



# AN ANALYTICAL STUDY ON THE ROLE OF NGOS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO NILGIRIS DISTRICT

**Dr. HEMASRIKUMAR, LINDUMATHY**

Associate Professor & Head, Ph.D. Research Scholar

PG & Research Department of Economics, Providence College for Women, Coonoor, India

**Abstract:** The present reviews of the studies on non-government towards the environmental protection of the tribal community in the Nilgiris district. This paper highlight the NGO'S of the tribes in Nilgiris to sustain the environmental protection. In this study the data is collected through a structured interview schedule from 250 respondents by using the random sampling method. In the first stage, Nilgiris district was selected. As is the case with many indigenous people worldwide, centuries of facing inequalities, marginalisation and encroachment of their space have shaped the lives of tribal communities in India. They live in difficult areas, relying primarily on subsistence agriculture and forest produce. The organisation started with a school for children from tribal communities who are deprived of the knowledge and aspiration and full of impact on environment protection education and their livelihood.

**Keywords:** Education, Environmental Protection, Awareness' NGO'S, Tribal's.

## INTRODUCTION:

The problem of development in the tribal areas as compared to other regions is much more complex and difficult tribal areas, the process of development have the effect of putting together two socio-economic systems of unequal strength. On the one side is the organised modern sector It has the advantage of a better understanding of the new sys it is familiar with the administrative and legal processes; it is better organised as a group. On the other side are the simple tribal communities; they are unfamiliar with the new processes of development administration. They have been managing the affairs of their simple systems in their tribal panchayats with understanding and pragmatism. But, at present their skills are becoming irrelevant. Therefore, in the new situation, the tribals find themselves perplexed, lonely and pitched against a much stronger system Hence, this situation of unequal relations requires a human touch at every point. It is in this context the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOS) caring approach is necessary It is the little traditions of simple communities, which contribute to the richness of our cultural life. Hence, the basic question Enforce us is how

to tame this process. A self-important system has its own limitations. It cannot be flexible as the simple tribal situation would ideally require it to be. It is the little traditions of simple communities, which contribute to the richness of our cultural life.

Hence, the basic question before us is how to tame this process. A bureaucratic system has its own limitations. It cannot be as this the simple tribal situation would ideally require it to be It is in this context, it has been decided to evaluate the role of non-governmental organisations in Nilgiris district, particularly their role in sustainable tribal development

## **NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS**

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have immense potential and strength because of their flexibility, high motivation and dedication towards tribal Development activities They complement the government efforts for the infrastructure in the tribal areas, development of tribal communities and delivery of services to the weaker sections of the society. As a result NGOs presence is felt everywhere; in education, women development, rural health and sanitation, agriculture, sericulture, animal husbandry, family welfare, water resources management, employment training for youth, popularisation of modern technologies, resource mobilisation and all other areas of basic amenities. By 1970's the complexion of NGOs have changed .They identified the areas where the contribution of the State was inadequate and they took their activities to such areas. One such area is tribal development.

The importance of the tribes of the Nilgiris lies in their geographical isolation from the rest of the tribes of Tamil Nadu and some of their biological and cultural specialities. The tribes, Toda, Kota, Kurumba, Irula and Kattunayaka are considered as native tribes of the Nilgiris. These groups together with the Hindu community of the Badagas, who migrated to these hills from Karnataka badly in the 16th Century, have lived in ritual, economic and social symbiosis. This kind of symbiotic relationship started disintegrating gradually with the arrival of the British people into the hills.

