CHAPTER-IV
ROLE OF NGOS, CBOS AND ARMED FORCE
An NGO is an independent, flexible, democratic, secular, non profit people's organization working for and/or assisting in the empowerment of economically and socially marginalized groups.

Some definitions of NGO

A non-profit making, voluntary, service-oriented/development-oriented organization, either for the benefit of members (a grass-roots organization) or of other members of the population (an agency)¹

It is an organization of private individuals who believe in certain basic social principles and who structure their activities to bring about development to communities that they are servicing.²

Social development organization assisting in empowerment of people.

An organization or group of people working independent of any external control with specific objectives and aims to fulfill tasks that are oriented to bring about desirable change in a given community or area or situation.³

An independent, democratic, non-sectarian peoples' organization working for the empowerment of economic and or socially marginalized groups.⁴

An organization not affiliated to political parties, generally engaged in working for aid, development and welfare of the community.⁵

² Ibid
³ Ibid.
⁵ Ibid
Organization committed to the root causes of the problems trying to better the quality of life especially for the poor, oppressed the marginalized in urban and rural areas.\(^6\)

Organizations established by and for the community without or with little intervention from the government; they are not only a charity organization, but work on socio-economic-cultural activities.

An organization that is flexible and democratic in its organization and attempts to serve the people without profit for itself.

**CBOS**

Community-based organization arise out of people's own initiatives. There can include sports clubs, women's organizations neighbourhood organizations, religious, educational organizations, Mahila Manda, Youth Mandal and Youth organizations.\(^7\)

**Voluntary organization**

A voluntary organization may be defined as "An organization that is administered by an autonomous board which holds meetings, collects funds for the support, chiefly from private sources, and expends money, whether with or without paid workers, in conducting a programme directed primarily to furthering the public welfare by providing services or education or by advancing research or legislation or by a combination of these activities.\(^8\)

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A voluntary agency is a group of persons who have organized themselves as a legal corporate body to render social services or rural development through organized programmes. It is accountable to the community that it serves and from which it has supported. It is controlled and administered by an association of citizens, rather than by the government, although primarily financed by contribution from the community.\footnote{9}

David Sills, a sociologist, writes that definitions of the term "voluntary association" differ widely but that they generally contain three elements. A voluntary association is an organized group of persons.\footnote{10}

**Role of voluntary Sector**

Disaster Management Calls for a multi-disciplinary response requiring intervention many a time at extremely short notice lending a new dimension and complexity to disaster response mechanism. One of the challenges it poses is of community mobilization for appropriate response within a given time frame. An even bigger challenge is to motivate in the community towards long-term disaster prevention measures. The voluntary sector provides an effective alternative in helping to meet such challenges. The non Governmental sector, including the vital CBOs (Community Based Organizations) that operate at grass roots level can be useful in invoking community involvement, due to its linkages with the community base, and flexibility in procedural matters.

\footnote{9} Kamal Taori, IAS (Vidyarthi) Disaster Management through Panchayati Raj, Publication, New Delhi-2005. P.118
\footnote{10} Ibid P.119.
Objectives and importance of NGOs with regard to disasters

NGOs can be of different sizes, with different areas of operation and different fields of expertise. Though organic in nature and unorganized in character, the NGO sector covers a whole range of activities, through its various types of organizations, some major types of NGOs are given as under:

NGOs with dedicated field operations and Resource backup

There are large organizations, such as the international (National Red International/Indian Red Cross Societies, have specific areas in which they carry out field operations. They have access to large resource bases, and have the capability to extend material, financial, as well as technical support. In times of disaster, their roles are very laudable as they garner support and resources from all over the world and came to the rescue of the affected persons almost immediately.  

