



ROLE OF NGOS PROGRAMMES AND SOCIAL WORKERS

IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

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Abstract

The paper main objective is analysis of Role of NGOs programmes and social workers in poverty alleviation in rural and urban areas. Itis prepared based on secondary and primary data. The data was collected from the government reports and websites. The primary data was collected from the rural and urban population through structured questionnaire. The sample selection is from the Warangal and Karimnagar rural and urban areas in the two districts.

Key words: NGOs, Rural, Urban, Poverty and Schemes

1. INTRODUCTION

The Non-Governmental Organizations or Voluntary Organizations have been playing a catalyst role in all the socio-economic spheres, including the rural and urban development in India. The mushrooming of voluntary organizations working in the field of development in recent years has generated widespread debate about their role, structure, programmes and performance. A unique feature of voluntary organizations is that they stimulate voluntary action among the target community and involve the progressive elements of that community. In the process of human resource development, voluntary organizations have demonstrated the freedom and flexibility of working with a personal touch, a capacity for initiative and experimentation with novel programmes. Thus, voluntary organizations exercise full freedom in selecting the programme implementation methods and free of bureaucratic hassles.

NGOs in India

The growing disillusionment and the resultant discontent among the masses gave birth to a number of NGOs in 1960s in India. These grassroot movements are concerned with the plight of the exploited sections of society like rural and urban. They are part of the democratic struggle at various levels. The role of NGOs is neither antagonistic nor complementary with the existing



government initiatives. They play more limited in a way and they are more radical, taking up issues that the political parties are unwilling to take up, coping with a large diversity of situation that government and parties are unable to 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 larger 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 crystallizations on the other are emerging and playing new roles. Most important role that the Indian NGOs play is of a watch dog.

The activities of the NGOs can be broadly summed up as:

- To supplement the effort of the government in such fields where the government is unable to reach the out reached.
- To launch a crusade against the policies and actions of the government which result in injustice and exploitation.

The NGOs are known for their virtues of human touch, dedication, great initiatives, flexibility, positive orientation and bonding with the society to reach the masses in a very effective manner. They are often regarded as the partners of development. They make an honest endeavour to empower the marginalized people like tribes in such a way so that they can stand on their own feet with self-reliance and depend on charity and concessions provided by others. NGOs can contribute in a positive note to the development of tribals and in the protection of their indigenous knowledge base which is either ignored or exploited.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Abdul Aziz¹viewed that high incidence of poverty and its socio - political implications caused the policy - makers and political leaders in India to evolve, from time to time, a series of anti - poverty strategies and poverty alleviation programmes. As India celebrations the Golden Jubilee of her Independence, it will be of interest here to build a brief of such attempts in their historical perspective and examine whether any change can be thought of in the strategy.

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Ambumani And Lingamurugeswari² disclosed that Eradication of poverty and hunger through employing in the community has been one of the main goals of planning in India.

Since the planning era, various target - oriented as well as area-oriented programmes and schemes have been implemented for generation of income with the purpose to eradicate poverty, inequality and backwardness from the rural areas.

Anbalagan and Selvam³ visualized that Improving the access of the poor to the financial services is one of the effective tools to tackle poverty and for broad - basing the economic growth. It is a means to increase the asset base of the poor, for providing opportunities to gainfully employ them and enhance their contributions to the development of the country. In a country like India, where there are about 320 million poor (36%) of the population), the potential of using institutional credit and other financial services for poverty alleviation cannot be ignored. Most of the poor, other than those who are under employed, or self - employed or employed are in micro enterprises in the unorganized sector.

Avtar Singh Sahota⁴ made open the fact that Market oriented reforms have different effect on different groups within an economy. It is generally felt that reforms will increase growth and reduce poverty at medium level but hurt a large number of poor in the short run. Since it is felt that agriculture output, inflation rate, relative food prices, non - agriculture employment, government developmental expenditure, infrastructure and human development expenditure are the importance determinants of rural poverty macro level policy can help reduce poverty in long run.