## **EDUCATION**

In the field of education, the government has taken measures to develop school, college for the tribal student and provided scholarships. One High school, five middle schools, seventeen primary schools for the tribal students (Government tribal Residential school) and two government Hostels for the tribal student are provided in Nilgiris. The students are provided with free text book, note-books and slates in Government schools. The students pursuing pre and post metric courses in school, colleges and other processional courses are provided with scholarships under Government of India and State Government Schemes. Also having two residential schools in Nilgiris for the improvement of education amongst the tribal children and such school are, Sri Sarguru Sarva Sassrase Sangas Tribal Residential High school for Boys and for Girls held in Coonoor.5

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Government provides loans for agriculture purposes, loans for purchase of buffaloes, housing loans etc. For agriculture purpose, the Government provide patta land to all the tribes and also loans for tea plantation and potato cultivation.. The Government assist the tribal to improve their agriculture through free charge of electricity. The Government is providing basic amenities to Scheduled tribes ie., provision of link roads , provision of drinking water, street light , medical facilities, etc.,

## **EMPLOYMENT**

The especially tribes are encouraged by the Government to avail reservation facilities in the Government services. Besides age concession, qualification concession and promotion opportunities are also taken care by the Government

## **AGENCIES FOR SUSTAINABLE TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT**

In general the tribes are a community who have been neglected for quite some time and even now living only in a primitive way of life. Most of the tribal families are much below the poverty line and they are struggling for their basic needs such as food, shelter, education and medical facilities. Government is working for the upliftment of the tribal population under various development measures. Apart from threes, there are few non-Governmental and international agencies working in the district for overall development of the tribes in Nilgiris.

The Nilgiris region has consisted a district locale for tribal people, the main tribal communities found in the district as Todas, Kota, Kurumbas, Irulas, Paniyas and Kattunayaka. Just as the various altitudes, the habitat of the tribes and average size of the settlements also vary from tribe to tribe.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

1. To know the socio economic back ground of tribal people in the Nilgiris district
2. To find out the non-government agencies for promoting awareness among the tribal people of environmental protection

## **METHODOLOGY:**

Among the districts of Tamil Nadu, the study has been conducted in the Nilgiri district. Field survey has been conducted in the Nilgiri district of Tamil Nadu, which comprises six taluks, i.e., Panthalur, Gudalur, Udthagamandalam, Kotagiri, Coonoor and Kundah. The researcher has selected six taluks. This study is based on an empirical investigation carried out in the Nilgiri district of Tamil Nadu. This district has been selected purposely, mainly due to the reason that it is inhabited by the tribal population which consists of the non-tribal population of the State. Toda, Kota, Kurumbas, Irular, Paniyan and Kattunayakan in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu mainly depend on agriculture and forest produce. To study the non-government agencies for promoting awareness among the tribal people of environmental protection primary data was collected randomly on six primitive tribes totally the sample respondent collected were 250. The data were collected through household interview schedule in the study area.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:**

**TABLE 1:  
SOCIO-ECONOMICS OF RESPONDENT**

S.NO	VARIABLES	CATEGORY	NO.OF. RESPONDENT	PERCENTAG E
1	TRIBAL	TODAS	45	18.0
		KOTA	44	17.6
		KURUMBA	53	21.2
		IRULA	49	19.6
		PANIYA	38	15.2
		KATTNAYAKA	21	08.4
2	GENDER	MALE	179	71.6
		FEMALE	71	28.4
3	MARITAL STATUS	MARRIED	163	68.4
		UNMARRIED	87	31.6
4	AGE	18-25	54	21.6
		26-35	58	23.2
		36-45	52	20.8
		46-60	48	19.2
		61 ABOVE	38	15.8
5	EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION	Illiterate	58	23.2
		Primary Education	48	19.2
		Higher Secondary	109	43.6
		Graduate	35	14.0

