

THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN PROMOTING EMPOWERMENT FOR LONG-TERM PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

This article seeks to establish the importance of NGOs to long-term development. Many NGOs have programmers, functions, and tasks that help the public become empowered and eventually achieve sustainable development. This paper examines some of the roles activities and programs of NGOs, such as microfinance, capacity building, and self-sufficiency. Microfinance programs increase the economic well-being of the public by creating jobs and generating revenue. In the long run, economic empowerment will help to sustain public progress. NGOs promote public capacities such as the ability skill and knowledge of mobilizing resources planning and evaluating public initiations and problem solving to help people gain control of their lives. It also encourages the public to get involved in the project and helps them enhance their quality of life. Participants are expected to plan public activities, manage meetings, and be hands-on in public efforts. NGOs help long-term public development in this way. Furthermore, NGOs mobilize the public to release their potential and rely on their resources. In this summary, this study explains how all of these NGOs' programs and roles can help to release sustainable public development.

KEYWORDS: *Capacity Building, Self-Sufficiency, Empowerment, Microfinance*

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INTRODUCTION

NGOs, or non-governmental organizations, are voluntary groups of individuals or organizations that are usually not affiliated with any government and that are formed to provide services or to advocate public policy. NGOs can be classified into different categories based on their scope, focus, affiliation, or orientation. Some examples of NGOs are the Red Cross, Oxfam, Greenpeace, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Junior Achievement, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF NGOs

NGOs have existed for centuries; indeed, in 1910 some 130 international groups organized a coordinating body called the Union of International Associations. The term non-governmental organization was coined at about the time of the founding of the United Nations (UN) in 1945 to distinguish private organizations from intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), such as the UN itself. Many large international NGOs, such as Amnesty International, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Oxfam International, CARE, Save the Children, and the World Wildlife Fund, are transnational federations of national groups.

The number and influence of NGOs have grown rapidly since the end of World War II, especially in the last few decades. According to the Yearbook of International Organizations, there were more than 65,000 international NGOs in 2019. Some factors that have contributed to this growth include:

- The emergence of new global issues and challenges, such as human rights, environmental protection, humanitarian crises, poverty reduction, gender equality, etc., that requires collective action and cooperation across borders.
- The expansion of global communication and information technologies, such as the internet, social media, mobile phones, etc., enable NGOs to reach out to wider audiences, mobilize resources and supporters, network and collaborate with other actors, and monitor and report on their activities and impacts.
- The recognition and support of NGOs by various stakeholders, such as governments, IGOs, corporations, foundations, media, etc., that value their expertise, legitimacy, diversity, innovation, and advocacy roles in global governance.
- The dissatisfaction and disillusionment with the performance and accountability of traditional institutions and authorities, such as states, IGOs, markets, etc., that have failed to address the needs and aspirations of many people and communities around the world.

Today the role of NGOs takes a vital, brief introduction to capacity building, self-sufficiency, and microfinance. These are three essential concepts that relate to the empowerment and development of individuals and communities, especially in the context of poverty alleviation and social inclusion.

Capacity building is the process of enhancing the skills, abilities, processes, and resources that individuals, organizations, and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive. It can also be seen as the improvement in one's or one's organization's facility or capability to produce, perform or deploy. Capacity building can involve various interventions, such as training, mentoring, coaching, networking, institutional development, policy reform, etc. Capacity building aims to enable people and groups to achieve their goals and objectives more effectively and efficiently.

Self-sufficiency is the quality or condition of being able to provide everything you need, especially food, without the help of other people or countries. It can also refer to the quality of being able to take care of you, to be happy, or to deal with problems, without help from other people. Self-sufficiency can be seen as a desirable outcome of capacity building, as it implies independence, autonomy, resilience, and dignity. Self-sufficiency can also be a means of achieving sustainability, as it reduces dependence on external resources and promotes local solutions.