Development Technology Related NGOs

There are NGOs involved in developing and propagating development technologies, such as Sulabh International, which has renowned activities in the field of low cost sanitation. These NGOs are active in times of peace, carrying out their developmental projects, and can be called upon at times of emergency due to natural disaster for providing the affected community with immediate physical infrastructure that they may require. Even in non-disaster times their services are useful for retrofitting in areas of building technology, so as to minimize death and destruction in future disasters.

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11 M.C. Gupta, Vinod Kumar Sharma, L.C. Gupta, B.K. Taminii, Manual on Natural Disaster Management in India, NCDM, 11PA, New Delhi, March, 2001 P.131
Educational Institutions

Educational institutions such as schools and colleges also play a crucial role in disaster management. Their Prime responsibility in this regard is to spread awareness on natural disasters, and preventive action needed to minimize damage due to them, as well as an immediate relief and rescue methods.

Objectives and Importance of CBOs with Regard to disasters

CBOs are usually small and grass root agencies, with information structures. Due to their very nature of arising from the community base itself, they are very closely linked with the local population and conditions. They serve as the last link in the disaster management chain. Some major types of voluntary agencies are as given.

Interest Groups

These are CBOs, through formed with the objective of sharing interests, such as the Rotary Club. However, such interest groups are very active, and have come forward to help disaster victims in times of need. They can play a major role in resource mobilization for relief aid and rehabilitation purposes.\(^\text{12}\)

Associations of Local Occupation Groups

Such associations are formed on the basis of common occupational backgrounds, and could include groups such as doctors' associations, traders' associations, Army wives associations etc. Such Groups, as with

\(^{12}\) Anil Sinha, Report, High Powered Committee on Disaster Management, NCDM, IIPA, New Delhi, October, 2001. P.179.
interest groups, can play a major role in resource mobilization, and also in providing specialized services to the disaster victims.

Local Residents’ Associations

These associations are formed by the local residents to look after the interests of those living a shared community life in the area. As such, these associations are highly concerned about the welfare of the local community, and need no external motivation or resource backup to take active part in disaster reduction. Thus, they can be a very useful tool for getting across the marriage of community participation at the ground level.

Religious Bodies

Religious bodies are one of the most important CBO groups that come to the immediate rescue and relief of the disaster victims. These bodies have a large and dedicated following of the community. They also have control of the local places of worship, which are usually built on high and safe ground, and can serve as ideal shelters for the disaster victims. Besides, they often have infrastructure to feed mass gatherings, which becomes very useful in times of disaster."

NGOs and CBOs: Functional Mechanism

The essential function of the NGOs and CBOs is that of being a link between Government and the community. This function is rendered possible through different mechanisms as per the requirements of a situation e.g. if the government requires to distribute relief material to the community, then the voluntary agencies may be requisitioned for

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distribution and more importantly in identifying the persons actually needing
the relief. The various other functions that these voluntary agencies may be
expected to perform are briefly enumerated below:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pre Disaster:</td>
<td>• Awareness and information campaigns.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Training of local volunteers.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Advocacy and planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>During Disaster:</td>
<td>• Immediate rescue and first aid including psychological aid.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Supply of food, water, medicines, and other immediate need materials.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Ensuring sanitation and hygiene.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Damage assessment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post Disaster:</td>
<td>• Technical and material aid in reconstruction.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Assistance in distribution of financial aid keep rehabilitate society, disadvantage groups, orphans, widows.</td>
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<td>• Monitoring.</td>
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The important factor is to perceive NGOs and CBO's as a live resource and use them in sensitizing, establishing contact when the people, gaining confidence of the people and in administration of relief not to say in training and awareness campaign. These roles are usually played under directions or division of functions as decided by the Government of the District Relief Committee. Thus while the local district office may be overall
incharge of the disaster management operations, certain functions may be singularly or jointly handled by the voluntary sector. In case there are more than one agencies being able to perform different types of functions, then their roles may either be put in a hierarchy or alternately each of them could be directly responsible for their own tasks and could coordinate directly with the government.

**Areas of contribution**

Voluntary agencies can strengthen the disaster management efforts by contributing.

