

## **A STUDY ON “NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) AND THEIR ROLE IN THE PROCESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT”**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are increasingly being recognized or pushed in a variety of fields, including alternative healthcare, community development, social justice, and education; nevertheless, these efforts are hampered by the inefficiency of the government and the limitations of its resources. In order to collect information for this research, a wide variety of sources, including academic journals, papers, and even the websites of companies, were consulted throughout the proceedings. The objective of this research is to monitor the progress of these non-profit organizations in order to determine the rate at which they are growing. In order to screen the papers that were retrieved from three different internet databases, a procedure known as systematic literature review was utilized. A total of eight publications have been selected for additional examination as part of this research project. A total of four recommendations and four difficulties have been discovered after careful consideration. With that in mind, the purpose of this article is to provide some recommendations for enhancing the performance of non-profit organizations that are currently in existence so that they can better serve the community as a whole.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Non- Governmental Organization (NGO), Sustainable community development, Program development, training.*

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### **INTRODUCTION**

The last two decades of the twentieth century saw the beginning of the involvement of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in politics in the majority of countries. Initially, these organizations were primarily concerned with social welfare; nevertheless, they eventually began to play a role in politics. At the same time, the interest of academics in non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is expanding. A large number of empirical studies on non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were carried out between the years 1987 and 1997. These studies focused on government, democratization, the establishment of civil society, and also on NGOs in the context of the global system. At the same time, governments and communities in the majority of countries have started to uncover and bring attention to a variety of difficult socioeconomic concerns, including consumerism, the empowerment of women, the environment, and human rights. An NGO has the

potential to become involved in complicated societal issues as part of its mission throughout this time period, thanks to the coincidences that have occurred.

In the meantime, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are typically characterized by four characteristics: they are non-profit, non-partisan, non-criminal, and volunteer. There were seven basic features that were used to define and differentiate non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as stated by Salamon and Anheier. The following is a list of your seven characteristics: (1) formal (officially registered and governed); (2) private (having a separate organization from the government); (3) non-profit distributing (different from the objectives of establishing a business organization); (4) self-governing (privately managed); (5) voluntary (worked voluntarily); (6) non-religious (not motivated by preaching); and (7) non-political (not involved in promoting candidates in elections). For the purpose of distinguishing non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from other types of groups, these features are very helpful.

Willetts divides non-governmental organizations (NGOs) into two primary categories: campaigning and operational. Development initiatives for neglected populations, such as the poor, the disabled, the elderly, and the oppressed, are the major mission of operational non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which are organizations that are not affiliated with the government. Campaigning nongovernmental groups, on the other hand, are organizations whose major purpose is to exert influence over the policymaking process of a country. It should come as no surprise that in order to carry out their initiatives and programs, operational nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) require resources in the form of financial assistance, equipment, or volunteer labor. Campaigning nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) rely on more intangible resources to mobilize the activities that they administer, such as ideas, experience, skills, and time from other members and individuals. This is in contrast to operational nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). As a result, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are considered to be development actors since they have the potential to contribute to the formation of social interactions and cross-networks, which provide a foundation for collective action and improved democratic involvement.

In defining sustainable community development, its definition emphasizes the importance of striking a balance between environmental concerns and development objectives while also enhancing local social relationships. Sustainable communities not only protect and enhance the environment but also promote more humane local societies. It is a combination of both Sustainable Development and Sustainable Community, whereby the community lives in a sustainable environment and social interaction. On the other hand, community development is the voluntary participation of individuals in an organized process aimed at achieving the desired outcomes, most notably in the areas of education, health, recreation, and housing. It is an activity carried out at the community level that is an organized effort to raise the social, economic, and environmental standards of society with the least amount of external assistance possible. Community development can help local communities improve their socioeconomic situation and make better use of available resources. Community development shifted to resource mobilization during the preindustrial era. During this period, community development became focused on workforce expansion and self-defenses, which was accomplished through resource mobilization. Since the modern era's focus on community development shifted significantly, the primary goal of societal development has been to improve people's social well-being.

