration act of 1860, while only 7% NGOs (of total sample size) were not registered. In India, about 3174420 NPIs were registered under society registration act-1860 or its variants as on March 2008 (CSO, 2009).

For any non-government organization, financial arrangement is important for implementation of developmental and welfare work. Finance can be arranged for NGOs either within the nation or even from outside the nation, but for arrangement of international fund another special type of government registration is mandatory in India, (that is foreign contribution regulation act-1976). In this connection, almost 44% of NGOs under the study got registered under the foreign contribution regulation act of 1976, while 66% of NGOs were not registered under this. Study further indicates that out of total local level NGOs only 29.6%, and about 58% of state level of NGOs had got registered under FCR act 1976. This indicated that the local level NGOs were lagging behind so far the registration under FCR act-1976 is concerned. The reasons behind this may be due to lack of awareness about the matter or may be due to newly establishment. On the other hand all the international level NGOs got foreign collaboration under the FCR act 1976. In India, according to the ministry of home affairs report 2010-11, In india, 41084 associations were registered under FCRA as on 31st December 2010 and during 2008 to 09, 20088 associations reported receipt of foreign contributions amounting to Rs. 10802.67 crore. Table 2 shows the distribution of the NGOs by their period of establishment. Information was collected from 45 NGOs based on their period of establishment, have broadly been classified into five categories (decades/periods that is, 1961 to 1970, 1971 to 1980, 1981 to 1990, 1991 to 2000 and 2001 to 2009). The

Table 2. Distribution of NGOs by period of establishment.

Classification/Status of NGOs	Period of establishment					Total
	1961 to 1970	1971 to 1980	1981 to 1990	1991 to 2000	2001 to 2010	
Local	0	1	1	14	11	27
State	0	0	3	3	6	12
National	0	0	2	0	1	3
International	1	0	0	1	1	3
Total	1	1	6	18	19	45
Percentage	2.22	2.22	13.33	40	42.22	100

Table 3. Classification of NGOs based on rural-urban characteristics.

Classification/status of NGOs	Area of operation			Total
	Rural	Urban	Both	
Local	0	1	26	27
State	2	0	10	12
National	1	0	2	3
International	1	0	2	3
Total	4	1	40	45
Percentage	8.90	2.20	88.90	100

establishment of NGOs started in Nagaland after 1960 and during 1961 to 1970 and 1971 to 1980 a very negligible percent of NGOs were established. In India, only 4.54% of societies/NPIs of existing numbers (3174420 nos) were registered till the year 1970 and 5.64 and 17.38% of societies/NPIs of 3174420 numbers were registered during the period of 1971 to 1980 and 1981 to 1990 respectively (task force report). It may be seen that establishment of NGOs increased gradually and about 13% of NGOs were established during the period of 1981 to 90. During the period of 1991 to 2000 and 2001 to 2010, the establishment of NGOs was about 40 and 42% respectively. During 1981 to 1990, the rate of establishment of NGOs got some impetus and during 1991 to 2010, growths rate of establishment of NGOs had gained separate and unique momentum. It is cleared from the table that 82% of NGOs of the study were established during the period of 1991 to 2010. Similarly, in India, 71% (task force report) of NPIs registered during the same period. Study clearly reveals that growth of NGOs was extremely slow during 1960 to 1980. As Nagaland attained its statehood in 1963 and immediately after political change, philanthropic bend of approach had not been flourished speedily and that may be the reason for this. The trend of establishment and growth of NGOs in Nagaland is closely similar to the National trend.

Table 3 depicts the area of operation of NGOs by their status/classification. Out of the total NGOs under study, only 8.9% NGOs worked exclusively in rural areas, while in urban areas it was only 2.2%. The rest 89% of NGOs

studied worked both in rural and urban areas; the study also revealed that not a single NGO from local level worked purely for rural areas and very negligible percentage of NGOs from local level worked purely for urban area. Further, NGOs from national and international levels 33% each worked purely for rural areas. So it can be concluded that there was no close relationship between the area of operation and status of the NGO.