**Communication with community**

NGOs and CBOs have a better link with the community and also have presence in the field, which puts them in a comparatively advantageous position to assess, decide and implement relief operations at time of disaster.

**Man Power**

The manpower available with the voluntary sector is very large, very prompt and highly motivated as it comprises basically volunteers who are involved at their own initiative. There are no procedural problems such as those of maintaining rolls and handling related legal issues.

**Finances and Materials**

Voluntary agencies have very flexible means of mobilizing resources and a number of them specialize in just resource mobilization to be able to fund the activities of other NGOs/CBOs working in the field.
Professional and Technical Services

A number of specialized technical services can be made available directly to the community by NGOs, which would otherwise be too expensive and inaccessible to the common folk. 

Networking
Interaction and co-ordination

For an effective functional mechanism of the various agencies both government and non-government, an elaborate but simple co-ordination cycle has to be in place, some of the basic requirements of which may be as follows:

Communication and interaction with the Government

A regular communication and information exchange with the government is necessary at all levels. This ensures adequate preparedness depending on forecasts made by the government departments, providing manpower help in distributing government sponsored relief and ensuring coverage of disaster relief.

Communication and Networking with other voluntary agencies working in the area of disaster management. This is primarily required firstly, to be able to use each other’s strengths fully but more importantly, it helps in ensuring that there is no duplication of work in the same area or on the contrary there are no areas left out for intervention.

Communication and interaction with the donor agencies

Donor agencies would prefer that the resources available to them for disbursement be distributed so as to bring benefits to the affected

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14 Singh R.B., 1994, Space Technology for Disaster Monitoring and Mitigation in India, INCEDE, University of Tokyo. P.47.
community. This has to be based on an assessment of needs of the community, for which voluntary agencies can provide the most appropriate and unbiased information.¹⁵

Transparency

An effective and acceptable form of functional mechanism with adequate coordination is sustained only if there is transparency in the operations. Transparency ensures that the functions of the various bodies involved are towards the single objective of providing maximum succour to the community.

NGO and CBO participation forms a vital part of a disaster management strategy. This becomes clear from the multifarious functions these voluntary agencies can be expected to perform before, during and after disaster scenarios. Characteristics unique to NGOs and CBOs such as their short response time and close link with the community make them very suitable agencies for specific activities of disaster management.

In order to fully capitalize on the voluntary sector there is a need to organize its structure and document it. At the same time, the governments role vis-à-vis the NGOs' and CBOs' role needs to be clearly identified and clearly articulated in the action plan so that such a mechanism can be made operational within a short span of a disaster occurrence. Caution should however be exercised so that the government and the voluntary sector do not duplicate each other's efforts, rather they should complement each other.¹⁶

¹⁶ Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and cooperation GOI, IDNDR, July, 1999 P.109.

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Role of Armed Force

Disaster strike in varying intensities sometimes at 'will and at times after due warning and time frame. The development oriented Civil Administration can handle emergencies of low to moderate intensity. This is what their capability and resources permit. The regulatory arm of the civil administration mainly civil police. For purely historical reasons have very rarely been used, for relief purposes. They are assigned the role of maintaining public order, law and order, security etc.

The Defense forces on the other hand are trained to react to an emergency caused by a foreign aggression or armed insurgency and is also called upon to maintain peace and public order in aid of civil authority. By extension of the latter, the defense forces have been assigned and called upon to help the civil administration in meeting any emergency caused by disaster other than foreign aggression or militancy. Their service is sought during flood, earthquake, cyclone, landslides and avalanches.

Expected Role of the Armed Forces

The Armed Forces have played and shall continue to play important role during the post disaster scenarios. The discipline, training, resources and professional approach make them a key player in the whole scheme of disaster management. When disasters occur over large areas making access impossible, cutting off various mode of communication, Armed forced with their equipment, resources and personnel commitment are called upon to render help in rescue and relief measures.