Microfinance is a type of banking service provided to low-income individuals or groups who otherwise wouldn't have access to financial services. Microfinance includes microcredit, the provision of small loans to poor clients; savings and checking accounts; micro-insurance; and payment systems, among other services. The goal of microfinance is to ultimately give impoverished people an opportunity to become self-sufficient by enabling them to start or expand their businesses, generate income, save money, manage risks, and improve their living standards.

These three concepts are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Capacity building can help people access and use microfinance services more effectively. Microfinance can help people achieve self-sufficiency by providing them with financial resources and opportunities. Self-sufficiency can help people sustain their capacity-building efforts by ensuring their own needs are met. Together, these three concepts can contribute to the empowerment and development of individuals and communities around the world.

ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF NGOS

NGOs play a variety of roles and functions in different domains and contexts. According to the World Bank¹, there are two broad groups of NGOs:

- **Operational NGOs:** These are NGOs that focus on the design and implementation of development projects or the provision of humanitarian assistance. They usually work directly with beneficiaries or target groups at the grassroots level. They may also partner with other actors such as governments, IGOs, corporations, or local organizations. Some examples of operational NGOs are Doctors without Borders, World Vision, and Habitat for Humanity.
- **Advocacy NGOs:** These are NGOs that defend or promote a specific cause or issue. They usually work indirectly by influencing public opinion, policy making, or decision-making at various levels. They may also engage in campaigns, lobbying, protests, or litigation. Some examples of advocacy NGOs are Greenpeace, Human Rights Watch, and Transparency International.

Some NGOs may fall under both categories simultaneously or switch between them depending on their goals and strategies. For instance, Amnesty International is mainly an advocacy NGO that campaigns for human rights, but it also provides humanitarian assistance to victims of human rights violations.

NGOs Perform Various Functions Depending on their Roles. Some Standard Functions are

- **Service delivery:** This is the function of providing goods or services to meet the needs or demands of a specific group or community. For example, NGOs may deliver health care, education, water, sanitation, food, shelter, etc., to people affected by poverty, conflict, disaster, or disease.
- **Capacity building:** This is the function of enhancing the skills, abilities, processes, and resources that individuals, organizations, or communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive. For example, NGOs may provide training, mentoring, coaching, networking, institutional development, policy reform, etc., to empower people and groups to achieve their goals and objectives more effectively and efficiently.
- **Research:** This is the function of generating or collecting data or information on a specific topic or issue. For example, NGOs may conduct surveys, studies, analyses, evaluations, etc., to understand the causes, consequences, and solutions to various problems or challenges.

- **Monitoring:** This is the function of observing or measuring the performance or impact of a specific activity or policy. For example, NGOs may monitor the implementation, compliance, or outcomes of development projects, humanitarian interventions, human rights standards, environmental regulations, etc., to ensure their quality, effectiveness, and accountability.
- **Advocacy:** This is the function of representing or advancing the interests or views of a specific group or cause. For example, NGOs may advocate for the rights, needs, or aspirations of marginalized or vulnerable people or communities, such as women, children, refugees, indigenous peoples, etc. They may also advocate for the protection or promotion of a specific value or principle, such as democracy, justice, peace, sustainability, etc.
- **Innovation:** This is the function of creating or introducing new ideas or methods to address a specific problem or challenge. For example, NGOs may innovate new ways of delivering services, building capacities, conducting research, monitoring impacts, or advocating causes. They may also innovate new forms of organization, collaboration, communication, or mobilization.

