CHAPTER VII

THE ROLE OF NGO’S IN THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF INTEREST OF AGED PEOPLE.

Outline
I. Introduction
II. Meaning of NGO and nature
III. Various NGOs working in India
IV. Conclusion

I INTRODUCTION

The government policy provides a broad framework for inter-sectoral collaboration and cooperation both within the government as well as between government and non-governmental agencies. The National Policy On Persons recognizes the role of the NGO sector in providing user friendly and affordable services to complement the endeavors of the State in this direction. The Government continues its efforts to introduce programmes for the welfare of the elderly, it is the non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) which have played a key role in bringing to the forefront the problems of the older people to the society at large and through its various services it has sown the seeds for a forum whereby the voice and the concerns of the elderly can be addressed.

In this part of the research, the researcher has made an attempt to take the review of the non-governmental efforts in the protection of the interest of aged people. The number of NGOs working for the cause of aged people across the world, at international level as well as national level. Here discussion about some of the prominent NGOs working at National level is made. The areas of priorities, the subject of their province and various
amenities or provisions made available by such NGOs and last but equally important importance of these NGOs in the promotion and protection of rights and interest of aged people, are discussed in this chapter.

II MEANING OF NGOS AND ITS NATURE
A Non-Governmental organization is a legally constituted organization created by natural or legal persons that operates independently from any government and a term usually used by governments to refer to entities that have no government status. In the cases in which NGOs are funded totally or partially by governments, the NGO maintains its non-governmental status by excluding government representatives from membership in the organization. The term is usually applied only to organizations that pursue some wider social aim that has political aspects, but that are not overtly political organizations such as political parties. Unlike the term “intergovernmental organization”, term “non-governmental organization” has no generally agreed legal definition. In many jurisdictions, these types of organization are called “civil society organizations” or referred to by other names.

The term “international NGO” (INGO) is defined in resolution 288(X) of ECOSOC on February 27, 1950: it is defined as “any international organization that is not founded by an international treaty.” According to United Nations a ‘non-governmental organization’ is any non-profit, voluntary citizen’s group which is organized on local, national or international level. The Task-oriented and driven by people with a common interest. NGOs perform variety of services and humanitarian functions, bring citizens’ concerns to governments, monitor policies and
encourage political participation at the community level. Some are organized around specific issues, such as human rights, the environment or health.\textsuperscript{1} NGOs are defined by the World Bank as “private organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services or undertake community development.”\textsuperscript{2}

NGO stands for “non-governmental organization”. The function of NGOs can vary widely, from service organizations to human rights advocacy and relief groups. The designation came into popular use after the founding of the United Nations to differentiate between governmental and non-governmental bodies. The NGO was deemed “any international organization that is not founded by an international treaty”. NGOs not only serve as checks-and-balances for government and governmental watchdogs, but are crucial cogs in wider governmental initiatives, such as relief response to a natural disaster.\textsuperscript{3} NGOs are typically value-based organizations which depend, in whole or in part, on charitable donations and voluntary service. Although the NGO sector has become increasingly professionalized over the last two decades, principles of altruism and voluntarism remain key defining characteristics. Participation in the community towards establishing a greater good gives NGOs the advantage of being seen as charitable, moral and therefore, good.\textsuperscript{4}

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3 www.About.com, accessed on 22/02/2011
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Common usage varies between countries – for example NGO is commonly used for domestic organizations in Australia that would be referred to as non-profit organizations in the United States. Such organizations that operate on the international level are fairly consistently referred to as “non-governmental organizations”, in the United States and elsewhere.

There is a growing movement within the non-profit organization/non-government sector to define itself in a more constructive, accurate way. The “non-profit” designation is seen to be particularly dysfunctional because of at least three reasons: 1) it says nothing about the purpose of the organization, only what it is not; 2) It focuses the mind on “profit” as being the opposite of the organization’s purpose; 3) It implies that the organization has few financial resources and may run out of money before completing its mission. Instead of being defined by “non” words, organizations are suggesting new terminology to describe the sector. The “social benefit organization” (SBO) is being adopted by some organizations. This defines them in terms of their positive mission. The “civil society organization” (CSO) has also been used by a growing number of organizations, such as the Centre for the Study of Global Governance. The term “citizen sector organization” (CSO) has also been advocated to describe the sector—as one of citizens, for citizens. These labels, SBO and CSO, position the sector as its own entity, without relying on language used for the government or business sectors. However, some have argued that CSO is not particularly helpful, given that most NGOs are in fact funded by governments and business and that some NGOs are clearly hostile to independently organized people’s organizations.
The term “social benefit organization” seems to avoid that problem. Since it does not assume any particular structure, but rather focuses on the organization’s mission.\(^5\)