Table 4 shows the distribution of NGOs according to their coverage area of operation (district) in comparison with the status of the NGOs; operational coverage area (district) means the number of districts covered by implementation of various activities by a particular NGO. It is clearly shown that 64% of the total NGOs under study worked within a single district of the state, whereas 11% of each NGO started activities within 2 and 3 districts respectively. This study also shows that only 2% of NGOs started implementation of activities within 4 districts of Nagaland and 7% worked within the jurisdiction of 5 districts. Only 4% of the NGOs started implementation of activities in all the 11 districts of Nagaland.

Further, it shows that all the local level NGOs worked within a single district, 67% of international NGOs worked within a single district and the remaining 33% of international NGOs were implementing activities in 3 districts. In case of state NGOs, 41% worked within the jurisdiction of 2 districts each, 33% within the jurisdiction of 3 districts each and 25% started implementation of

Table 4. Extent of coverage of area of operation (district) by NGOs in relation to status/classification of NGOS.

Number of district covered by NGOs	Total no. of NGOs working		Distribution of NGOs working in the district by classification/status of NGOs							
	Absolute no.	%	Local	%	State	%	National	%	International	%
1	29	64.44	27	100	0	0	0	0	2	66.66
2	5	11.11	0	0	5	41.16	0	0	0	0
3	5	11.11	0	0	4	33.33	0	0	1	33.33
4	1	2.22	0	0	0	0	1	33.33	0	0
5	3	6.66	0	0	3	25.00	0	0	0	0
All	2	4.44	0	0	0	0	2	66.66	0	0

developmental activities in 5 districts each. Most important point was that out of total national level NGOs, 67% had activities in all the 11 districts of Nagaland and remaining 33% had activities within 4 districts.

Developmental activities undertaken by NGOs

In Nagaland, altogether 12 major activities (actually 13 activities were included where 'Other' category includes more than one and less common activity) were identified from various levels of NGOs. Here major emphasis was given to study the NGOs according to their work nature. Study shows the distribution of the NGOs by type of activities undertaken and its relationship among classification/status of NGOs. Table 5 indicates that out of 13 activities considered by the studied NGOs, working in health sector recorded the highest that is 71.11%, followed by woman empowerment/welfare activities 69%; further, 58% were involved in children welfare as well as AIDS control. The study indicates that education is an important area of work by NGOs and 56% were found engaged in education. Consequently, its impact is well observed from the literacy rate of Nagaland, which is above the national level. According to the statistical year book, India (2012), the literacy rate of Nagaland is 67% in 2001 and 80% in 2011 whereas the national level literacy rate is 65% in 2001 and 74% in 2011. Table 5 also contains information about area of work by NGOs in agriculture, horticulture, livestock sector, etc. and a large numbers of NGOs were seen involved in these three important sectors of state rural economy. A considerable number of NGOs were seen to be involved in activities like rural development, drug addiction, welfare of children, welfare of women etc. In Nagaland NGOs involved in 'Other' types of work, include mainly family counseling, career counseling of student, training of people for bamboo curving, handicraft, weaving, paving the way for capacity building and skill up gradation.

If the status/classification of NGOs are collated with type of activities undertaken by the NGOs, then most of the local levels of NGOs (74%) were found involved in empowerment/welfare of women activity, whereas 83% of

state levels of NGOs were involved in health related activity. Table 5 shows that 59% of local level of NGOs were involved in health related and AIDS awareness and control work. In education field, involvement of NGOs were as follows, 48% from local level, 58% from state level, 100% from national level and 67% from international level of NGOs. Further from the table it can be seen that 41% of local level NGOs, 75% of state level NGOs, 67% of national level NGOs and 33% of international level NGOs were engaged in drug abuse field.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

So far the status of NGO is concerned; it was found that 60% of the studied NGOs were local level, whereas around 27% were under state level and 7% each from national and international status.

It was found that NGOs establishment and growth rate was extremely slow during 1960 to 1980. During 1981 to 1990, speed of establishment got slight momentum and altogether 6 of the studied NGOs were established during 1981 to 90. During 1991 to 2010, growth rate and establishment had gained separate momentum. The study shows that 82% of the studied NGOs were established during the period of 1991 to 2010. It further revealed that growth rate and establishment of NGOs during the periods 1991 to 2000 and 2001 to 2010 was more or less similar that is, 40 and 42% respectively.