Their main asset is training, equipment, professionalism and above all a minimum response time a lower.
(a) **Evacuation:** This is the most common contingency where Armed forces are called upon to help evacuate people from the marooned villages from the areas affected by cyclones/floods, Earthquakes, landslides etc. with the help of specialized equipment as well as by helicopter, this task is performed by the armed services very ably.¹⁷

(b) **Maintain essential Supplies:** People in marooned areas could be without food medicines and safe drinking water for days. Armed forces are then called upon to reach essential supplies by boats or airdrop them.

(c) **Transportation of Relief Material:** Maintain regular supply and building up stocks especially in hilly and difficult terrain for further supplying it to the needy with the help of aircraft, boats and helicopters.

(d) **Maintain essential services:** Disasters disrupt all type of communication road, telephones, and electricity. Armed forces are called upon to provide their services in the initial stages till the time these are taken over by the civil administration.

(e) **Medical aid:** Provision of medical aid by constituting small teams is another area where they are called upon to provide assistance especially in remote and difficult areas.

**Co-ordination**

Procedure for provision of aid by armed forces any state, unable to cope with a given disaster, could request Minister of Defence either directly or through Ministry of Agriculture, for military assistance in aid of civil authority to render relief to the disaster affected people/areas.

• Laid down procedure is that the Chief Secretary of the state request the Defense Ministry for such assistance who in turn passes it on the concerned field formation for doing the needful.

• In practical terms this appears to be too bureaucratic and time consuming and as such arrangements exist wherein, local military authorities comply with the request and report this immediately to their respective service. Headquarters through proper channel so as to formalize the laid down channel requirements.  

It is seen that even the District Magistrate requisition local military assistance under different circumstances and the paperwork/formal sanctions/approvals follow. Structurally there are two for a requiring co-ordination:

a) Intra and inter service co-ordination local level co-ordination.

b) Local level co-ordination.

(a) The inter service co-ordination at central level is provided by the:

(i) Military wing in the cabinet secretariat.

(ii) At service headquarters level

• Military operations Directorate at Army Headquarters.

• Director of Naval operations at Naval Headquarters.

• Director of operations (Transport and Maritime) at Air Headquarters.

(iii) Command and lower formation Headquarters-by Senior General Staff Officer (operations)

18 GOI, Ministry of Home Affairs, Disaster Management in India, New Delhi, 2004.
b) Local Level

The nominated Commander of troops and Senior Civil Administrator in charge of relief provides co-ordination.

The procedure followed is that the Armed forces are called upon to render specific tasks. The head of the Civil Administration outlines the task and the ‘priority’ to the troop Commander and leaves it to them to complete the task. There is no question of any interference by civil administration in the Command and central structure or dealing directly with the troops. Assistance called for is job specific and that is where it rests. Performance is left to the troop commander and his troops.\(^{19}\)

The problem of coordination arises

(i) When the Civil administration is unable to clearly spell out the task.

(ii) When it presumes (wrongly) that they (troops) are under their command and they can order them about.

(iii) No prior coordination or linkage between the two wings i.e. civil and military.

(iv) Civil administration not rendering help in areas where it is sought by armed forces like additional transportation sources of potable drinking water, knowledge of local areas etc.

(v) Not showing proper regard to the men in uniform or vice-versa; uniformed personnel not taking civil administrations task too seriously or looking down upon civil administration.

\(^{19}\) David Alexander, Natural Disasters, Research Press, New Delhi, 1993, P.172.
There could be various stages of Disaster Relief

(a) Preparedness stage

At the pre-disaster stage sharing and building up of information on issues like warning and alert systems, preventive measures and contingency plans and role of armed services in that plan.

During this stage a look at the organizational infrastructure operating procedures, equipment and communication provision and if possible full-rehearsal could also be attempted to avoid any coordination problems later.

