



ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO EMPOWER THE WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN THROUGH KARNATAKA GOVERNMENTS PROGRAMMES.

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Abstract: *Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) mobilize people for constructive community work and often reach the most deprived sections of society and contribute to the socio-economic development of the country. This study shows the cooperation between the Government and the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) to implement the government programmes in Karnataka.*

Karnataka is one of the growing states of India which has bundle of schemes for the empowerment of Women and development of children implemented with the help of the NGO's. Government of Karnataka has come up with varieties of programs for the benefit of women and children.

Empowerment of women is high on the agenda in the development plan and policies in the state. NGOs have the potential to initiate this process and they have been actively involved in planning process and implementing of various policies related to women. They are also enhancing government efforts to work together. They are responding to the needs and aspirations of the women and children. NGOs have been making remarkable efforts for the upliftment of the women. They are fighting for their rights and making them more self-reliant. They empower women by conducting training programs that promote a solid base of conceptual, theoretical, and practical skills. There are various NGOs involved in solving the issues of women and promoting the related laws, safeguarding the interest of women in the framework of local or national policymaking.

In this paper we throw light on the role of NGOs in the implementation of the government programmes to empower women and children.

Keywords: Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), Empowerment, Programmes, Implementation.

1. INTRODUCTION:

"Governments can bring about change, not by acting alone but by working together with other actors... with civil society in the broadest sense. Governments can define norms and principles, and plans of actions, after carefully listening to the views of civil society. But then they need to work with appropriate partners to put those norms into practice."

— Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, General Assembly, September 2000

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) perform an important role in the social development of India as a developing country by providing services to society through welfare works for community development, assistance in natural disasters, sustainable development, and popular movements.

NGOs fulfil a number of functions in areas which tend to be neglected by the private and public sectors. Due to declining public sector/governmental provision of services in many countries, NGOs have played an increasingly influential role in a variety of activities which impact upon the lives of many people especially women and children.

After independence, in order to develop and empower women, the government has been framing policies and plans that have been executed by either five-year plans or other development projects. Since 1980's and 1990's, in the areas of women and child development, a number of women development schemes have been implemented through the Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) everywhere in the country. During the 1990's, NGOs emerged as the major stakeholders in the area of the development and welfare of the society.

Non-Governmental organizations are working for the development of Children and empowerment of women in Karnataka and elsewhere. Karnataka Government has brought various programs to empower women and children. NGO's are the main channels to implement those programs successfully. The present study aims at exploring the roles of NGO's in empowerment of women and development of children in Karnataka.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

3.

The main objectives of the study being undertaken can be seen as below.

- To understand the different programs planned by Karnataka Government to empower the Women and Children.
- To investigate the impact of NGO strategies on the status and living conditions of women.
- To examine the role of NGO's in empowerment of women and children.

Our aim, here is to clearly explore the appropriate roles of the NGO's that will well work for the welfare of the target group, particularly in empowering women and children.

4. DEFINITIONS AND MEANING:NON –GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS)

The World Bank's Operational Directive on NGOs defined the term of 'NGOs' as (Cited in Korten,1991:21): ***“The groups and institutions that are entirely or largely independent of governmental and characterized primarily by humanitarian or cooperative, rather than commercial objectives”***.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), the name itself says about the nature of the organizations that keep themselves outside the governmental relations and execute for the welfare of the society.

Bhose (2003) provides a definition given by the National Conference on the Role of Voluntary Organisation in Health Care in India that reads as:

A voluntary Organisation is a social service and a development institution motivated to meet the needs of the most disadvantaged in society, either through direct services to the people or through facilitative/indirect services to other voluntary organization or government, non-profit making and not undertaken to be fully funded for its maintenance, directly or indirectly by the Government.

Non –Governmental Organizations (NGOs) also called Voluntary Organization have long history of active involvement in the promotion of human welfare and well-being. NGOs come in to existence voluntarily, spontaneously and without any compulsion or control to fulfil the particular needs of some groups of people. NGOs are flexible and do the human services with dedication. It measures the health and strength of a democratic society. It flourishes in a society where NGO's actively participate with Government projects to reach out the needy people on time.

