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# **Intervention Of NGOs Through Development Of Tribal Community**

Authored By - Dr. Prakruthi A R<sup>1</sup>

## **ABSTRACT**

These societies did not follow the rules of any other subclasses or caste, like other religions. And they had their own set of customs and rituals. These tribes were spread all across the country. Most of the tribes lived in forest Hills, desert and far-fetched places. These tribes or groups of people move from one place to another and search for livelihood or other reasons. These tribes were mostly involved in primary activities related to agriculture or animal husbandry. Some of them are also hunter-gatherers. But these tribes are suffers from lot of problems like extreme level of poverty, lack of education, problem of health and nutrition, displacement and rehabilitation, erosion of identity etc. Non-Governmental Organizations are try to controlling these problems and providing protection and played a vital role for their development. and also NGOs are done many works for social welfare. The present paper deals with role and significance of NGO for Tribal Development to ensure social welfare and uphold of his right to life and livelihood.

**Key Words:** Tribal Development, Social Welfare, NGO's, Categories of NGO's

## **INTRODUCTION**

Indian history has witnessed various changes in society. Most of it encompasses the caste system followed religiously in our society. Apart from the social structure in the cities, there were other societies that flourished on the sidelines known as tribal societies. These societies did not follow the rules of any other subclasses or caste, like other religions. And they had their own set of customs and rituals. These tribes were spread all across the country. Most of the tribes lived in forest Hills, desert and far-fetched places. These tribes or groups of people move from one place to another and search for livelihood or other reasons. These tribes were mostly involved in primary activities related to agriculture or animal husbandry. Some of them

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are also hunter-gatherers. But these tribes are suffers from lot of problems like extreme level of poverty, lack of education, problem of health and nutrition, displacement and rehabilitation, erosion of identity etc. Non-Governmental Organizations are try to controlling these problems and providing protection and played a vital role for their development. and also NGOs are done many works for social welfare.

### **Meaning of NGO :-**

A **non-governmental organization (NGO)** or **non-governmental organisation** (is an organization that generally is formed independent from government.<sup>2</sup>They are typically non-profit entities, and many of them are active in the social sciences; they can also include clubs and associations that provide services to their members and others. NGO stands for non-governmental organization. While there is no universally agreed-upon definition of an NGO, typically it is a voluntary group or institution with a social mission, which operates independently from the government. NGOs or similar organizations exist in all parts of the world. What is considered an NGO in one country may not qualify as an NGO in another, as legal definitions, permitted activities, monitoring, and oversight differ from country to country. The term can encompass many types of organizations.

Although these terms are not necessarily interchangeable, an organization similar to an NGO may be called non-profit, charity, non-profit organization (NPO), civil society organization (CSO), citizen sector organization (CSO), social benefit organization (SBO), an advocacy organization, voluntary organization, grassroots support organization (GSO), and non-state actor (NSA). You may also hear the terms independent sector, volunteer sector, and civil society during discussions about NGOs. It is a group or entrepreneurship of activists in society. They are voluntary individuals who are social persons working for a charitable cause. A variety of activities are carried out by NGOs, including environmental, social, advocacy, and human rights work. In addition to promoting social or political change on a broad scale, they can also work on a very local level. The role of NGOs is crucial in developing society, improving communities, and promoting citizen participation.

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<sup>2</sup> Church, Jim (26 August 2021). "Library Guides: Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs): Introduction". guides.lib.berkeley.edu. Archived from the original on 26 August 2021. Retrieved 26 August 2021.

### **Some Major Functions and Roles of NGOs in India are :-**

- 1) Utilising funds raised through donations, NGOs in India work for a wide range of causes. Some such causes include:
- 2) Child rights
- 3) Poverty
- 4) Social Injustice
- 5) Environment Conservation
- 6) Human Rights
- 7) Care for elderly people
- 8) Women Empowerment
- 9) Wildlife Conservation
- 10) Animal Rights
- 11) Sanitation and Hygiene
- 12) Humanitarian Relief
- 13) Health and Nutrition
- 14) Literacy and Education
- 15) Refugee Crisis
- 16) Disease Control and others

NGOs are composed of experts with years of experience in executing social welfare activities. Before rolling out a project, detailed analysis of the situation is done and possible solutions are contemplated. Collaboration with civic agencies and other government agencies (at district, state and even national level at times) is done to carry out the work. NGOs not only go on the ground to address these issues, they also undertake massive campaigning activities to generate awareness on these issues. In today's time, NGOs are efficiently leveraging the power of social media to disseminate information about their work and reach more and more people.