Challenges and Opportunities Faced by NGOs

NGOs face various challenges and opportunities in their work. Some of the common challenges are:

- **Funding:** This is the challenge of securing and managing adequate and reliable financial resources to support their activities and operations. NGOs may depend on various sources of funding, such as private donations, membership dues, government grants, IGO funds, corporate sponsorships, foundation grants, etc. However, these sources may be insufficient, unstable, unpredictable, conditional, or restrictive. NGOs may also face competition, corruption, fraud, or mismanagement in accessing or using funds.
- **Accountability:** This is the challenge of being responsible and answerable to various stakeholders for their actions and impacts. NGOs may have multiple and diverse stakeholders, such as beneficiaries, donors, partners, staff, volunteers, members, supporters, media, the public, etc. However, these stakeholders may have different or conflicting expectations, interests, values, or perspectives. NGOs may also face difficulties in measuring, reporting, or verifying their performance or impact.
- **Legitimacy:** This is the challenge of being recognized and accepted as credible and trustworthy actors by various stakeholders. NGOs may claim to have legitimacy based on various sources, such as representation, participation, expertise, morality, or legality. However, these sources may be contested, challenged, or questioned by other actors who may have different or opposing views or agendas. NGOs may also face accusations of bias, interference, manipulation, or co-optation.
- **Effectiveness:** This is the challenge of achieving their intended goals and objectives in a timely and efficient manner. NGOs may face various obstacles or constraints in implementing their activities or strategies, such as lack of resources, skills, knowledge, access, coordination, cooperation, etc. They may also face various risks or uncertainties in dealing with complex and dynamic situations or contexts.

- **Sustainability:** This is the challenge of maintaining and enhancing their viability and relevance in the long term. NGOs may face various pressures or changes that affect their survival and growth, such as competition, regulation, globalization, digitalization, diversification, etc. They may also face various dilemmas or trade-offs that affect their identity and mission.

The Prospects and Trends of NGOs

Some of the everyday opportunities are:

- **Partnership:** This is the opportunity of working with other actors to achieve common goals and objectives. NGOs may partner with various factors such as governments IGOs corporations foundations media academia or other NGOs. These partnerships may provide various benefits such as access to resources expertise influence visibility or credibility.
- **Participation:** This is the opportunity of engaging with various stakeholders to enhance their involvement and empowerment. NGOs may participate in various processes such as consultation dialogue negotiation decision making or implementation. These processes may provide various benefits such as representation voice inclusion ownership or accountability.
- **Innovation:** This is the opportunity of creating or introducing new ideas or methods to address specific problems or challenges. NGOs may innovate in various domains such as service delivery capacity building research monitoring advocacy or organization. These innovations may provide various benefits such as efficiency effectiveness quality impact or sustainability.
- **Learning:** This is the opportunity of acquiring or sharing knowledge or information on specific topics or issues. NGOs may learn from various sources such as experience research evaluation feedback or best practices. They may also learn about various factors such as beneficiaries' donors' partners staff volunteers members supporters media public etc.
- **Leadership:** This is the opportunity of leading or influencing other actors to achieve common goals and objectives. NGOs may lead in various ways such as setting agendas framing issues mobilizing resources building coalitions shaping policies or changing behaviors

CONCLUSIONS

Capacity building is an important concept in many fields, such as social and economic development, education, health, environment, disaster management, and governance. It involves a transformation that is generated and sustained over time from within. These are some of the roles that NGOs play in India today. They contribute to the social and economic development of the country and complement the efforts of the government and other stakeholders. NGOs also face some challenges such as lack of funds, transparency, accountability, regulation, and coordination. Therefore, there is a need for a conducive environment that enables NGOs to work effectively and efficiently for the common good.

The goal of microfinance is to ultimately give impoverished people an opportunity to become self-sufficient. Microfinance institutions (MFIs) offer financial products such as microloans, micro-savings, and micro-insurance products. The majority of micro financing operations occur in developing nations such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, and Ecuador. The quality or state of being able to provide everything you need,

especially food, without the help of other people or countries: one way to increase food self-sufficiency is to buy locally, whether it is in a farmers' market or a store. After decades of self-sufficiency, domestic oil production could no longer satisfy demand. The quality of being able to take care of yourself, to be happy, or to deal with problems, without help from other people.

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