Nearly from two and half decade, NGO's have been working as the important actors in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the development programmes. This gives the best opportunity to the NGO's that were just to existence with the growth oriented approaches. The NGOs became prominent after independence. Development practitioners, government officials and foreign donors Consider that Non-Governmental organizations by the virtue of being small-scale, flexible, innovative and participator, are more successful in reaching the poor and in poverty alleviating. This consideration has resulted in the rapid growth of NGOs involved in initiating and implementing rural development programs and empowerment of deprived sections of the society.

This growth has reached each and every section of the social development and each state prominently. Now, there are more than 3 lac NGOs working in India indifferent levels and in different sectors (Registered and Non registered).

According to the latest NITI Ayoga Web portal NGO DARPAN total 29546 NGOs are registered in Government of India and 1497 in Karnataka state as on June 30th2017. These numbers are increasing day by day because of the government's policy to bring all the NGO's under one roof and Accountability in NGO's so that they can utilize the foreign contribution, government's funds to implement the programs properly and reach out to the concerned people.

5. NGO SECTORS IN KARNATAKA

The state has active and heterogeneous voluntary sector with a number of rural development oriented NGO's. Two decades ago there were 500 active rural development organizations in thestate. These organisations vary in size from MYRADA (Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency) one of the largest rural development NGO's in India with an annual estimated budget of over Rs. 200 million and a staff (permanent and temporary) of more than 400 to small action groups scattered across various villages and districts.

There are dense of informal networks that exist in the NGO sector at national, regional and local levels. Karnataka has strong formal networks and federations of NGO's involved in rural development, and increasingly in the urban areas as well. The best known amongst these is the State level Federation of Voluntary Organisations for Rural Development in Karnataka

(FEVORD-K).It has 130 rural development voluntary organisations who are engaged in integrated rural development. They are promoting and developing the member organizations with mutual help, co-operation, organising training programmes appropriate to the needs of beneficiaries.

In India there are nearly 42 sectors where Non-Governmental Organizations work for the development of society in different areas.

Table: 4.1 Number of NGO's in in different divisions working for the Empowerment of Women and Development of Children in Karnataka.

Division	Development of Children	Empowerment of Women
Bangalore	182	134
Gulbarga	46	44
Mysore	32	25
Belgaum	59	49
Total	319	252

These are the NGOs only registered in Niti Aayoga DARPAN portal. There are lot of other NGOs who have not yet registered in that portal but still getting the fund of government and working for the development of children and the empowerment of women in Karnataka.

6. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT: MEANING AND DEFINITIONS

5.1: Women Empowerment:

Women empowerment is very essential for the development of society. Empowerment means individuals acquiring the power to think and act freely, exercises choice and fulfil their potential as full and equal members of society. As per the United National Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the term women empowerment means:

- Acquiring knowledge and understanding of gender relations and the ways in which these relations may be changed.
- Developing a sense of self-worth, a belief in one's ability to secure desired changes and the right to control one's life.
- Gaining the ability to generate choices exercise bargaining power.
- Developing the ability to organize and influence the direction of social change, to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.

Women Empowerment refers to increasing and improving the social, economic, political and legal strength of the women, to ensure equal-right to women, and to make them confident enough to claim their rights, such as:

- Freely live their life with a sense of self-worth, respect and dignity.
- Have equal rights to participate in social, religious and public activities,
- Have equal social status in the society,
- Have equal rights for social and economic justice,
- Determine financial and economic choices,
- Get equal opportunity for education, and employment without any gender bias.
- Get safe and comfortable working environment.

Children development:Children represent the future, and ensuring their physical, socio-emotional and language and cognitive development ought to be a priority for all societies. In keeping with international policy standards, early child development (ECD), including health, physical, social/emotional and language/cognitive domains strongly influences basic learning, school success, economic participation, social citizenry and health. Within the work of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health, ECD has strong links to other social determinants of health, particularly Urban Systems, Gender, Globalization, and Health Care Services.

7. ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT:

NGO's are working through the Self-help Groups (SHGs) at grassroots levels for the development of women. These groups are working with the micro credit programmes as important tool of women's development and empowerment. As the

literature reveals, micro credit by the SHGs leads the beneficiaries to actively involved in the group formation and peer monitoring, much of the literature is dealt with the former issue.

Rajasekhar (2000) in another study, showed the performance of two NGO's Sreya's and RASTA (Rural Association for Social and Technological Advancement) in Kerala. In his study, the author examines the belief that government agencies, donors and NGO's link micro-finance to poverty alleviation and women's empowerment directly and argues that the above belief does not hold any water since there exist a lot of hindrances in the way that the NGO's face.

