CHAPTER VIII

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS
AND SUGGESTIONS

The depletion of the natural resources like, soil, water, forests, flora and fauna could affect the survival of the people. Existing, environment and development NGOs are engaged in activities and programmes such as awareness building, motivating, involving people to protect environment and influencing the decision making statutory bodies, be they local or regional or national or international. The very nature of NGOs transcends national boundaries. A world, in which poverty and inequality are endemic, will always be prone to ecological and other crises. Sustainable development requires meeting the basic needs of all and extending to all the opportunity to satisfy their aspirations for a better life. Environmental sustainability includes integrated land use, water management, stabilisation of population growth, scientific and technological development and socio-economic welfare. Their achievements deserve the appreciation of the government and of the people. The objective of the study is to analyse and evaluate the programmes of the NGOs. Population explosion, industrialisation, green revolution, scientific and technological advancement cause environmental deterioration and ecological degradation in Madurai district. This being an
empirical study the inferences are based on inductive logic. Deductive reasoning is not excluded.

The environmental profile of the study area is presented vividly. The geographical, historical, ecological, environmental, socio-economic, demographic, topographic and cultural aspects of Madurai district are brought to light substantiating with authentic statistical data of Madurai district, 2004.

The sampling methodology adapted is 50 NGOs out of 212 NGOs are selected on the basis of their objectives, programmes, activities and their achievements. 11 NGOs are selected by lottery method for an elaborate study. One NGO is chosen for an indepth study or for a case study. The economic analysis depends largely on primary and secondary data and on personal interviews with the secretaries and the beneficiaries of the NGOs. The study on the theories of NGOs helps conceptual understanding of the NGOs. The approaches to NGOs enhance us to comprehend the charism of the NGOs.

The chapter on the Nature and Significance of NGOs explains that voluntary organisations are known for their virtues like human touch, dedication, great initiatives, self-reliance, contextual innovations, flexibility, togetherness with community and ability to reach the unreached in the most effective manner. The origin of NGOs explains that humanitarian and philanthropic spirit surpasses human barriers. NGOs are second to none in protecting environment.
Performance of the NGOs in Madurai district proves that the people have faith in the NGOs. Their environment related programmes and projects include sanitation awareness programmes, pollution control, health and hygiene, watershed management, natural manuring, eco-friendly domestic life, reducing the use of harmful plastics, protecting natural resources, preventing deforestation, promoting afforestation, agricultural activities like natural manuring, etc. The activities of the NGOs are benevolent to the people and pro-environmental. The economic analysis of the NGOs focuses on their formation, function, programmes, income, expenditure and their achievements which are critical evaluated.

The case study of DHAN Foundation is holistic in all aspects. Dhan has been a nodal agency and an NGO to NGOs. Dhan has been rendering exemplary services to the people all over India having an administrative office in Madurai itself.

Eleven NGOs have been protecting environment by their specific environment related activities like protecting Kodaikanal Lake from mercury pollution, preserving Palani Hills from deforestation, protecting Madurai city from accumulation of CO₂ by planting trees, educating the farmers in vermiculture, natural manuring and natural farming. NGOs motivate people to be pro-ecological and eco-friendly.
FINDINGS

Out of 50 secretaries of NGOs studied 44 secretaries belong to Hindu religion, 5 secretaries belong to Christian religion and one secretary belongs to Muslim religion. And 14 out of 50 NGOs are rendering service to rural people, 8 to urban people and 28 for both rural and urban people.

Social service has become the ultimate objective of 21 NGOs to start their organisations. 5 out of 50 NGOs have education as their motive and 8 of 50 NGOs have creation of awareness as their objective to start their organisations.

46 or 92 per cent of the secretaries of the NGOs are of Indian Nationality and 4 or 8 per cent of the secretaries of the NGOs are of Non-Indian origin.

25 NGOs out of the 50 NGOs studied, depend generated and mobilised funds. 4 NGOs are getting funds from foreign sources, 6 NGOs get funds from private, 3 get the funds from public sources, 4 are getting funds from Government and some manage with generated and mobilised funds, 4 are getting funds from foreign and local bodies and only 2 are depending on foreign and private funds.

24 per cent of funds is allocated for environmental awareness programmes; 12 per cent is allocated for solid waste management; 10 per cent is allotted for environmental protection and for health related programmes and for pollution control programmes, 8 per cent is allotted.
Environmental education programme is conducted by NGOs to promote awareness. These programmes are mostly conducted for the public. That is, 44 per cent of the NGOs conduct programmes for the public. 14 per cent of the NGOs conduct programmes for the students and 6 per cent of the NGOs conduct programmes for the people. 18 NGOs, that is, 36 per cent of the NGOs are conducting environmental education programmes for all.

As NGOs are motivating the people to earn more, a support in the form of loan is given to the beneficiaries. Out of 50 NGOs, 15 give loans for agricultural purposes, 10 give loans for starting cottage industries, 20 give loans for self-employment opportunities and 5 give loan for starting small scale industries. Maximum loan is distributed to female (56 per cent) and 6 per cent is distributed to male and 38 per cent is distributed to both male and female.