In addition, Khalid claimed that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are particularly skilled at organizing ordinary populations in such a way that they may be considered reinforcement social capital, a function that can eliminate the need for service delivery. Local communities, on the other hand, ought to be included in each and every development

plan. This is as a result of the findings that had proved that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are incredibly effective at supporting the development of communities and that individuals are willing to join these groups because of the benefits that they offer. As such, this article investigates the role that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play and the impact they have on community development, as well as the obstacles that NGOs confront and the path that NGOs ought to take in the field of community development.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE:**

### **Non- Governmental Organization (NGO)**

The phrase "non-governmental organizations" (NGOs) is used to refer to almost all organizations that are not supported by the government, with the exception of political parties and commercial organizations. A completely voluntary membership is required for the organization, and it must conduct its business in accordance with the laws of the nation in which it is authorized to do business. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are organizations that are managed well and have the goal of alleviating human suffering and promoting the development of underdeveloped nations. They do this through a variety of means, such as providing financial support for projects, assisting in the delivery of services, and constructing capacity.

According to Stormiest, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) serve three primary purposes: (i) they provide direct services, such as providing shelter and aid and caring for the welfare of the unfortunate; (ii) they provide educational services, such as initiating educational awareness and encouraging critical analysis on the social environment; and (iii) they defend public policy, such as advocating for the prevention of corruption or a policy that prohibits smoking. In Baccaro, the author explains how certain non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can facilitate the organization and empowerment of the underprivileged, particularly women, by providing training for group members, promoting awareness, and providing various social services, among other things. techniques. The ability to gain control socially, politically, economically, and psychologically is defined by Zimmerman and Rappaport as the ability of an individual to gain control through access to information, knowledge, and skills; making decisions; and individual self-efficacy, community participation, and perceived control. This ability is referred to as the ability to gain control.

A long-term goal of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is to foster sustainable community development through activities that focus on capacity-building and empowerment. According to Langran, capacity building is the process by which non-governmental organizations (NGOs) facilitate community development. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are commonly established with the purpose of assisting individuals in the development of their talents. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are commended for their role in fostering community autonomy and empowerment through the provision of assistance to community groups and the facilitation of participatory processes.

### **Concept of Community Development**

A community can be defined as a well-defined social unit, such as a group or association of individuals who share similar needs, interests, functions, and values. In addition, community development is a process in which organizations provide assistance to people of the community through the process of identifying issues that are important to them and taking collective action on those concerns. Residents are given more agencies through community development, which also helps to strengthen and unite communities. It is now well acknowledged that community development is among the most influential social factors in the process of bringing about change that is both purposeful and effective.

According to the United Nations, community development is a process in which citizens collaborate with government officials to improve the economic, social, and cultural conditions of the entire society. This gives citizens the ability to fully contribute to the progress of the nation and integrate these communities into the life of the nation. Jones is the one who came up with the term "community development," which incorporates participatory community development, empowerment, and capacity building. The process of community development can be broken down into two basic components as a consequence of this. To begin, the participation of individuals in the attempt to raise their level of living as much as possible by their own initiative is essential. Second, the provision of social and technical services in a manner that encourages initiative, self-sufficiency, and mutual comprehension.

United empowerment, unified leadership, and revolutionizing through discourse are the three essential components that should be incorporated into a community development approach, as stated by Pearce. Community members from both rural and urban areas should be involved in the development process at every stage, including the evaluation of needs, the planning stage, and the implementation stage. In this context, community development can be utilized for a variety of purposes, including but not limited to the following: (1) enhancing and enhancing health; (2) enhancing education; (3) enhancing recreation and housing; (4) developing community leaders; (5) motivating communities to organize community-based plans to solve their problems; (6) strengthening the capacities of local communities to identify their incomes and interests; (7) establishing clear support among the community; and (8) enhancing operational community grunt.

In the meantime, sustainable community development presents new problems to a society that requires more attention and participation from a variety of different stakeholders. Two of the most important ideas, namely sustainable community development and sustainable development, are brought together in this method. In this context, it is anticipated that communities would be able to reside in an environment that is not only environmentally sustainable but also socially and economically sustainable. In other words, a sustainable community is one that has the ability to continuously adapt in order to meet the social and economic requirements of its members while simultaneously preserving the capacity of the environment to support them. Therefore, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) need to organize communities in order for them to become self-sufficient. It provides assistance to communities in recognizing their potential and in depending on their resources to accomplish their objectives, which ultimately contributes to the establishment of sustainable communities.

### **The Relationship between NGO and Community Development**

In light of the findings of this study, it is possible to assert that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a crucial role in the promotion of sustainable community development. This type of development seeks to strike a balance between environmental concerns and development goals, while simultaneously developing local social relations. In addition to meeting the economic requirements of their inhabitants, sustainable communities also work to enhance and safeguard the natural environment, and they encourage the expansion of communities that are dedicated to humanitarian work.