Geetha Rao (1999) attempted to explore the possible potential of micro - credit as a tool of empowerment of women. With the case studies of the two NGO's, the researcher tried to investigate the impact of NGO's intervention (through SHGs) to the empowerment of women in the selected areas and concluded that the respondents did reveal no idea of decision-making and gender equality and it made development sensitive approaches to empower women and showing the fact that micro credit alone cannot empower women.

Madheswaran and Dharmadhikari (2001) in their study based on the activities of Self Help Groups promoted by the Maharashtra Rural Credit Project to empower women, examine whether the scheme serves as the important tool to empower women. Using Joseph Stiglitz's 'theory of asymmetric information and peer monitoring' concluded that the factors such as lending for consumption purposes (especially for poor), savings and rotation of savings by group of members are attributable to the success of group lending. They also feel that for the poverty alleviation and empowerment of women, intervention should be a continuous, with the intervention at a steady pace rather than with the target oriented intensive efforts.

Rajasekhar (1994) Studies the savings and credit patterns of the SHGs promoted by the 13 NGO's that come under the NOVIB and HIVS and tried to explore the objectives behind the formation of SHGs and their operational objectives. Whereas Rao (2003) in his study that dealt with the development of women with the dairy cooperatives in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, found that the gradual development of women in decision making which was possible by the training given by the Support to Training and Empowerment Programme (STEP) introduced by the ministry of Human Resource Development. Also the study has analysed the performance of STEP and the non-STEP related women development activities.

The UNDP human development report 1997 provides the space for the development and empowerment of women and the subsidizing roles of Non-Governmental Organizations (UNDP HDR 1997). In this respect, the role NGO's in empowerment of women lie within the framework UNDP's human development method. Within this framework NGO's are expected to work for the empowerment of women so that the overall well-being could be achieved.

Most of the NGO strategies have been characterized by either micro credit as an empowering strategy or any other entrepreneurial efforts, which end up with the unsuccessful results. The studies such as Geetha Rao (1999) have shown that the micro efforts to empower women have failed to achieve the expected goals. In her study the author has tried to show the women members of self-help groups of two NGO's and comparing their organizational activities, particularly with respect to micro credit as their main strategy; concluded that micro credit alone can't empower women. This study shows the urgent need to adopt a perfect combination of empowerment strategies that well accepted by the community for the overall development.

Policies and programmes for the Development of Children:

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is the centre launched in all over India for the development of Children. The first ICDS project was launched in India with 33 Project in all over the country on 2nd October 1975. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is an Indian government welfare programme which provides food, preschool education, and primary healthcare to children under 6 years of age and their mothers. These services are provided from *Anganwadi* centres established mainly in rural areas and staffed with frontline workers. In addition to fighting malnutrition and ill health, the programme is also intended to combat gender inequality by providing girls the same resources as boys.

Along with this National Crèche Fund (1994), National Charter for Children (2004), National Plan of Action for Children (2005) these programmes planned by Government of India for the better future of Children.

There are specific Articles in the Indian constitution regarding children:

Article 24- Says No child below the age of 14 years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.

Article 45- Gives provision for free and compulsory education for children.

Article 23- Right to being protected from being trafficked and forced into bonded labour.

All these programmes and policies are implemented by the help of Non-governmental Organizations nationwide and reached the maximum beneficiaries and helped in the better nation formation.

8. KARNATAKA GOVERNMENTS SCHEMES FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN.

Karnataka Government adopted a strategy for the programmes in the areas of women development which involves empowerment of women through education and awareness generation so as to enable them to enter the mainstream of economic development. These programmes are helping women to become self-sufficient and economically independent with the help of training and income generating activities so as to enhance their earning capacity and to bring up their status in life. Besides expanding the on-going programmes, the department has evolved some innovative schemes which are explained below in the table.

Table 7.1: Karnataka Governments Programmes for the Empowerment of Women

Sl.No	Programme Name	Programme Outcomes
1	Stree Shakthi	• Economic development of rural women. • Builds self-confidence in rural women. • Poverty elevation through income generation activities by rural women. • Encouraged Self Help groups (SHGs)
2	Swarnima	• Encouraged SHG's to take up income generating activities. • Providing Marketing facilities through Exhibition and melas.
3	Santhwana	• Providing legal assistance, financial relief, temporary shelter, and protection to victims of atrocities such as dowry, rape, sexual harassment, domestic violence. • Helps the victims to be self-reliant by providing training of their interested skills.
4.	Cell For The Eradication Of Social Evils	• Creates public awareness of the harmful effects of social evils
5.	Karnataka Mahila Abhivrudhi Yojane (KMAY)	• Ensures gender equality • Integrate women in the mainstream of development.