Action by Armed Services

i) Establishment of liaison with state and local level authorities;

ii) Identification of possible areas of employment;

iii) Understanding the overall disaster relief plan and formulation of its own contingency plan;

iv) Assigning tasks and preparation for execution of contingency plans;

v) Local level liaison and reconnaissance, and

vi) Briefing of troops and rehearsals of disasters which are recurring in nature.\(^{20}\)

b) Emergency stage

Starting from the disaster warning system, to the period immediately after the disaster strikes, is the Emergency stage and the aim at the stage is to provide relief and succour to the affected people.

Action by Armed Services

i) On being warned of the impending disaster the troops are warned and prepared for the task;

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ii) Final tasking and co-ordination;

iii) Move to disaster area;

iv) Establishment of central headquarters and conduct of relief;

v) Division of area into various segments;

vi) Carry out the assigned task, be it evacuate, providing essential supplies of services;

C) Rehabilitation stage

This stage covers short time measures after the emergency stage, to help restore essential services communication etc.

Measures to enhance efficiency

A high powered inter-disciplinary committee, headed by the Chief Secretary and the area/sub area Commander be set up at the state level in the case of a major calamity like earthquake or a major cyclone or calamity of sustained nature like floods to provide requisite leadership; direction and co-ordination. Similar committee may also be set up at the District level under the District Magistrate. Since rescue and relief operation are often hampered by lack of essential supplies and equipment's, all necessary steps should be taken by the states to ensure that they are either stockpiled at convenient places in advance or are capable of being requisitioned without delay, in case of need.21

A contingency plan for each of the disaster to which the area is vulnerable should be in place clearly earmarking role for each functioning or possible tasks when and at what stage armed forces help will be required.

The Civil Administration of the areas to specific known calamities like

floods/cyclones/landslides should hold a coordination meeting before the commencement of season-brush-up action plan, provide for contingency, alert all state-holders and actors to be in readiness including dissemination of information through media and awareness campaigning.

The role played by the armed forces in aid of civil authority has been exemplary and has been highly spoken of by the affected people. Gradually emphasis should be on building up of resources to meet any national calamity which the help of police, home guards and defense organization, trained personnel and calling of armed forces should be a matter of last resort. It is equally important that they are also immediately derequisitioned after the task is over.

It is true that when it comes to saving of human lives nothing should be left to chance, it is also equally important that capabilities are built in house to meet them, if the contingency plans provides of a role for the armed forces at any stage of Disaster Management, than it is for the civil administration to maintain contacts during normal times with them so that identity and operational problems are kept to the minimum.

There is no doubt that assistance of the armed forces in emergencies have made us proud of them and this can continue if we continue to respect each other's role and task.22

Fire Services

In a large context of urbanization and industrialization calamities play a match box role of igniting more dangerous and uncontrollable disasters like fires. During the kobe Earthquake a large number of buildings that

could resist seismic forces were largely damaged due to post disaster fires. As provided by the constitution of India, Fire Service to the Community is a state subject and (co) under section 243W are played under the central of the local bodies. The service provides coverage to only 30% of the community, which is grossly inadequate for our population. Managing fires is more technical than perceived. It needs comprehensive study in risk evaluation of each single area, preparation of risk mapping plan for each zone, study of preparedness level in terms of especial equipment and training of personnel, foot proof communication system and periodic mock drills. Unlike what is generally understood, the role of fire fighting service but is also plays the role of a disaster preventive agency especially in urban areas. It can provide basic search and rescue service and can also coordinate in event of a disaster situation with other agencies like the police and health services.23

Police and Para-Military Forces

Police and Para Military forces played critical role in disaster situations. Police is mobilized to reach the site of disaster immediately with a view to carry out relief and rescue operations in coordination with agencies. It is also the responsibility of the police to maintain security and law and order at disaster locations where there might be chaos and miscreants may take advantage of the situation. Police personnel deployed for such relief operations prevent occurrence of cognizable offences including all offences against property, human body and public tranquility. The policy communication system is made available for transmission and

receipt of massages in connection with disasters. The police also regulates movement of victims, rescue and relief, medical assistance, and supplies. The role of para-military forces is similarly important as they may be called upon for additional assistance in situation requiring it. The CISF has an important role, particularly in disasters involving industrial units or locations.