### **The Importance of NGOs in India :-**

India has made rapid progress in the socio-economic sphere in the last seven decades. Millions have been brought out of poverty, life expectancy has shot up, literacy rate has almost tripled and people have better access to healthcare services. However, given the vastness of India, both in terms of demography and area, and its socio-cultural diversity, millions are still bereft of a decent life. Even today, numerous people struggle to get basics such as health,

shelter, education and nutritious food. The benefits of India's economic progress have not been uniform in nature. There is rampant economic inequality. This is where NGOs' role comes into the picture. Their job is to plug the gaps left by the government by improving the lives of the most marginalised communities. In India, NGOs undertake a variety of activities, most of which are aimed at improving the socio-economic status of communities with limited means. From providing direct benefit (like distributing nutrition feed to malnourished children) to enabling and empowering people (like making a community realise the importance of sending their children to school), the primary role of NGOs in India has a far-reaching impact in helping underprivileged and deprived people march ahead in life. The tribal people also treated as a deprived people so that NGOs are also done so many works for the development of those people.

### **Significance Of Non-Governmental Organizations For Triba Development:**

Tribal welfare has been one of the government's top priorities since Independence. But there are thousands of young tribals who lack access to primary education, health, nutrition and better opportunities in life. Still, despite decades of efforts to uplift them economically and improve educational levels, a lot needs to be done across large swathes of tribal regions across the country. Tribals form around 100 million of India's population or over 8% of the total population.

Non-profits have played an important role in bridging the gaps in tribal welfare in education, health, nutrition, safety etc. The role of NGOs in the welfare of the tribal communities of India is very significant. They supplement the efforts of the government. They address the needs and the aspirations of the people. They are innovative and flexible. They operate with little investments but ensure greater participation of the community. They recruit local youth and train them to achieve the objectives of the organization. They build confidence in the people. Vannucci (1989) opines "the existence of powerful NGOs creates a double security system whereby governments may express their needs and requirements". The knowledge and commitment of NGOs help in making the implementation process more transparent and accountable. The same is explored in the context of Chenchus, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states of India. There are many NGOs working for the well-being of Chenchus. They create awareness about persistent problems and act as agents of change. Red Cross Society, Department for International Development (DFID), Sakthi, Conservation of Nature Through Rural Awakening (CONARE), Centre for People's Forestry (CPF), Nice Foundation, Nandi Foundation, Nallamalai Foundation, Andhra Pradesh

Right to Eyesight Society (APRESS), L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), Andhra Pradesh Child Right Society (APCRS), Child Care Organization, Vanavasi Kalyani Parishad, Pragati Rural Education and Development Organization, Sangha Mitra Seva Samithi and Seva Bharati, CONARE, and Centre for Human Resource Development (CHRD) are few organizations doing significant work for the development of Chenchus. Few of these NGOs are working independently and others are engaged in collaborative work with another NGO or government organization. The work of the NGOs for the development of Chenchu community is discussed under the following components: educational development, health care, livelihood enhancement, vocational training and women empowerment, agricultural development, economic development, development and religious promotion, environmental protection, awareness programs on rights and privileges, and legal support.

## CONCEPT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

According to **Ronald C. Federico**: "Social welfare is defined as a society's governmental and non-governmental efforts to help its members function more effectively as individuals and as participants in organized social structure". Social Welfare can be defined as the group of assistance programs designed to ensure the wellbeing of a nation's citizens. In other words, it is a system that aims to provide quality care to society participants. A social welfare system provides assistance to individuals and families in need. The types and amount of welfare available to individuals and families vary depending on the country, state, or region. In the U.S., the federal government provides grants to each state through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.<sup>3</sup>

Social welfare means a social service system relating to the prevention, remedy, development and promotion of social stability to satisfy the fundamental needs of people to enable them to have good quality of life and self-dependency thoroughly, appropriately, fairly and in accordance with standards in terms of education, health and sanitation, accommodation, occupation and income, recreation, judicial process and general social services by taking into account of human dignity, people's entitlement to rights and participation in **social welfare** provision at all levels.

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<sup>3</sup> Benefits.gov. "[Temporary Assistance for Needy Families](#)." Accessed Sept. 29, 2020.