The following six functions of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are essential to the development of communities, as stated by William: The first is the development and operation of infrastructure; the second is the support for innovation, demonstration, and pilot projects; the third is the facilitation of communication (NGOs can facilitate communication upward from the people to the government and downward from the government to the people); the fourth is the provision of technical assistance and training; the fifth is research, monitoring, and evaluation; and the sixth is

advocacy (NGOs play roles ranging from advocates for the poor to implementers of government programs).

By aiding communities in the development of their social, capital, and human resources; expanding knowledge and skills; encouraging people to participate in activities; and acting as a link between communities and systems, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a significant role in the process of community development. Participation in these activities will lead to their strengthening, which will be accomplished as a result of the development of the community [24]. As a consequence, this ultimately leads to the establishment of ecologically conscious communities over the long run.

## **METHODS**

For the purpose of determining the potential influence that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) could have on community development, this study examined a considerable amount of published material, which included journal articles, reports, and even websites of organizations. After that, the document analysis and literature studies were carried out with the assistance of a number of electronic databases, such as Google Scholar, Scopus, and Wiley, among others. The phrases "non-governmental organizations' role" and "community development" featured prominently among the keywords that were utilized. A systematic review procedure was used to evaluate the articles that were retrieved. This process consisted of three steps: identification, screening, and eligibility. The results of this analysis will be explained in the next subchapter.

### **Systematic Review Process**

#### **(i) Identification**

The identification phase is the first step in the process of conducting a systematic review. This phase incorporates the identification of keywords for the purpose of conducting information searches. Each search engine's linked articles were searched using the terms that are listed in Table 3, which can be found below. A number of different sources, such as dictionaries, thesauruses, and keywords from earlier works, were utilized in order to acquire the specific keywords. An aggregate of 180 papers were retrieved from Scopus, 247 documents were recovered from Google Scholar, and 118 articles were retrieved from Wiley by the time this process was completed. There were a total of 545 documents that were obtained.

#### **(ii) Screening (Including and Excluding Criteria)**

The process of screening involves determining which articles should be included and which should be excluded based on criteria that are established by the authors with the assistance of particular databases. For the purpose of determining whether or not the articles were suitable, eligibility, inclusion, and exclusion criteria were established. These criteria included a timetable (between 2016 and 2022), document kinds (articles journal with empirical data), and language (English). For the purposes of this study, articles that met other criteria were not considered. There were a total of 324 articles that were eliminated after the identifying process was completed.

#### **(iii). Eligibility and Duplication (Manuel Screening)**

The procedure of eligibility involves manually selecting whether articles are eligible for inclusion or exclusion based on the criteria that are specified by the authors. At this stage, the articles that were retrieved were subjected to a comprehensive review, and those articles that did not meet the criteria were chosen to be rejected. This encompasses

documents that are identical. It was determined that a total of 117 articles were redundant, and this resulted in a total of 104 documents being left for the eligibility process to screen manually for literature that focuses on non-governmental organizations and community development. Furthermore, one of the conditions for the articles' eligibility is that they must feature the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or the impact of the programs, initiatives, or interventions that are aimed at ensuring the long-term viability of community development. For the purpose of this investigation, a total of fourteen articles were chosen for additional examination after going through a comprehensive process of reading and screening.

### **Data Abstraction and Analysis**

Following that, analyses, reviews, and evaluations were performed on the articles. In the first stage of the research process, a total of fourteen articles were subjected to thematic analysis in order to extract statements and data that were relevant to the study's purpose. An investigation of the obstacles that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are active in community development face, as well as many recommendations to increase NGOs' commitment to community development, were carried out after the analysis of the role and impacts of different types of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In addition to imbalanced, unsafe, and conflict-prone societies, there are four issues that have been discovered. These challenges include inadequate governance, inadequate funding, and inadequate networking. Support from the government, support from the community, proper training for non-governmental organizations (NGOs), a monitoring and evaluation structure for NGOs, and assistance for women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are the four suggestions that have been made for improvement.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS:**