Looking at the history of voluntary organizations in India, it is the Friend in need Society of Madras which was the first organization started in 1840 to devote itself to the care of the aged and the Little Sisters of the followed in 1882 in Calcutta (Kolkata). It opened a home which provided shelter, clothing and medical care to the old.\(^6\)

Presently there are many non-governmental organizations working for the cause of the elderly in India. In India most of the NGOs have concentrated their work among the lower income group and the disadvantaged and underprivileged sections of the society. This is mainly because \(1/3^{rd}\) of these people do not have access to minimum levels of health care and education for earning a decent living. Since the government is unable to deal with such a huge dependent population, it is the voluntary non-governmental sector which has in the last few decades begun to actively work for the welfare of the lower income and dependent strata of society.\(^7\)

However, in the first few years of the growth of the NGOs the emphasis was on the abuse of women due to the gender discrimination prevalent in our Indian society. But in the last few years demographers provided alarming statistics on the growth of elderly population that a need was felt to work in this area. Initial

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\(^7\) Ibid, p.2
studies show that the elderly are taken care of by the family but the reality and recent cases studies also prove that the so called “Joint family System” in India is myth and the elderly though they live with their sons and his family are neglected and uncared for by them. This scenario led to the emergence and mushrooming of various NGOs working towards the concerns of the elderly.\(^8\)

In recent years several national level and state level voluntary organizations have been set up for promoting the welfare of the elderly, for advocating a general national priority to their problems and needs and for organizing services. Government describes the services they are providing as residential care, day care, geriatric care, medical and psychiatric care, recreation, financial assistance and counseling.\(^9\)

Today the role of what we know as the NGO sector is dynamic; dynamic not only because of the rapidly ageing population and changes in social structure but also because they often meet ‘gaps’ in service provision which have occurred as a result of changes in state functions. Despite the growth in this sector our understanding of the implications of this growth and itself remain quite limited.

### III VARIOUS NGOS WORKING IN INDIA

Following are some of the non-governmental organizations working in the protection and promotion of the interest of elder persons, providing various facilities, advocating the cause of aged

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\(^8\) *Ibid*, p. 2  
\(^9\) *Ibid*, p.3
population and acting as a pressure group etc. are discussed herein below.

**Help Age India**

One of the premier voluntary organizations which began work on the cause and care of the older people of our country is Help Age India. It is a secular, a non-political, non-profit, non-governmental organization and is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1960. Help Age India was formed in 1978 with the active help from Mr. Cecil Jackson Cole, founder member of Help the Aged, United Kingdom. In its newsletters and brochures one can clearly see it has charted out its goals and objectives which is “To create an awareness and understanding of the changing situation and the needs of the elderly in India and to promote the cause of the elderly. To raise the funds for creation of infrastructure through the medium of voluntary social service organizations for providing a range of facilities especially designed to benefit the elderly and thus to improve the quality of their lives.”

Help Age India is basically funding organization which looks for partner agencies in the field who are able to implement the various projects and programmes of the organization. The head office of Help Age India is located in New Delhi and it has around 24 regional and area offices located all over the country.

The programmes are a few in number but are carried out in a large scale throughout the country and are designed to meet the urgent basic needs of the elderly. The major programmes are

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10 www.helpageindia.org accessed on 24/9/2010
ophthalmic care, mobile medicare, income generation, day care centres, Adopt-A-Gran and homes for the aged.

ADVOCACY:

- Help Age India maintains an active liaison with both the central and state government for advocating the cause of the elderly,
- It has been closely associated with the formulation of the NPOP, formulated in January 1999.
- It is represented in the Working Committee of the National Council.
- The organization has also been represented on the Working Group for recommending government thrusts and policies for the eighth and ninth Five Year Plan.
- It has successfully pressed for travel and tax concessions and other benefits for the elderly

The International Longevity Centre-India (ILC-I)

It is a not-for-profit organization working in the areas of Education, Training, Research, Media, Documentation and Advocacy for the cause of Population Ageing since 2003. ILC-I\(^1\) is one of the ten members of the Global Alliance Network of the International Longevity Centres including, besides India, the USA, UK, France, Japan, Dominican Republic, Argentina, South Africa and Netherlands.

The objectives of ILC-I is to work towards promoting better understanding of the issues and concerns of Population Ageing at all levels, including those identified by the United Nations in the Madrid and Shanghai Plans of Action, in collaboration with the government, the corporate sector, NGO’s and the civil society;

- To seek adequate reflection of this understanding in all development plans and programmes of the government and in non-governmental interventions and community actions;
- To promote and support all activities to upgrade the quality of life of Population Ageing and ensure the fulfillment of their human rights;
- To work towards Healthy, Productive, Participatory and Qualitative Ageing.