NGOs are helping their beneficiaries by giving loans. Loans are granted by NGOs on the basis of validity of reason and productivity of purpose. Among 9 purposes listed by the NGOs, agricultural and allied activities are ranked 1st rank. Secondly they agree to give loans for self-employment activities. The successive ranks are given to women, men, repayment of private loan, consumption, repair work, starting of cottage industries and small scale industries. Hence, alternative hypothesis stating that there is a significant difference in purposes for which loans are granted by the NGOs is substantiated.
There is no equal allocation of funds for all the programmes undertaken by the NGOs. The Garrett ranking scores prove that environment oriented programmes are allotted more funds than any other programmes like health and hygiene. Hence, null hypothesis stating there is equal distribution of funds for all the programmes is rejected.

Accepting alternative hypothesis, it is proved that there are differences in the activities programmed and the objectives for which the NGOs have been started. Programmed environmental awareness activities are given first preference.

History of Dhan Foundation starts from 1999 October 2nd. It has been developing humane actions. It has been working with the village panchayats for the welfare of the people. Membership growth in Dhan Foundation shows an increasing trend from 1999 to 2006. Number of members has been increasing from 36046 to 224320. The compound growth rate of membership in the Foundation is 33.38 per cent.

Compound Growth rate percentage of programme reach, shows 35.61 per cent for families, 35.57 per cent for primary groups, 24.08 per cent for clusters, 25.18 per cent for federations, 26.74 per cent for villages and 16.20 per cent for districts.
Dhan’s programme management is superb. It has spent Rs.2881 lakhs on various programmes. Compound growth rate percentage of programme management shows 46.52.

Dhan has recorded its programme reach in 35 districts, the beneficiaries being 4,67,550 families, spread over 6961 villages in 2006. The compound growth rate percentage of Dhan’s programme reach is 16.20.

The liability of Dhan has crossed 20,48,36,445 in total in 2006 including corpus and capital fund, specified funds, current liabilities, fixed assets, etc., according to the secondary sources of data. The compound growth rate percentage of liabilities is 64.18.

The assets of Dhan has crossed Rs.20,48,36,445 in 2006 including fixed assets, bank balance, investment, advance and receivables. Compound growth rate is 109.39 per cent.

Dhan has been successful in every endeavour because of its staff and infrastructure. The number of the dedicated staff is 3180 including the professionals, programme staff and people functionaries. Compound growth rate is 15.32 per cent.
Dhan has Rs.27,929 lakhs at its disposal in order to utilise for the programmes in 2006. The compound growth rate is 154.02 per cent in total.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the objectives, vision, mission, charism, formation, function, fundings, appropriation of funds, co-ordination and co-operation of the NGOs, the following recommendations are proposed.

- The district Collector may co-ordinate, convene meetings and function as a Nodal agency or the liaison officer. Government of India and the State Governments including the district authorities may invite the representatives of the NGOs for discussion and consultation while planning for the welfare of the people.

- All the NGOs should register their organisations with the district authorities. Environmental awareness programmes and pollution control programmes should be mandatory for all the NGOs irrespective of their objectives.

- Necessary funds should be provided to all NGOs and proper auditing should be there. There should be no room for misappropriation of funds.
Universities have to conduct orientation programmes for the NGOs. Environmental education should be made compulsory in all educational institutions. All NGOs must be aware of environment related Acts, Laws and Rules. Universities may educate the NGOs in this aspect.

Ministry of Environment in the Central and in the State through their Pollution Control Boards can involve and employ the NGOs in all environmental protection programmes.

NGOs must work with the panchayats under the guidance and direction of the District Collector with due autonomy of the NGOs. GOs should not look down on NGOs because NGOs are not the subordinates of the government.

Environmental Clubs may be instituted in all educational institutions. Environmental Protection Task Forces may be formed with the help of Rotary and Lions Clubs. Temple, Church, Mosque, Gurudwara Committees may form Eco-groups and perform activities among themselves for the protection of environment.

Conducting door-to-door awareness programmes on environmental themes will be fruitful. Recycling and reusing waste, may provide employment opportunities and generate income to all.
Natural farming, tree plantation, vermiculture, bio-gas production, etc., may be profitable projects which could be implemented by all environmental NGOs.

Environmental protection should be made as an important objective for all NGOs. Specific awareness programmes may be included in addition to the environmental awareness programmes.

NGOs with too many objectives do not find its performance in the heights. So objectives should be minimised and should be given elaborate framework.

Plan of Action for the programme and for the whole completion period (say for a year) should be prepared and should be submitted to the regulatory authorities.

With the co-ordination of the Government, if the programmes are implemented, it would be a silver line in the functioning of NGOs.

Educating the people using media is the best way to make people aware of environmental pollution and protection; besides conducting seminars, rallies, exhibitions, camps, etc.
• Planting trees everywhere must be the main thrust for all the NGOs. Everyone in the country should be made to realise that he/she is the cause of environmental pollution and the victim of pollution and he/she has the solution for the pollution. Indeed he is paying for the pollution either directly or indirectly.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

• This empirical study is confined to selected NGOs in Madurai district with specific reference to their role in the protection of environment. Hence further research may be carried on, the services of the NGOs in any one of the districts of Tamil Nadu.

• Performance of the evaluation of NGO’s activities to promote socio-economic conditions of the beneficiaries, may be studied.

• Econometric analysis of the services of the local government, i.e., panchayat, municipality and corporation in abating pollution and protecting environment. Researchers may try this.

• An indepth study, on the socio-economic structure of the society, which is an impediment for enlightened environmental awareness and for the protection by the people themselves, may be undertaken.