## THE ROLE OF NGOs IN TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

NGO initiatives aimed at development have a long history in India. The individual efforts of social workers are expressed in micro-terms but it deals with conditions that are caused by large macro-structures. There are number of NGOs working for the tribal development in India. Therese archer has studied 7 major NGOs from the research area engaged in the tribal development. These NGOs tackle development related issues and their ideological orientation differs widely. There are some NGOs who's nature is agitational and there are some who are engaged in both construction and agitational work. In the present study, the aims & objectives, project area, target group, views of NGOs on problems of tribal communities, their suggestions have been studied. The work of NGO has been evaluated on the basis of nature of work, their priorities, financial conditions of NGOs, staff position, their views on self-sufficiency, need for continuity of work. In order to have openness, their membership patterns, confidentiality of their accounts etc. are discussed. Their views on tribal liberation and need to work all NGOs under one banner also have been sought. Finally the problems of NGOs have been discussed at length. This paper thus evaluates the role of NGOs working with tribal communities, their strengths and weaknesses, future thrust, The growing disillusionment and the resultant discontent among the masses gave birth to a number of NGOs in 1960s in India. These grassroots movements are concerned with the plight of the exploited sections of society. They are part of the democratic struggle at various levels. The role of NGOs is neither antagonistic nor complementary with the existing sectors. It is a role at once more limited and more radical, taking up issues that the political parties are unwilling to take up, coping with a large diversity of situation that governments and parties are unable to cope, encompassing issues that arise from not merely local and national but also international forces at work. The individual efforts are expressed in micro terms but it deals with conditions that are caused by large macro-structures. The NGOs are thus a part of a large movement for global transformations in which non-State actors on the one hand and non-territorial crystallisations on the other are emerging and playing new role. All activities of NGOs are aimed at social, economic, political & educational Development of oppressed people in the area.

The activities stated by the respondent NGOs are listed below:

1. Comprehensive village development
2. Activities related with education:
  - Balwadi, supplementary classes for school-going children,
  - school at the brick kilns, education to katkari women,
  - hostel for children, motivate children to go to school.

3. Activities related with Women's development :

- Formation of Women's groups, Saving group of women,
- training of self-employment,
- Women's Co-operative Society,
- Income generation for women,
- Women's employment, etc

4. Youth development activities:- Formation of Youth groups.

5. Health activities:

- Primary health care,
- health education,
- health project of family planning,

**We look at five NGOs that have been working for tribal welfare across the country:-**

• **Mrida Education and Welfare Society**

'Mrida' in Sanskrit stands for both 'joy' and 'soil'. And Mrida Education and Welfare Society has been trying to do just that with its grassroots-led development programmes. It works among tribal communities of Mahakoshal region comprising some of the most backward districts of Madhya Pradesh.

The organisation started with a school for the children from tribal communities, deprived of knowledge and aspirations. Mrida has been trying to build and scale impactful education, nutrition, and livelihood practices for school-going children in tribal.



It also imparts education and provides opportunities for youngsters to excel in sports. The organisation also provides a community shelter facility for children who are orphaned or are single-parent children. It also has sustainable livelihood programmes for the parents of its students attending its school, through its Kheti Shiksha Ke Liye – an agroforestry building project.

- **Nilgiris Wynaad Tribal Welfare Society (NWTWS)**

NWTWS has been working in tribal welfare in the Nilgiris region in Tamil Nadu since 1978. It was originally designed to address health issues in the region, but there were so many other problems facing the communities that it expanded its welfare programmes.

The NWTWS, besides providing medical care through its dispensary, organises health camps, takes socio-economic measures for the upliftment of tribals and runs a residential school and hostel for tribal children.



While it helps boost the self-esteem and confidence of tribal children, it emphasises preserving tribal culture and heritage. Through its innovative Livelihood Enhancement Programme, NWTWS has distributed cows and goats to leprosy survivors to generate income and improve their quality of life.

Many of its programmes are supported by generous donors from across the world, and its 17-acre tea, coffee and pepper plantation in the same region.

- **Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences**

Started in Odisha as a residential school, Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) provides quality education to the tribal children to help them overcome poverty and injustice. And in the last 30 years, the organisation has grown by transforming the education landscape in the tribal areas of the state. With student strength crossing 25,000, KISS is one of the world's largest residential education institutions for tribal children. It serves over 10,000 meals daily. KISS has persistently strived to become a preferred center of learning for the poor indigenous sections of the society. It focuses on formal education while providing sustainable livelihood and scope for holistic development.

Its mission is to empower 2 million indigenous children through quality education.