### **Challenges faced by the NGOs in Community Development**

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which are an essential component of civil society, play an important part in the management of a wide range of activities that are both complicated and varied. When it comes to carrying out their trusts, they are confronted with management issues on both the internal and external fronts. The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) suffer challenges that have been proved by a multitude of research and practices. These challenges include political interference, a lack of money, inefficient networking, and bad governance. The following are important facts concerning the difficulties that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are involved in community development confront.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) suffer a number of serious challenges, one of which is inadequate communication and networking. A lack of experience-based learning, the incapacity of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to address the structural causes of underdevelopment at the local level, and the duplication of efforts are also connected with it]. Duplication of efforts is also associated with contradicting policies at the community level. Furthermore, negative rivalry for resources undermines the reputation of the sector as well as the efficiency of activities carried out by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at the community level. As a consequence of this, there is a culture of secrecy, a lack of transparency, and widespread mistrust of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). At the community level, numerous non-governmental organizations (NGOs), both large and small, act without first performing a community mapping exercise and then implementing projects without taking into consideration the ongoing community initiatives. Tensions between non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been observed in a number of areas, with one group

battling another with resources but no community presence, and another group fighting another with community presence but no resources.

Poor governance is yet another significant challenge that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) face. There was a wide range of awareness regarding good governance, with certain regions demonstrating a very limited comprehension of the reasons why non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are required to have boards or the roles, responsibilities, and tasks that boards should have. According to Mawere, a significant number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) commit resource mismanagement, frequently with the participation and assistance of their boards. As a consequence of this, many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) function in an ineffective manner. People in the majority of developing nations have increased their involvement in the formation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as a means of achieving self-sufficiency, which is a problem that has been widely documented.

Obtaining money that is enough, suitable, and sustainable for the work that they do is the third challenge that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) face. It is a big obstacle to accomplishing the goals that have been set since there is a shortage of cash and support for funding. Funding is essential for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to be able to carry out their initiatives, programs, and activities that contribute to the growth of their communities. The organization has a difficult time persuading funders to refrain from dealing with the funding issue that they are currently facing. They are under the impression that there is a coalition consisting of particular persons and non-governmental organizations that holds the power to control access to donor cash. It is possible for them to gather insufficient money, and they typically do not look for funding locally; rather, they prefer to wait for overseas donors to approach them. It is common practice to personalize interventions to the specific donor, and there is a significant dependence on donor's personal preferences. In addition, there is a lack of sustainability in terms of finances, projects, and both the organization and its operations. As a consequence of this, funding agencies, donors, and sponsors are extremely important to all non-governmental organizations.

A great number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are operating in places that are unstable, dangerous, and prone to conflict. Additionally, many of these organizations work in conjunction with predatory persons, such as those who cause political interference or who may misuse the cash or grants that are granted for the NGOs for their own benefit. There were several areas in which non-governmental organization (NGO) activists admitted that the interference of local politicians and civic leaders was a serious obstacle to their work. It is common for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to be uninformed of the constitution and legislation that are in place to protect them from being intimidated.

A number of recommendations are made after a review of the literature on the role that local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play in community development and the obstacles that they confront. The purpose of these recommendations is to guarantee that NGOs become more effective at providing community development services while also contributing to economic growth and stability in the region.

Assistance for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should be strengthened by governments, other organizations, and individuals. This assistance should include the provision of a supportive working environment, financial resources, equipment, and training in technical reporting. Governments should provide funds to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) so that they can carry out community-based programs in order to create an environment that is conducive to community development projects. In spite of the fact that previous studies had found a number of connections between government funding and the occurrence of isomorphism, loss of autonomy, mission drift, and crowding out in

non-governmental organizations (NGOs), it is essential because it has the potential to contribute to the long-term viability and growth of the NGO sector. In exchange, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) ought to provide a specialized database that can be of use to the government and any other parties who are interested. It may be essential to develop a database that incorporates both social and environmental characteristics from pre-existing datasets of a high quality in order to examine the relationship between social and environmental issues throughout the course of time. In order to establish programs that address the need for individuals to better their standard of living, this database can be utilized by any and all parties that are interested in participating.

Furthermore, those who have benefited from community development programs and activities should continue to provide support to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in their own areas and ensure the maintenance and continuity of community development initiatives that have been completed. The beneficiaries of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should always be included in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of their community development initiatives. This will raise the project's ownership and it will also increase its sustainability. Not only are non-governmental organizations (NGOs) there to provide assistance to the government, but they also serve as a support system for those who are economically disadvantaged and vulnerable, particularly in trying times like the COVID-19 pandemic. The activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are seen by the community as evidence of their enduring compassion in the midst of calamity. The findings of research conducted by Kucheryavaya have made it abundantly evident that people feel that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should first and foremost address fundamental social issues that occur on a daily basis, and that the primary focus of NGOs' activities should now be on specific social acts and providing direct support to individuals. In this regard, it is recommended that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have established coalitions in order to obtain assistance from other network institutions and to promote their operations on a more extensive scale through networking and federations.