²V. Ambumani And T. Lingamurugeswari, "Poverty Alleviation Measures in India", *Poverty And Alleviation. Indian Economic Association - 2005. pp.9-90.*

³M. Anbalagan and V. Selvam, "Re-Engineering The Mechanism of Micro Finance for Poverty Alleviation and Social Change" *Economic Affairs. Vol. 51 Qr. 2. June 2006, pp. 155-161.*

⁴Avtar Singh Sahota "Poverty Reduction Strategies in a Market Economy" *kurukshetra. July 2002, pp.4-13.*



Bandana Roy⁵: as quoted by Debeudra Renal Poverty (2000) Leaders of the poverty and backwardness of people in the villages. Ganhiji repeatedly asserted that real India lived in the Villages. His programmes of spinning. Khadi, rural hygiene, revival of traditional crafts and village industries, fight against untouchability were aimed at creation of Self - reliant and autonomous rural development. Jawahar Lai Nehru and Subhash Chandra Bose delivered that science and technology hold the key for alleviation of poverty. In his message to the Silver Jubille Session of the Indian Science Congress in 1938. Nehru said. It was science alone that could solve these problems of hunger and poverty, of insanitation and illiteracy, of superstition and deadening custom and tradition, of vast resources running to waste, of a country inhabited by starving people.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the poverty alleviation schemes of rural and urban areas in India.
2. To study the people awareness on rural and urban poverty alleviation schemes.
3. To study the Interventions and Imperatives of NGOs for rural and urbanDevelopment.

4. EVALUATION OF THE RURAL AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES

➤ Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes in India

National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM):

Was launched in 2011 by the Ministry of Rural Development and aided by the World Bank. NRLM aims to create an efficient and effective system for the rural poor to access financial services. To that end, the objective is to create sustainable opportunities by empowering and enabling the poor to increase their household income. In addition to income-generated assets to the poor they would also be facilitated to achieve increased access to rights, entitlements and public services, diversified risk and better social indicators of empowerment. The mission aims at harnessing the innate capabilities of the poor and complements them with providing them the

⁵*Bandana Roy, "Science, Technology and Eradication Rural Poverty" Dynamics of Rural Development: Perspective and Challenges, pp. 154-164.*



capacity to participate in the growing economy of the country. In 2015, the program was renamed to Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM).

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (MNREGA):

To ensure the security and livelihood of people in rural areas, this act guarantees a minimum of 100 days of wage employment. These measures apply to households whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled, manual work. All districts in India have coverage under MNREGA. Under this scheme, every person has the right to a job. If the state is unable to provide a job within 15 days of application, then the worker receives an entitlement to a daily unemployment allowance. To ensure social inclusion, women gain priority such that some 33% of the beneficiaries under this scheme are women. Moreover, the robust institutions for grievance redressal and social auditing guarantee accountability and transparency.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G):

Due to the gaps in the earlier scheme for rural housing, titled Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), it was restructured in 2016 to PMAY-G. Through this scheme, the government commits to realizing housing for all, by 2022. The aim is to provide solid and permanent housing with all the basic amenities including toilet, LPG connection, electricity connection and drinking water.

Public Distribution System (PDS):

Aims to manage food scarcity and distributing essential food commodities at affordable prices. The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) launched in June 1997, to allocate food resources to the poor. The primary goal is to distribute essential food commodities like rice, wheat and kerosene at highly subsidized rates to the people living below the poverty line. This poverty alleviation scheme helps in addressing the issue of food insecurity in rural areas of India. Data analysis and interpretation.



➤ **URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION SCHEMES IN INDIA**

National Urban Transport Policy, 2006:

The National Urban Transport Policy involves incorporating urban transportation as an important parameter at the urban planning stage. It also focuses on the introduction of intelligent transport systems, reduction of pollution levels and encouraging greater use of public transport and nonmotorized modes through central financial assistance.

National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM):

Launched on 24th September 2013 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA), the scheme is a livelihood promotion programme to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities thereby enhancing their livelihood. It also addresses the livelihood concerns of urban street vendors. It has been implemented across 790 cities.

Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY):

The scheme was introduced on 21st January 2015 for the holistic development of heritage cities. It deals with preserving and reviving the soul of the heritage city, as well as the development of core heritage infrastructure projects and revitalization of urban infrastructure for areas around heritage assets.

National Urban Sanitation Policy (NUSP):

The National Urban Sanitation Policy was formulated in 2008 which laid out the government's vision to provide hygienic and affordable sanitation facilities for the urban poor especially women as well as addressing the challenges with effective city sanitation plans.

Smart Cities Mission:

The mission was Launched on June 25, 2015, the Smart Cities Mission is a flagship scheme under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. This ambitious programme by the Indian Government aims at building 100 Smart Cities across India with focus on planned urbanisation and sustainable development as a support system for the neighbouring cities. It also involves the development of high-quality infrastructure with provision of basic amenities, education, health services, IT accessibility, digitisation, e-governance, sustainable development, safety and



security. Global cities such as Singapore, Japan, and the USA are offering valuable support to India's mission, which also emphasises on economic development of urban centres by creating more jobs and enhancement in income.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) (Urban) or Housing for All:

The scheme was launched on June 25, 2015 for providing 20 million affordable homes for the urban poor including slum dwellers by March 2022. The beneficiaries include Economically weaker section (EWS), low-income groups (LIGs) and Middle-Income Groups (MIGs). Implemented as Centrally Sponsored Scheme with two components-PMAY (Urban) and PMAY (Rural), the mission involves providing central assistance to implementing agencies through States and UTs.

Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM-U):

The mission was Launched on October 2, 2014, The Swachh Bharat Mission is the government's nationwide flagship programme with the objective of universal sanitation coverage in urban areas with a budget allocation of Rs 41,765 crore for 2018-19. It is a comprehensive sanitation scheme which aims to make the country open defecation free by 2019, promote 100 per cent collection and scientific processing of municipal solid waste, encourage healthy sanitation practices and equip the urban local bodies (ULBs) to design, execute and operate systems. The overall estimated cost for the SBM is Rs 62,009 crore of which Rs 14,787 crore is the centre's share.

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNRUM):

The scheme was Launched in 2005, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission was a city-modernisation scheme with an investment of over \$20 billion over seven years. It covers two components viz. provision of basic services for urban poor (BSUP) and an Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). The scheme was designed to raise investment in urban infrastructure, build better civic amenities, ensure universal access to basic utilities as well as create affordable homes for the urban poor, slum dwellers and people of economically weaker sections.



5. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table-1
Rural Poverty Alleviation Schemes in India

		Rural Poverty Alleviation Schemes in India					Total
		Very Unaware	Unaware	Neither Aware or Unaware	Aware	Very Aware	
Warangal Rural	Count	99	61	57	1	7	225
	%	22.0%	13.6%	12.7%	0.2%	1.6%	50.0%
Karimnagar Rural	Count	16	99	64	18	28	225
	%	3.6%	22.0%	14.2%	4.0%	6.2%	50.0%
Total	Count	115	160	121	19	35	450
	%	25.6%	35.6%	26.9%	4.2%	7.8%	100.0%

Source: field study

Table-1: Warangal and Karimnagar rural sample respondents were asked to give their opinion on awareness about rural poverty alleviation schemes the results are presented. Out of 450 respondents, 160 are un-aware of rural poverty alleviation scheme (35.6%), 121 are aware or unaware (26.9%), 115 are very aware (25.6%). 35 were very aware (7.8%) and 19 were aware (4.2%) And from Warangal, 99 respondents were very-unaware, 61 were unaware, 57 were aware or unaware, 7 were very aware and 1 were aware. And from Karimnagar, 99 respondents were unaware, 64 were aware or unaware, 28 were very aware, 18 were aware and 16 were unaware.

It is observed that most of the respondents (35.6%) unaware on Warangal and Karimnagar rural poverty alleviation schemes.

The study shows that the Chi Square test the calculated value is 97.145 and significance value is 0.000 it indicated that there is a significant difference on awareness on rural poverty alleviation scheme in two sample divisions. The Chi Square value is less than 0.05. We reject null hypothesis (H0) and accept alternative hypothesis (H1).



Table-2
Urban Poverty Alleviation Schemes in India

		Urban Poverty Alleviation Schemes in India					Total
		Very Unaware	Unaware	Neither Aware or Unaware	Aware	Very Aware	
Warangal Rural	Count	44	35	57	41	48	225
	% of Total	9.8%	7.8%	12.7%	9.1%	10.7%	50.0%
Karimnagar Rural	Count	40	76	64	0	45	225
	% of Total	8.9%	16.9%	14.2%	0.0%	10.0%	50.0%
Total	Count	84	111	121	41	93	450
	% of Total	18.7%	24.7%	26.9%	9.1%	20.7%	100.0%

Source: field study

Table-4.6: reveals Warangal and Karimnagar urban sample respondents were asked to give their opinion on awareness about urban poverty alleviation scheme the results are presented. Out of 450 respondents, 111 are unaware of poverty alleviation scheme (24.7%), 121 respondents are neither aware or unaware (26.9%), 93 respondents were very aware (20.7%). 84 were very unaware (18.7%) and 41 were aware (9.1%) And from Warangal urban, 57 respondents were neither aware nor unaware, 48 were very aware, 44 were very un-aware, 41 were aware and 35 were un aware. And from Karimnagar Urban, 76 respondents were unaware, 64 were neither aware not unaware, 45 were very aware, and 40 were very unaware.

It is observed that the majority of the respondents were 121 respondents are neither aware or unaware (26.9%).

The study shows that the Chi Square test the calculated value is 56.836 and significance value is 0.000. it indicated that there is a significant difference on awareness on poverty alleviation scheme in two sample divisions respondents. The Chi Square value is less than 0.05. We reject null hypothesis (H0) and accept alternative hypothesis (H1).