Civil Defense and Home-Guards

The civil defense organization was established with a view to protect interests of the civilian community in times of war. The civil defense Act of 1968 formally established the structure of the organization. The center is only a guiding agency while the state is responsible for raising, training and maintenance of the corps.

It is primarily a voluntary organization, whose resources are mobilized at the time of need through an activation procedure. Civil Defense organization requirements are based on the vulnerability analysis by the states themselves and are equipped accordingly. Their primary work areas include; communication, rescue and causality, depot, transportation and supply service, salvage and corpse disposal along with basic welfare services. Civil Defense has been made led with the main objective to save life, to minimize damage to property, and maintain the continuity of production.24

The state of Civil Defense preparedness in the country was analyzed and found be needed substantial support and augmentation. Twenty four of the states/UTs have not raised Civil Defense in 102 out of 225 categorized towns/cities. Deputy collectors, who are mainly responsible for organizing

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the civil defense services, show vacancies of 45 out of the 133 authorized, civil defense control rooms, which are the nerve centers of all activities, show a deficiency of 127 out of an authorized 299. Causative factors for deficiency were recognized to be lack of immediate utility, lack of awareness, legal infirmities, financial crunch, lack of training facilities and lack of proper recognition. The organization conceptually has a strong structure with capabilities to act in cooperation with the people, police and defense services. It however, needs to be reviewed in terms of building its capacity further and its out reach in disaster situations.

Indian Red Cross Society

In India, we have Red Cross Society at the national, State and district level, this is a movement for providing relief to the people when they are in dire need of it. Since this is an off shoot of an international movement, it is a completely non-political organization. It is the image of the Red Cross that makes it one of the most acceptable institutions in the area of providing relief to the people in distress. Till 1995, the Red Cross was working primarily as a relief organization, From 1996 onwards, the International Federation of Red cross shifted its focus from relief to disaster preparedness and started developing community-based disaster preparedness plans.25

Ex-Servicemen

Every year nearly 60,000 defense personnel including approximately 3,000 officers join the ranks of ex-servicemen in our country. Majority of them retire at a young age between 32 to 50 years to enable a youthful

25 P.Michael Vetha Siromony, Source Book on District Disaster Management, SOFTRAIN, Mussoorie, August, 2000 P.47
profile of the Armed forces. There total number is estimated at about 5.5 million out of which over 1.5 million are registered. They constitute a national asset—a vast human reserve that is disciplined, trained and developed to exacting standards. This potential forces needs to be brought in to the national disaster management structure and assigned an appropriate role in the over all response mechanism. The HPC recommends that this be carried out at the stage of preparation of state, district and local level disaster management plans.26

National Cadet Corps

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) came in to existence on the 16th July, 1948 under the NCC Act XXI of 1948 under the Ministry of Defense with the following objectives:-

1. To develop character, commandersonship, ideals of service and capacity for leadership in the youth of the country;
2. To stimulate interest in the defense of the country by providing service training to the youth; and
3. To build up a reserve to enable the Armed forces to expand rapidly in a national emergency.

The NCC was given an inter-services image in 1950 when the Air Wing was added followed by the Naval Wing in 1952. In 1952, the NCC curriculum was also extended to include community development as part of the NCC syllabus at the behest of late Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.

Bharat Scouts and Guides

The boy scouting and the girls guiding as movements started in India in 1909 and 1910 respectively. In the beginning, there were three separate organizations, viz. 1. The boy scouting organization; 2. The Hindustan scouts Association, and 3. The girls guide organization. After India got Independence, the boy Scouts Association and the Hindustan Scouts Association merged on 7th November, 1950. The Girl Guides organization also joined them on 15th August, 1951. Thus, came in to existence the bharat scouts & guides.