Table: 7.2: Karnataka Governments Programmes for the Development of Children.

Sl.No	Programme Name	Programme Outcomes
1	Financial Assistance to run Hostels for Girls from Rural areas	Facilitate higher education to girls from rural areas who's studying from 6th Std onwards.
2	Bhagylakshmi Scheme	- Promote the birth of the Girl Child - Raise the status of girl child in the family.
3	Care And Maintenance Of Destitute Children	Taking care of Orphan and Destitute Children.
4	UJWALA	Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re – integration of victims of trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation
5.	Creches for children of working mothers	- Providing day care services for children of 0-3 years of women who engaged in agriculture and other occupation in rural area. - Providing services include health care, supplementary nutrition, and free <u>zithromax z-pak</u> facilities for children to sleep, immunization, play and recreation.
6	The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act , 2006	Programmes regarding the provisions of the Act is given to general public through Electronic media, Newspapers and satellite programmes.
7	Celebration of Girl Child Day	Girl child day is declared by Government of India on January 24th on reducing the femalefoeticide, domestic violence and malnutrition in women and children.

All these programmes are implemented by the Department of Women Development and Children (DWDC), Backward Class and Minorities Development Corporation, and various other departments of Government. These departments are given the guideline and financial support to implement these programmes but the major work of implementation has been done by the various Non-Governmental Organizations. In various districts of Karnataka the NGO's worked in different ways to bring the women in the mainstream of society and also to the development of children in the various sectors of society.

9. NGOS ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE GOVERNMENT INITIATED PROGRAMMES IN KARNATAKA.

Karnataka government adopted a strategy for the programmes in the areas of women development involves empowerment of women through education, awareness generation, greater emphasis on vocational training and employment so as to enable them to enter the mainstream of the society.

1. NGOs helped to strengthen the process of economic development of rural women by forming Self Help Women Groups and involving them in income generating activities thereby contributing to poverty alleviation.
2. NGOs brings the effective co-ordination of policy and implementation amongst the various departments to promote child development.
3. NGOs actively involved in the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and made very effective child survival scheme in the country and state as well. The community has fully accepted the programme and actively participating in the implementation.

In Karnataka total 208 Schemes are implemented for the benefit of women. More than 1, 20,000 Self Help Groups formulated and through their programmes they reach the poor in poverty reduction. There are 54 Santhwana Centers working

for women. In Karnataka 185 numbers of ICDS projects are implemented with the collaboration of different departments and with the help of NGO's.

10. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY.

This study has been done on the Karnataka Governments Schemes for empowering women and development of children. Also the NGOs role in implementing the schemes but there is no such latest data available in Government website which states the exact no of beneficiaries benefited from those schemes and how many NGOs worked on that schemes. Even though many NGOs are not registered in Governments NITI ayoga DARPAN portal, lot of other NGOs are working for the development of Children and Empowerment of Women without using Government's funding.

There is scope for further study to know more about the Government schemes and the role of NGOs in the implementation of schemes. Also scope to find out the beneficiaries list so that in future Government can plan the improvement of schemes and increase the NGOs role by providing them more funds from government and maintain the Accountability mechanism so that schemes should properly reach the beneficiaries in the society.

11. CONCLUSION

NGOs are associated in development and social welfare activities for the Women and Children. The State Government is providing sizeable monetary assistance to such organizations to enable them to play a notable role in the development process. The aim of the Government is to reach the neediest in the society through innovation and experimentation of the NGOs.

In all the Government programmes implementation Non-Governmental Organization involvement is very high. Without the support of NGOs it is very difficult to reach to the beneficiaries. Therefore NGOs work parallel with the Government to reach women and children of deprived sections of the society.

Finally, the voluntary sector is best placed to be a conscience-keeper for government programs on the one hand and to be the voice of the disadvantaged on the other. While it is fruitful to engage NGO resources to complement Government programs, a certain section of the voluntary sector needs to remain independent to perform this role.

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