

# HINDRANCES FACED BY NGOs TO RUN WELFARE PROGRAMMES IN INDIA

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**Abstract :** In 21 century the role of NGOs are extremely important for the comprehensive development of any nation. A thriving nation like India cannot march ahead without the contribution of NGOs. Unfortunately there are some obstacles like corruption, lack of coordination, limited mass awareness, wrong parameters which are curbing the smooth functioning of non-governmental organisations. We need to identify the problems and to nullify the debilitating effect. All the stake holders should work hand in hand to yield affirmative result. The governments, NGOs, local administrations, clubs, and media should work cohesively. A joint endeavor and bring substantial change in this context.

**Index Terms – NGOs, Corruption, Whistle Blowing, empowerment**

## I. INTRODUCTION

### Importance of NGO in global perspective

There is an estimated 10 million non-governmental organizations (NGOs) worldwide. If NGOs were a country, they would have the 5th largest economy in the world. Nearly one in three (31.5%) people worldwide donated to charity in 2015 and one in four (24%) volunteered. The term “non-governmental organization” was created in Article 71 of the Charter of the newly formed United Nations in 1945.

### Importance of NGOs - National perspectives

The remodeling processes of the welfare state have led to the rapid development of the non-governmental sector in India. With increasing globalization, the intensity of such processes has increased further. In the 20th century, the Globalization makes the people understand the importance of NGOs. India has at least 31 lakh NGOs — more than double the number of schools in the country, 250 times the number of government hospitals, one NGO for 400 people as against one policeman for 709 people with the huge numbers, NGOs are doing works in different fields like Education, Child welfare, women empowerment, environment issues etc. Since 1990s India has opted LPG (Liberalization, Privatization Globalization) and that has opened the door to foreign investors to enter into the National market and foreign donors were encouraged to donate in Indian NGOs. With more capitalist outlook Government is minimizing the direct intervention in social welfare sector and encouraging NGOs to take part in it. Being a state with mixed economy and welfare state outlook India has emerged as a huge field of work for NGOs. PPP model is encouraged and FCRA rules have been modified to prevent mismanagement of

foreign funds. In the era of ‘Minimum Government Maximum Governance’ one cannot deny the relevance of NGOs in India. The influences of NGOS can be seen in every sphere of Indian society.

There is an opposite picture also. Only 10% of total NGOs annually submit their income tax return. CBI recorded files in the Supreme Court show that only 2,29,787 NGOs out of total 29,99,623 registered under the society registration act file annual financial statement. In Union Territories out of a total of 82,250 NGOs registered, and functioning only 50 organizations file their return. The Supreme court told the ‘figures are mind-boggling’.

Along with this foreign funds received by many NGOs are not properly used. That’s why the NDA Government has decided to re check all the FCRA permission to prevent mismanagement of foreign funds.

General problems faced by NGOs in India

### Lack of funds

Most of the NGOs in India are suffering from paucity of funds. Government does not give cent percent grants in aid or make delay in sanctions of grants for numerous programmes. NGOs have to make matching contributions which they are sometimes unable to manage and are, therefore, unable to avail themselves of the grants.

### **Inadequate Trained Personnel**

It is believed that the personnel working in NGOs are often not adequately skilled to impart social services. They lack dedication and sincerity to the job position.

### **Misuse of Funds**

It is a common experience that there have been serious charges of misuse and misappropriation of funds received as grant-in-aid from the government, foreign donors and fund raised through their own resources by most of the NGOs. These NGOs may reflect its image to other NGOs who are working with dedication and commitment.

### **Lack of Volunteerism/Social work among Youth**

The basic characteristic of NGO is volunteerism. In early days, youth are making their career in volunteerism but that enthusiasm seems to have faded these days

### **Lack of cooperation from local institutions:**

It is observed that local organizations like clubs and Municipalities are often very reluctant to assist NGOs as there is a lack of communication between them and often it is wrongly interpreted that by using social work as a shield NGOs are working as a money yielding machine.