Level-wise objectives

- To make boy Scouts and girls guides resourceful, self-reliant, and ever helpful towards others.
- To enable them discover their latent faculties and talents.
- To enable them to express them creatively.
- To promote character-building spirit of adventure and spirit of service amongst the youth.

National Service Scheme

National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in India in a formal way in 1969. The central theme, which Mahatma Gandhi tried to impress upon his student-audience time and again, was that they should always keep before them, their social responsibility. The foremost duty of the students should be not to treat their period of study as one of the opportunities for indulgence in intellectual luxury, but for preparing themselves for final dedication in the service of those who provided the sinews of the nation with the national goods and services so essential to the
society. The Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) in 1950 recommended that students should devote some time to manual work on a voluntary basis. A National Service Committee was appointed in 1959 under the Chairmanship of Dr. C.D. Deshmukh to make definitive suggestions in this regard.27

The main objectives of NSS are

- Understanding the community in which they work.
- Understanding themselves in relation to their community.
- Identifying the needs and problems of the community and involving themselves in problem-solving process.
- Developing among them a sense of social and civic responsibility.
- Utilizing their knowledge in finding practical solution to individual and community problems.
- Developing competence required for group living and sharing of responsibility.
- Gaining skills in mobilizing community participation.
- Acquiring leadership qualities and democratic thoughts.
- Developing capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters, and
- Practical national integration and social harmony.

Nehru Yuvak Kendra

Now one of the largest grass root level organization of its kind in the world, NYKs was established to harness and channelize the power of youth on the principles of voluntarism, self help and participation. On the present

reckoning, youth in India form nearly 35% of the total population which has already crossed 1 billion mark. India’s youth also account for 35.8% of the world’s total youth population. This is a vital vibrant and dynamic human resource bearing on the future state of not only India but also the entire world.

The Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan has 500 district offices, 46 regional offices, 18 zones, 1000 youth development centers and over 181 thousand village based youth clubs enrolled under it. The purpose behind these clubs at the grass root level is to form village-level voluntary action group of youth that may come together with concern for the poorest of the poor. NYKs’ Strength lies in 5000 national Service Volunteers and nearly 8 million youth volunteers through a vast network of youth clubs and Mahila Mandals at the grass-root level. Through NYKs, these village-based organizations have become local pressure groups as well as catalytic agents for socio-economic, cultural, political and environmental transformation. These groups have in fact become Functional Action Groups with rural sustainability and self-reliance as their hall mark, when viewed in these terms, the role of NYKs could be defined as that of not merely an organization but a mass movement that can play an important role in disaster management.28

**Summing Up**

Needless to say that in Himachal Pradesh many of NGOs’, CBOs’ and VOS’ are playing very effective role for facilitating the government development & social programmes and the role whatever is played by them

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28 Anil Sinha, Report, High Powered Committee on Disaster Management, NCDM, 1IPA, New Delhi, Oct., 2001. P.125
can not be ignored particularly in the various fields such as literacy, Female foeticide, small savings, environmental fields, Agricultural fields, Small Scale industries etc. But in the field of disaster Management, their role is seen no where or it is very negligible. It seems that may be many reasons behind it such as lack of interest, lack of fund, lack of interaction between govt. & administrator and lack of resources and training where it is observed that Home Guards, Fire Service Man, Police and Para Military Forces, Red Cross Society and Rotary Clubs are playing effective role to handle the disaster situation. Thus, there should be an urgent need for interaction with Mahila Mandals, Youth Mandals, SHG, PTAs, Members citizen councils, PRIS, Religious Organizations, Private organization and other Societies in disaster management system. The govt. and administration should them training, resources, funds and other inventories to handle any disaster situation as they can play effective role in any disaster situation.