Other than that, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had to be educated in order to support the efforts of the government in the field of community development. The ideas, experiences, interests, and tremendous spirit of particular individuals or groups has the potential to culminate in the formation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in order to solve society concerns or wants. To effectively run the non-governmental organization (NGO), it is extremely vital for the leaders of the NGO to possess strong leadership abilities. A chameleon-like ability to balance competing demands and a variety of roles depending on the circumstances and individuals involved is exhibited by leaders of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). For instance, they are able to strike a balance between their vision and the practical needs of local communities, as well as the demands of donors or the vested interests of local politicians [52]. As a result, they require training that is capable of supplementing these tasks. Furthermore, the founding principles and strengths of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are centered on the achievement of their objectives, which include the provision of educational opportunities and the development of skills, the control and management of disease, the assistance of victims of natural disasters, the empowerment of women's economic empowerment, and the advocacy for human, social, economic, political, and cultural rights.

It is imperative that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) exhibit a stronger dedication to community development initiatives, notably through the promotion of self-help. To guarantee that community development programs and services are accessible to the most disadvantaged citizens of the region, it is necessary to have a monitoring and evaluation framework in place for non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The management of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) has to take into consideration the possibility of recruiting a sufficient number of staff to provide



assistance to the project team in carrying out monitoring and evaluation activities during the duration of the project. Additionally, management should establish a procedure for performing periodic staff needs assessments for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in collaboration with the monitoring and evaluation staff/focal point. This should work in conjunction with the monitoring and evaluation personnel. In order to provide more responsibility, this monitoring and evaluation may also be carried out by an organization that is not affiliated with the organization.

Non-governmental organizations that are comprised of working women are becoming more powerful; it is imperative that these organizations participate in a wide range of programs and training. It is imperative that women, who are great assets of the nation, be developed to their full potential in order to enable them to actively participate to the development of the community. The fact that certain women's non-governmental organizations (WONGOs) were either shrinking their operations or closing their doors as a consequence of financial restrictions is cause for concern. The majority of these organizations were naturally skeletal, which led to coverage concessions, as stated in a recent study. Although the participants in this study come from a different demography, it is essential not to discount the findings since it is possible that the same thing may happen in Malaysia, which would be detrimental to the empowerment of women. In the meantime, the government is very interested in promoting women's empowerment through Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls. This goal is being implemented in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that advocate for gender equality and women's empowerment in developing countries. To summarize, the building of women's non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is an endeavor that ought to be highlighted by all parties because it will have benefits from a variety of perspectives on the growth of the community.

To put it succinctly, the government should not be solely responsible for the growth of the community. Every single person, community, non-governmental organization (NGO), and other organization must be active in the efforts to help the impoverished. Everyone in the community ought to have a complete comprehension of the goals that the programs are trying to accomplish. Having the complete support of all parties concerned will lead to a more favorable outcome, which may be to the advantage of all parties involved.

In this article, a systematic review, the role and impact of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in supporting sustainable community development has been examined throughout the entire text. Based on the findings of this study, it is possible to draw the conclusion that sustainable community development is not a one-time endeavor. In addition to the fact that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a significant role in the process of beginning and advocating for sustainability through the programs and interventions they implement, it is important to involve other stakeholders in order to further guarantee the efficiency of this endeavor.

## **CONCLUSION**

In addition, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should carry out ongoing monitoring and evaluation in order to determine the extent to which each programme or plan that has been implemented has contributed to the establishment of sustainable community development.

Additionally, the difficulties that these non-governmental organizations (NGOs) encounter in their efforts to ensure the long-term viability of community development have been also recognized. Despite the fact that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a significant role in facilitating the sustainability of community development strategies, there is a significant need for effective networking and teamwork among stakeholders, capability development

or training for continuous improvement in the quality of life, good financial planning, as well as ongoing consultation or facilitation and advocacy. Stakeholders should place a priority on enhancing the effectiveness of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in providing community development services, as well as encouraging economic growth, development, and stability in the region. This is because they are confronted with a variety of obstacles.

To summarize, it is hoped that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) would be more creative in the future when it comes to selecting a medium that is appropriate, interesting, and efficient for the execution of their activities. This will ultimately contribute to a greater level of success in overcoming the challenges that are encountered. It is possible to achieve a significant rise in the contribution of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to community development if one gets a firm grasp on the goal of the study.

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