



ROLE OF NGOS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF MARGINALIZED WOMEN IN BENGALURU

¹Dr. Marri Prema Jyothi and ²Kesarapu Govik

¹Forest Section Officer Huzoor Nagar Range, Suryapet District, Telangana, India

²Department of Sociology, University College of Arts & Social Sciences Osmania University, Hyderabad

INTRODUCTION:

Development with empowerment has been the mantra of independent India. Since independence, the government has been planning and implementing various programmes for the development of the country in all sectors. However, development particularly of social sector; experience has shown that wealth can be generated by higher growth but it need not necessarily lead to equitable distribution of fruits of higher economic growth. This has necessitated the demand for 'economic development with a human face', 'development for social justice'. Economic development is meaningful only if it leads to the development and empowerment of the hitherto underdeveloped, marginalized and disempowered social groups like Dalits, unorganized workers, women and other weaker sections of the society.

To bring this into reality, efforts of government alone is not sufficient as the population is more and also the issues. Hence, NGOs that is, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are playing in providing the backward and forward linkages to the beneficiaries and are functioning as the bridge between the government and the common people.

NGOs are generally considered to be not-for-profit groups or associations, whether local or international, acting outside political institutions. They pursue the interests of one or more groups through lobbying or direct action. A Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) is citizen-based group that functions independently of government. NGOs, sometimes called civil societies, are organized on community, national and international levels to serve specific social or political purposes, and are cooperative, rather than commercial, in nature. Examples of NGOs include those that support human rights, advocate for improved health or encourage political participation. Two broad groups of NGOs are identified by the World Bank: operational NGOs, which focus on development projects; and advocacy NGOs, which are organized to promote particular causes. Certain NGOs may fall under both categories simultaneously. While the term "NGO" has various interpretations, it is generally accepted to include private organizations that operate without government control and that are non-profitable and non-criminal. Other definitions further clarify NGOs as associations that are non-religious and non-military.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY:

In the present study, an attempt has been made to study the NGOs working on developmental activities of marginalized women groups in Bengaluru city in general and the study area that is Bapuji Nagar in particular. Further, the contributions of NGOs in bringing awareness among the marginalized women groups on issues of development and empowerment has also been analyzed.

- Primary data - Interview Schedule, Case study and observation method.
- Secondary data - Library and reference material, News Papers, Journals etc.



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➤ Data analysis and interpretation.

AREA PROFILE:

Bapuji Nagar slum is placed adjacent to the Bengaluru-Mysore Highway with a population of about 5,000. This is considered to be one among the developed slums in Bengaluru city. Compared to other slums, the living conditions of the people are higher. Most of the houses are RCC roofed (75%-80%). Basic amenities like water supply and drainage are well established. There are public taps, mini water tanks, and also individual taps which cater to the drinking water needs of the people. There are closed drainages around the houses with a big open drainage running along the slum. The garbage is disposed through corporation vehicle which collects it under “Swacha Bengaluru” programme in collaboration with NGOs. There is cleanliness in and around the area but, due to the big open drainage which runs along the slum, the people are encountered with many health hazards. There are two big temples of **Sri Gali Anjaneya Swamy** and **Sri Beereshwara swamy** which attracts a huge number of devotees. The temple also provides livelihood to the slum residents. They are engaged in activities like flower vending, fruit vending, vending of pooja materials and the like and many run petty shops in relation to pooja activities.

A Government School up to 10th standard and few private schools are operating in the area. A Corporation Hospital is existing which was built under India Population Project-VIII and is catering to the health needs of the slum dwellers in general and women and children in particular. It provides ante-natal care, post-natal care, immunization to pregnant women and children and family planning methods. There is a Samudaya Bhavan built by BBMP under UBSP Scheme. There are two Anganwadis in the slum. A tailoring class is being run from the Corporation which gives training to the poor women.

NGOs OPERATING IN THE SLUM:

‘SAMRUDDHI’ and ‘ASHWA RURAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY’ are two NGOs operating in this area. Their activities include Capacity Building, Self Help Group formation, Women Empowerment and Health Awareness etc. Profile of an NGO is given below in detail.