Source: Primary Data

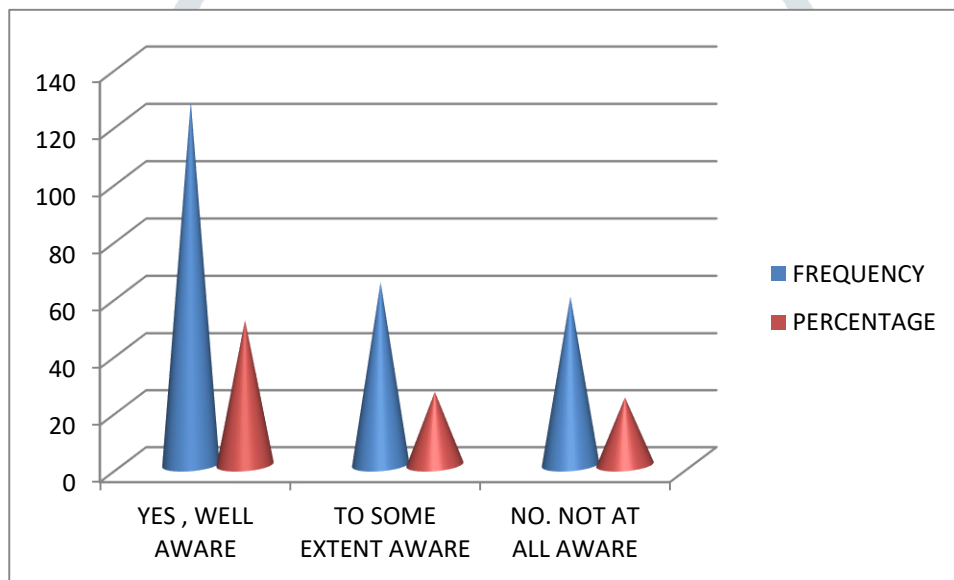
The tribal of socio economic of the respondents in the ngos and the majority of the respondent from kurumba (21.2 %) male of about (71.6%), Aged from 26-35 is (23.2%), Marital Status married (68.4%) higher secondary shoes (43.6%), Few households were even entirely dependent on these resources and were having very small earnings through other sources.

**TABLE 2:**

**ROLE OF AWARENESS NGOS IN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITES**

AWARNNESS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
<b>YES , WELL AWARE</b>	127	50.8
<b>TO SOME EXTENT AWARE</b>	64	25.6
<b>NO. NOT AT ALL AWARE</b>	59	23.6
<b>Total</b>	250	100.0

Source: Primary Data



Growth of NGOs and their inevitable role in development activities became common phenomena. An attempt has been made to understand to what extent the tribal respondents are aware about these phenomena. The facts available from the field show that only little more than half of the respondents are well aware about the in-avoidable role of NGOs in development activities. Another 25.6 per cent are to some extent aware about the role of NGOs. Only 23.6 per cent respondents are not at all aware about the role of NGOs in development activities. Here, it must be considered that those who are aware and associated with the NGOs activities are animators or field workers.

**TABLE 3:**

**MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION WITH NGOS**

MEMBER	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
<b>YES</b>	137	54.80
<b>NO</b>	113	45.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	250	100.00