- **Parivaar Education Society**

Parivaar has been working in tribal welfare in West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh for close to two decades. Concentrating primarily on children aged 4 to 14 in tribal districts facing deprivation and malnourishment, it has over 240 'Sri Ramakrishna Vivekananda Seva Kutirs' with over 25,000 children getting nutritious meals, education, and life skills in Madhya Pradesh.

It has long experience in West Bengal and continues to work in various regions of the state. Parivaar wants to scale and set up 500 Seva Kutirs in Madhya Pradesh by December 2023, serving at least 50,000 children in some of the country's most backward districts.



- **Rajasthan Bal Kalyan Samiti (RBKS)**

The Samiti first started imparting education to 17 tribal children in Rajasthan, and today it provides education from primary to post-graduate level. In the last four decades, it has benefited over 30,000 tribal families. More than 18,000 children have completed their education from centres and institutions run by RBKS.

Its fields include development, livelihood enhancement, poverty eradication, rural development, skill enhancement, agriculture, and livestock management. RBKS works closely with the tribal communities in various parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and others through its healthcare and empowerment programmes. They have also forayed into Haryana and Chhattisgarh.



## SIGNIFICANCE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR SOCIAL WELFARE

A non-government organization is a foundation that works with a motive to accomplish societal goals and objectives. Here, people and communities voluntarily work at national or international level. It happens that the strategies and work process may be different but they all work for common goals. There are some of the best NGO in India working to help society and unprivileged people. Countries like India face different issue due to which a society gets affected. As a result, these issues may hinder the growth and development of a country. It is seen that non-government organizations have partnerships with public or private organizations. These organizations are run through donations but at an initial level, they did voluntary basis. NGO's are diversified in various ranges of activities. The purpose of NGO's may be different where some may have charitable status or others may register for tax exemption. But the basic goal or objective of an NGO is to help unprivileged people in society. An NGO benefits a country to remove crime and make people lives better. These communities not only help people but also the government of a country. They cover the wide range of acts like healthcare, education, finances and many more. The partnership between government and NGO remains helpful for citizens. In order to get the better understanding about NGO, its functioning is necessary to know.

There are some functions of the non-government organization are explained underneath:

- **Resolve social issues:** Non-government organizations play an indispensable role in the welfare of society. Different social issues are being solved by the NGO's in India. There are some major issues like:-
  - Illiteracy,
  - poverty,
  - child labour,
  - casteism and many more.

The teams of these organizations raise voice against the mentioned issues. They run different campaigns to spread knowledge and awareness among people.

- **Motivates citizens:** This is another role played by an NGO towards social welfare and development. There are various social issues faced by society such as education, girl child, hunger and many more. However, some of the best NGO in India take positive initiative towards the aforesaid issues. They form teams and run campaigns. It helps people to aware towards what is right or wrong. For instance, it is seen that children

less than 14 years aren't allowed to work as its called child labour. The research has shown, 3.9% of the total children population in India are working in factories, shops etc. In order to help these children, NGO's have taken a step.

- **Identification of problem and take corrective measures:** The motive of non-government organizations is to uplift social welfare and development. Generally, NGO's find out the issue and problems by evaluating crimes or by communicating with public organizations. Later on, they prepare a plan accordingly and take the required actions. It results in sorting out the social issues in an effective manner. It needs the best NGO in India to sort the social issues.

**Riddhi Siddhi Welfare and Charitable Trust** is a renowned NGO which is consistently working towards social welfare. They focused towards helping poor and needy people. There are different programs have been conducted by them to help and develop society.

### **Suggestions to improve the working of the NGOs for Tribal Communities :-**

#### **❖ Capacity Building:**

- Capacity building and training can assist in the acquisition of critical new skills.
- NGO workers can then be more easily trained and the appropriate skills can be developed within the organization to meet difficulties.
- Donors will have more faith in the initiative if they have access to qualified experts.

#### **❖ Information, Communication and Technology:**

- All NGOs should be using a minimum of Internet, email, a basic website and relevant social media platforms.it will help the timely updating.

## **Conclusion**

NGO provides a mechanism that could possibly work where the government has failed. As a result, it supports grass roots initiatives as well as recognizing and responding to the realities of the local people. Since NGOs are actual non-profit organizations, various projects can be achieved without having to use the government's money. This is because there are many private donors who support the NGOs. The role of NGOs' in providing primary education for all has been based on a neo-liberal agenda for development. Although the goal of achieving primary education has not been achieved, NGOs roles have improved the situation. From the above study we can say that Non-governmental organisations are doing a good job towards development of tribal people and also for social welfare.