### **Corruption**

Under the connivance of some part of our bureaucracy bribing, grafting and corruption is halting the smooth function of NGO's. Some NGOs also take the opportunity of using this backdoor policy and compromise with their quality of services. It is a shame that in this era of Globalization and modernization Strong anti grafting laws are nothing but paper tiger in our country. There is great anomaly arising out of financial discriminations at the time of fund disbursement, bribing, grafting. It is observed that funds are disbursed by the influence of bribing. With the connivance of a part of the concerned department, officials in this system exercise grafting. Most of the NGOs are too reluctant to blow whistle as that can have debilitating effects. The ramification of whistle blowing can be manifested as financial vulnerability or as more intense effect.

### **Wrong parameter of assessment**

The parameters to judge the performances are so unrealistic that the real efforts are often misjudged. Approximately 70% placement record, huge area and infrastructure requirement to impart training, complex fund disbursement process, are the hindrances of imparting training in rural areas and slums. The concerned Departments of Government should consider that when today the General Degree and engineering colleges are unable to provide such number of placements then how a training provider will be able to achieve the target of huge placement in 3-4 months training. There are unrealistic parameters to measure the service and infrastructure by Government Agencies. At the time of empanelment of NGOs in some cases unrealistic criteria is mentioned like 75% placement record for last three years, which is totally absurd. Some Government projects required huge space and over estimated machines like air conditioners. Small NGOs who are working in rural and urban interiors are unable to manage such unnecessary huge space and infrastructures. Only the input (grant) – output (number of employment generated by the NGO) are measured in the vocational education sector. However by providing skill based education NGOs are enhancing the awareness level of the recipients and this qualitative outcome is often neglected. Modules like Soft skills are not directly linked with industry, but it has immense effect on personality development of the candidates

### **Apprehensive mentality of clubs**

Apprehensive mentality of clubs and other institutes to provide the NGOs necessary help in the form of space and other assistances. It is the perennial clash between NGOs and other local bodies that hinder the welfare process. Other organization often think that NGOs are stepping into their shoes and they have some hidden agendas.

Points related to apprehension of NGOs to blow whistle against mismanagement

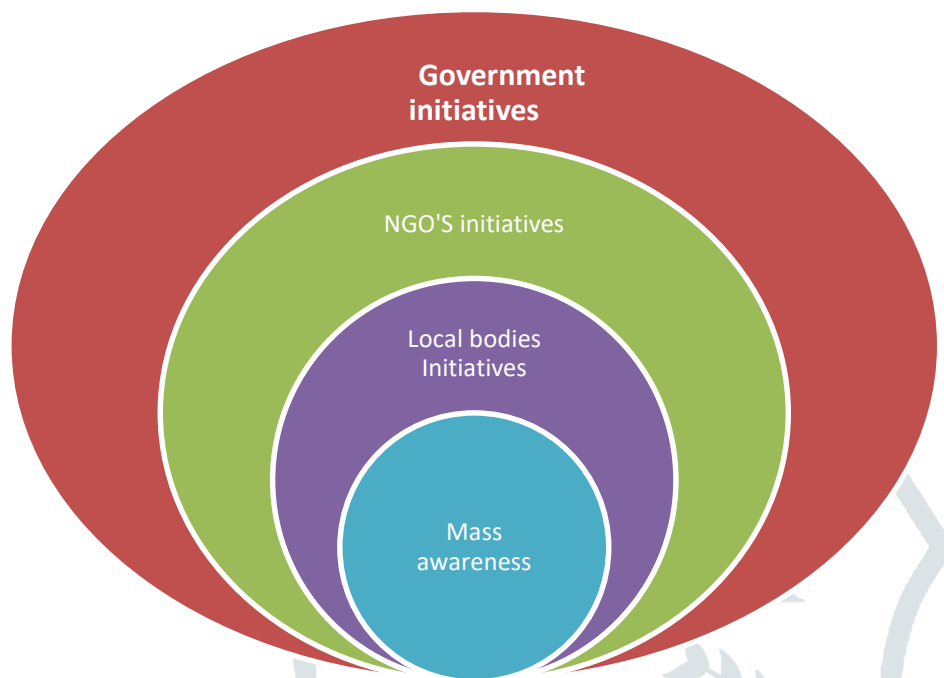
Problem of Whistle blowing in India

The Whistle Blowers Protection Act was approved by the Cabinet of India as part of a drive to eliminate corruption in the country's bureaucracy and passed by the Lok Sabha on 27 December 2011. The Bill was passed by Rajya Sabha on 21 February 2014 and received the President's assent on 9 May 2014.