6. INTERVENTIONS AND IMPERATIVES OF NGOS FOR RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

○ Improvement in the Quality of Life

Certain basic services like drinking water, health, housing, nutrition, rural roads etc., need to be provided to them. Therefore, apart from the provision of food safe drinking water should be accorded highest priority. An urgent need of NGOs to bring such rural and urban within the fold of genetic, preventive and curative medical sciences concomitant with undertake to improve their nutritional levels.

○ Reduction of the Incidence of Poverty

Tribals have been fast losing the areas traditionally under their possession and also the rights to use these areas. Poverty, indebtedness and the malaise mechanisms of the more advanced groups who have been extending their influences over the rural and urban areas are the reasons behind it. The tribals are gradually becoming tenants or working as labourers on the land owned by them earlier. This, no doubt, indicates gradual pauperization of the tribals. Old and outdated methods of production, chronic unemployment and serious underemployment contribute, to a great extent, to their poverty condition.

○ Raising the Levels of Productivity

Raising their productivity in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, forestry, cottage, village and small industries and provision of employment in all seasons will go a long way in reduce the incidence of poverty of Scheduled Tribes. However, creation of employment potential during the slack season is a prime need to ward off starvation for a few weeks in a year, which is a normal feature in some rural and urban areas. There should be provision of capital inputs, technology, marketing, training etc., to argument production in rural and urban areas. Implementation of efficient programmes may go a long way in removing poverty to a great extent in the rural and urban.

○ Checking Extinction of Lesser rural and urban areas

There is an urgent need for appropriate and effective development programmes to check extinction of lesser tribes. Presence of non-tribes in rural and urban areas results in net outflow of resources from the r areas leaving them impoverished. This is illustrated by instances of zones



inhabited by the so-called primitive groups. The primitive **rural and urban areas**, nomadic groups, shifting cultivators, forest villagers, families displaced by development projects and migrant rural and urban laborers need special attention by the NGOs working for the **rural and urban areas** development. The incapacity, from which these vulnerable areas and groups suffer from, needs to be identified for remedial action from both government and non-governmental agencies.

○ **Removal of Illiteracy**

The educational level of rural and urban areas very low. Further, the insignificant literacy rate among **rural and urban areas** women is of great concern. Illiteracy gripping the **rural and urban areas** female-folk distorts the female role models. It perpetuates ignorance and superstition among them. The socio-economic development of scheduled tribes depends on educational advancement. On growing up, the educated **rural and urban areas** children can face the modern world better. Therefore, the NGOs working for the development of tribes may concentrate more on education of **rural and urban areas**.

○ **Elimination of Exploitation**

Exploitation in **rural and urban areas** areas mainly occurs in the fields of liquor vending, land alienation, money-lending, forestry, trade including collection and disposal of minor forest products and forest labour. While generally the passing of lands from the ownership and control of the tribals is attributed to the lacunae in the law, faulty implementation, greedy exploitation by unscrupulous traders, money lenders etc. sometimes the tribals are overwhelmed by a sense of alienation from the socio-political system itself, which they think is responsible for their massive dispossession. Elimination of exploitation and enforcement of protective and anti-exploitative measures are the basic needs of **rural and urban areas** development.

○ **Supportive Infrastructure in rural and urban areas**

Another need for **rural and urban areas** development arises from the fact that the **rural and urban areas** areas have sparse physical infrastructure. Whatever exists might not be able to support beneficiary-oriented programmes. Adequate infrastructure is required for production,



anti-poverty education and anti-exploitative programmes. Supportive infrastructures have to be legislative, physical, institutional and administrative.

○ **Demographic Quality and Gender Dimension**

The demographic property of **rural and urban areas** is unique in as much as there is ethnic diversity, economic backwardness and low level of technological development. They do not generally seek economic prosperity. Their source of happiness lies elsewhere. They are essentially satisfied if their bare necessities of life are accomplished. Their institutions are mostly informal socio-cultural and unquestioned traditional loyalty and obedience.

For the overall development of the **rural and urban areas**, the above said areas have to be given special concern by the government as well as the NGOs.

7. CONCLUSIONS

It is observed that most of the respondents (35.6%) unaware on Warangal and Karimnagar rural poverty alleviation schemes.

The study shows that the Chi Square test the calculated value is 97.145 and significance value is 0.000 it indicated that there is a significant difference on awareness on rural poverty alleviation scheme in two sample divisions. The Chi Square value is less than 0.05. We reject null hypothesis (H0) and accept alternative hypothesis (H1).

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