ASHWA RURAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY ® (ARDS)

Byatarayanapura, Mysore Road, Bengaluru – 560026

ARDS is a voluntary organization registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 in the year 1994 on 18th of November. From past 15 years, the organization is engaged in various developmental activities pertaining to Education, Environment, Health, Nutrition, Child Labour Eradication and Rehabilitation, Natural Resource Management, watershed Development, Enlightenment and Empowerment of Women on welfare activities, legal affairs, dowry harassments and other such atrocities on women, Formation and maintenance of Self-Help Groups, Self-employment trainings etc, focusing on the downtrodden urban poor population in general and slum population in general. They are currently operating in slums present in and around Bengaluru city urban and also rural taluks of the district.



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The organization is actively implementing some Government aided projects in assistance with departments like Women Development Corporation, Women and Child Development Department, Karnataka State Social Welfare Advisory Board, Directorate of Municipal Administration etc., in many slums of the city and also taluks belonging to Bengaluru rural district.

Skill Development Training Programmes are conducted to the poor and unemployed women of slums. The beneficiaries are now enabled to get better job opportunities. For example those who were working as helpers in garments are now been taken as tailors which has helped them to increase their income levels and improve their living conditions.

Blood Donation Camps are organized in the colleges and university, the blood collected is donated to NIMHANS, Bengaluru. This has helped many poor and needy to get required blood for their survival.

13 Self Help Groups are formed and maintained in slum areas belonging to Bapuji Nagar, Kaveri Nagar, Kasturba slum and Avalahalli slum in Bengaluru city. In slum areas of Dasarahalli CMC, 42 Self Help Groups are formed and maintained by the organization. The members have been linked to Banks and other NGOs like Myrada for loans to take up income generation activities which have in turn helped them to improve their living conditions.

Entrepreneurship Development Training Programmes for Women are conducted for a period of two months in Bapuji Nagar, Pantharapalya and Ramanagara of Bengaluru Rural District. The beneficiaries are trained in the preparation of items like Phenyl, Plain Shampoo, Herbal Shampoo, Pappad, Nutritious Food, Candle, Soap Powder, Soap Liquid, Sabena, Liquid Blue, Pickle etc. They are being guided and facilitated to start the production and marketing linkages are also provided for the products.

A non-formal School is run for the benefit of school drop-outs, illiterate youth and adults in the slums. The students are provided with free study material and other accessories.

Many awareness programmes and meetings are held with respect to Reproduction and Child Health, Immunization, Family Planning Methods, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, Cancer, Health and Hygiene, Health, AIDS awareness, During swine flu epidemic, Empowerment of differently-abled children, Activities for visually impaired, Rehabilitating lepers, Education, Orphanages, Empowerment of women, Human rights campaign, Fighting for the rights of underprivileged women, Relief and rehabilitation during natural calamities, Following the 2001 Gujarat Earthquake, Following the 2004 tsunami, During floods in South India (2009), Rehabilitating the victims of terrorism, Other activities, Drinking water, Environment awareness, Activities for senior citizens etc. They are actively participating in the Polio Immunization Programme every year by motivating the public to bring the children to the booths and get immunized on the scheduled dates.

Volunteers with the children with cancer at Kidwai hospital, Bengaluru. The Seva Bharati organizational report states that it has over five thousand health care centers spread across India, including 2761 rural health care centers, 385 mobile clinics, 161 resident clinics in urban areas, 30 counseling centers and 7 leprosy medication and rehabilitation centers. It has a chain of 14 Blood banks and over three hundred blood donation indexes that serve in times of emergencies.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

- NGOs have been playing a vital role in effective implementation and positive organization of developmental activities
- Involving and supporting campaigns of various coalitions and associations against developmental activities and social injustice including other Initiative programmes, Conservation and Livelihoods Network, the Right to Information network, and various Ministries of the Government.



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- Supporting Public Campaigns and Public Interest Litigations.
- Conducting various awareness programmes with the heap of local Self Help Groups and Local government bodies.

To conclude with, it can be said that NGOs have been playing the role of gap-filling between the government and the beneficiaries. With proper usage of NGOs identification of beneficiaries, implementation of the programmes, monitoring and supervision during the implementation, follow-up activities for sustainability and the like can be done effectively and efficiently.

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