It was also found that 93% of the studied NGOs got registered under the society registration act of 1860, while only 7% of NGOs from local and state level were not registered. Further, it identified that 44% of the studied NGOs got registered under the foreign contribution regulation act of 1976, while 56% had not registered and study depicts that the local level of NGOs were lagging behind about registration under FCR act-1976 and about 30% of local level of NGOs were registered under FCR act of 1976.

The study also revealed that the area of operation was purely in rural areas for 9% of the studied NGOs operation was purely in urban area for 2% and the rest

Table 5. Distribution of NGOs by type of activities undertaken in relation to classification/status of the NGOs.

S/N	Type of activities undertaken	Distribution of NGOs (45)		Distribution of NGOs by type/status of NGOs							
				Local (27)		State (12)		National (3)		International (3)	
		Frequency	% of total NGOs	Frequency	% of Local NGOs	Frequency	% of State NGOs	Frequency	% of National NGOs	Frequency	% of International NGOs
1	Health	32	71.11	16	59.25	10	83.33	3	100	3	100
2	Welfare of women	31	68.88	20	74.07	7	58.33	2	66.66	2	66.66
3	Children welfare	26	57.77	15	55.55	9	75.00	1	33.33	1	33.33
4	AIDS (only)	26	57.77	16	59.25	7	58.33	2	66.66	1	33.33
5	Education	25	55.55	13	48.14	7	58.33	3	100	2	66.66
6	Drug addiction	23	51.11	11	40.74	9	75.00	2	66.66	1	33.33
7	Rural development	20	44.44	10	37.03	6	50.00	2	66.66	2	66.66
8	Livestock	19	42.22	9	33.33	6	50.00	2	66.66	2	66.66
9	Agriculture	18	40.00	8	29.62	7	58.33	1	33.33	2	66.66
10	Horticulture	14	31.11	7	25.90	4	33.33	1	33.33	2	66.66
11	Cultural activities	14	31.11	8	29.62	5	41.70	1	33.33	0	-
12	Welfare of disabled	13	28.88	8	29.62	3	25.00	1	33.33	1	33.33
13	Others	10	22.22	6	22.22	4	33.33	0	-	0	-

(89%) were confined to both in rural and urban areas.

It is also concluded that 64% of the studied NGOs were working within a single district, where 11% of each were implementing developmental activities in 2 and 3 districts respectively. The study also shows that 2% of the studied NGOs were implementing developmental activities in 4 districts, whereas 7% were working in 5 districts and same way 4% were implementing developmental activities in all the 11 districts of Nagaland.

Study also revealed that the studied NGOs were mainly confined in implementation of 12 major activities and most of them were found involved in more than one type of works. NGOs worked in health sector recorded the highest that is 71.11%, followed by woman empowerment/welfare activities (69%), AIDS control, Children welfare,

Drug addiction, Education etc.; and less than 45% of the studied NGOs were implementing income generating activities viz. agriculture, horticulture and livestock development.

On the basis of the observations stated above pertaining to this research study, the following recommendations are made for policy prescriptions for the appropriate authority.

1. Most of the studied NGOs were type of new generation NGOs and as well as local level of NGOs according to their status; and registered under the society registration act. Government may kindly take initiative to support all the NGOs for proper growth and en-cash their initiative to all round development of the state through public-private-partnership.

2. Most of the studied NGOs were working within a very limited area such as health, women welfare

activity, anti drug addiction, AIDS control etc as their organizational objective. Concerned department of public sector may take necessary action for convergence of GO-NGO endeavour for the development of health and family welfare activities; and encourage them by capacity building, skill up-gradation of employees of NGOs in related field.

3. A considerable numbers of NGOs involved in adult education and vocational training for weaker section and interior villagers of the state. NGO and government initiative needed to reach up to the mark in these sectors which directly related to the enhancement of rural economy.

4. NGOs may be encouraged to utilize the vast resources of flora and fauna existing in this hilly terrain of Nagaland, and thereby explore the potentiality of engaging rural entrepreneurs for socio-economic transformation and rural

upliftment

5. Ecological restoration and environmental sustainability needs attention of the NGOs, because as per study their participation is negligible.

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