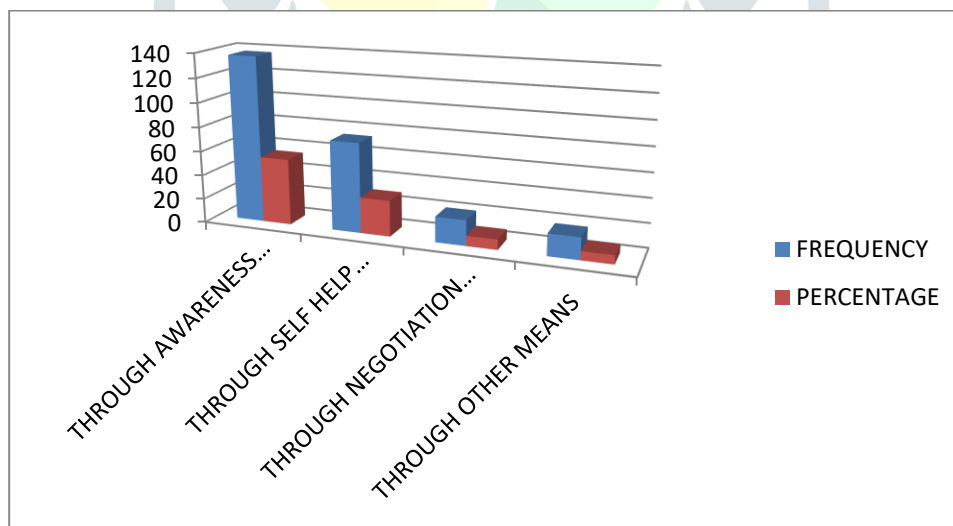
Source: Primary Data

As already seen non-governmental organisations are functioning in the Nilgiris district with varying size and wide varieties of activities. Hence, almost all the small tribal settlements have NGOs centre. The attempt to know the involvement of the people in NGOs activities reveals the fact that 54.80 per cent respondents have association with one of the NGO functioning in their area either as beneficiaries or voluntary workers or part-time employees. The remaining 452 per cent are not associated with any NGOs

**TABLE 4:**  
**NGOS PARTICIPATE IN TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT**

<b>PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>THROUGH AWARENESS PROGRAMMS</b>	137	54.80
<b>THROUGH SELF HELP GROUP</b>	74	29.60
<b>THROUGH NEGOTIATION WITH GOVERNMENT</b>	21	08.40
<b>THROUGH OTHER MEANS</b>	18	07.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Primary Data



NGOs adopt several strategies to participate in the development process. Most of the NGOs involve primarily in awareness building programmes. They conduct camps, orientation and training programmes, street plays and so on. They also popularise government programmes meant for tribal development. Hence, 54.8 per cent respondents feel that NGOs participate in development process through awareness programmes. Another 29.6 per cent respondents view that formation of self-help group is more helpful for the tribals development. Yet another 8.4 per cent respondents think that NGOs through mediation

with government activate development process. The remaining 7.20 per cent respondents opine that NGOs also participate in several ways.

**TABLE 5:**  
**MEAN RANK OF NGOS BY THE RESPONDENTS**

NGOS	MEAN RANK
SADP	2.51
ITDP	5.50
NAWA	1.79
ACCORD	6.78
KEYSTONE	4.98
PVTGs	3.65
NWEA	5.87
RDO	6.00
TAP	5.49
OTHERS	6.10

**FRIEDMAN RANKING TEST- NGOS BY THE RESPONDENTS**

N	250
Chi-Square	1753.556
df	6
Asymp. Sig.	.000

From the above table it is clear that the significant value is 0.000 at 1% level of significance. the result shows that the mean ranking of the respondents of NGOS is differs. That the ranking of the non-government by the respondents differs from person to person and it is not similar among all the respondents belong to Tribal community.

## CONCLUSION:

Tribes are in a situation where tribal welfare programs by the government do not have any remarkable effect on tribal growth with protective and developmental initiatives. Until now, tribal development has been a problem for government. Researcher therefore thought it necessary to examine the effect of welfare policies on social-labour tribes. Education is a historical driving force, no society will survive without educating its

people. After independence was achieved, India's government has taken a range of steps, schemes and programs and allocated funds to various ventures to spread education among the tribal's. No doubt all these efforts are important and highly appreciable, but given all these efforts, there is a very slow growth rate of education among the tribal's. Higher education representation of tribal's is not reaching its planned standard. Now it is time to take concrete steps and ambitious measures to popular the barriers to tribal children seeking education. Aside from the initiative of the government, if different NGOs and local media play an important role in raising awareness among the tribal's, only then will they bask in the aurora radiance of economic growth. Indian has an age old culture with hidden encrustation or crudeness. This study has attempted to focus light of the welfare measure tribes with particular reference to the Tribes .The governmental and Non-governmental agencies working for the welfare measure of tribes are note-worthy. Inspite of the measures taken by these agencies, now these tribes are making strives to come away from their old form of life and to keep pace with the modern society, the environment, the social status, the education standard remain the same. Education for all and equal opportunities in education are the policies of the government. But the importance of education is being neglected. So it is necessary to establish an "Education Committee "which must be provided with all rights to decide about educational activities provided to the tribes

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