Limitations of the Act:

The law lacks specific criminal penalties for physical attacks on whistleblowers—and given the number of violent attacks on complainants in the past, this is not a minor concern

The amendment Bill seeks to remove immunity provided to whistle-blowers from prosecution under the draconian Official Secrets Act (OSA) for disclosures made under the WBP law. Offences under the OSA are punishable by imprisonment of up to 14 years. Threat of such stringent penalties would deter even genuine whistle-blowers.



#### Suggestions to take corrective measures

In the era of liberalization, privatization and Globalization, we cannot deny the importance of Non Governmental Organizations . At the same time Government is encouraging NGOs to enter the echo system of job oriented training in PPP mode. Thus the mission and vision of Government Of India and different state Governments are to yield more industry ready man power through NGOs. Hindrance in this Endeavour can and will hamper the larger perspective of employment generation. Therefore it can be considered as a major social issue. It was observed that under the patronage of some part of Government officials , the foul play in the form of corruption and grafting is existing. NGOs are either compromising with the system silently or reducing the quality of work to compensate the financial loss. The scales to assess the work done in skill development sector are also too materialistic. The potential of Human resource cannot be judged by the number of placement provided or the number of students passed. In some cases the empanelment criteria is so high that the NGOs who are working in slums and rural areas , are unable to provide such gigantic infrastructure. Clubs , schools , local elected bodies are often reluctant to extend their assistance to NGOs. The communication gap creates hindrances . Internal issues like poor trainers, lack of infrastructure, and most importantly lack of industry tie ups are also curbing the smooth functioning . Most importantly the mass awareness in this field is yet to reach the expected standard. Awareness should be provided about PIL, RTI and other social legislations. Organizations should be encouraged to voice their rights. More online complain portal should be operative with easy access to general people.

#### Role of Social worker in this domain:

- The most important segment where social worker can intervene is removing the sense of intimidation from NGO official about whistle blowing. As NGO' are it selves doing social work, External legally literate social worker can boost them to voice their grievances to abrogate corruption and other mismanagements.
- Social worker can take initiatives to break the shackle between NGOs and local organizations by clearing all the ambiguities. Local social worker can mediate in this regards to remove locking horn mentality from both sides.
- Social worker can help NGO officials to mobilize students and arrange students sensitivity campaign to promulgate the importance of the programs.
- Social worker can act as a bridge between industry and NGOs. They can give necessary guidance to the organizations to equip syllabus and training methodology.

- Dropout tendency is fatal for the objective of any educational scheme. A qualified social worker can conduct interim counselling session under the patronage of the mother organization(NGO)
- They can arrange seminars , camps and other activities by eminent personalities in this fields to distribute their scholastic knowledge and propagate the same among students and parents.

### Recommendations:

- Stop pontificating: The government and other donor agencies should stop pontificating and step-motherly attitude to NGOs. Instead of showing stringent orthodox mentality, government should work with the NGOs in a cohesive way.
- Change dogmatism: Regulating agencies should abrogate dogmatism about the unrealistic parameters and implement new assessing scales
- Abolish incongruity : All form of incongruity should be abolished. Clubs, civic bodies, government, and NGOs should work Hand in hand.
- Fight against corruption: A pledge should be taken to combat the curse of bribing and grafting. All the stake holders should work together with proper legislative protection to abrogate corruption. NGOs should create a united platform.
- NGOs should improve internal infrastructure to mitigate imbroglio especially post training placement segment. More industry tie ups are required.
- Being a part of social work this unconventional subject should be given more emphasis. More extensive research can yield more amazing facts is this arena.



### Recommendations

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