ILC-I’s primary focus is in the areas of Policy, Training, Research, Advocacy and Documentation. ILC-I has carried out several research studies – “The Demographic Profile of the Elderly In India”, “Human Rights of the Elderly”- a study carried out in the states of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa, “Crimes against the elderly in Mumbai, Pune and Delhi”, “An Evaluation of the Implementation of the Integrated Programme for Older Persons in Maharashtra and Gujrat.”

As part of its training activities, ILC-I has designed a training course in “Geriatric Health Care” for individuals who have studied up to Std. X and have attained the age of 18 years. This course would develop a cadre of trained personnel who could be caregivers for the elderly, thus providing the much needed
specialized and trained personnel for geriatric care giving. A book for this has also been devised and published by ILC-I.

As a part of its Advocacy component, ILC-I has conducted several workshops on "Recreation and Care for the Elderly", "Minimum Standards of Living in Old Age Homes", Enabling Devices for the Elderly", an International Roundtable on "Elder Abuse", an International Colloquium on "The Status and Role of Women in an Ageing Society" and a workshop on "Volunteerism of the elderly" besides many other workshops and seminars.

ILC-I is also the member of drafting committee for the State Policy on Older Persons of Maharashtra. It is at presently engaged in a Comparative study for the Govt. of India on the National Policy on older Persons of the two developed nations- Australia and Japan and two developing nations- Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and compares them with that of India.

**Silver Innings Foundation**

Silver Inning Foundation is “Not for Profit” organization dedicated for the cause of Elders and their family members. The board consists of young and pro-active professionals from different segment with the passion to work for the elderly.

Its Vision statement is an elder friendly world in which ageing becomes a positive and rewarding experience. Mission is to uphold and secure the rights of elderly and actively works towards improving their quality of life by networking, advocating,

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12 www.silverinnings.com
researching elderly issues and providing a wide range of services according to their needs.

Silver Innings is a new beginning for our Elders. Silver Innings are committed to ensure that ageing becomes a positive, rewarding experience for all. Ageing gracefully is the way of life they promote. Silver Innings wish to help elders and their family members to overcome the challenges of ageing and show them the way to live with dignity in their silver years.

Objectives: The Ten Commandments

- Work for people above 50 years of age and their family.
- Sensitize community towards elderly issues.
- Promote Research and Development on issues related to elderly and ageing.
- Provide innovative quality services for elderly based on their changing needs and to utilize their experience and knowledge for the betterment of themselves and society.
- Actively work towards education and training of professionals in Gerontology, Geriatrics and Geriatric Care Management.
- Promote Life Long Learning and to empower the elderly.
- Work against ageism and promote equality and human rights for the elderly.
- To initiate innovative inter-generational programs involving youth and elderly.
- To provide and promote home-based and institutional services for elderly and the concept of successful ageing.
- To advocate and lobby for elderly issues.

On 10th April 2008, www.silverinnings.com was launched. The website is one stop destination for all the information with regards to Ageing.
Age Care India

Age-Care India is a Premier National Voluntary Organization (NGO) for the Welfare of Aged People in the Country.\textsuperscript{13} It appeared on the Indian National Scene in January, 1980. Supported by a group of dedicated Founder Members drawn from various walks of life and having diverse life experiences, it was formally registered on 18\textsuperscript{th} November, 1980 as a Non-political, Non-profit, Secular, Charitable, Educational, Cultural and Social Welfare Organization under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.

The idea to float such an Organisation to promote the Welfare of the Retired and the Aged people was originally conceived by its Founder Mr. N.L.Kumar, as far back as 1974 when the actual seed was sown, which ultimately blossomed into the present Age-Care India.

Aims and Objectives:

- To promote the Welfare of Aged People irrespective of caste, colour or creed to lead a healthy, happy and dignified post-retirement life.
- To organize Free Geriatric Health Check-up Camps and Clinics.
- To set-up Day Care Centers for Recreation and Domiciliary Services.
- To set-up Elders Enclaves in calm quiet and peaceful environs for simple, economical and functional housing with a package of amenities.
- To arrange spare-time employment for fit and active retired people.

\textsuperscript{13} Silver Jubilee Elders’ Day Special Souvenir November 18, 2005.
• To provide Counseling and Professional Consultancy Services for post-retirement planning, legal aid, housing and job cooperatives for self-employment, etc.

• To organize programmes designed to provide for recreational, social, cultural and spiritual needs of the Aged People.

• To establish Skill Bank for accumulation of professional expertise and knowledge and its dissemination for public good.

• To sponsor economically-weak aged persons for Institutional Care.

• To set-up a Geriatric Hospital and an Institute of Gerontology for Research and Training in these new disciplines.

The salient features of its objectives are to help the Aged people in every possible way to lead a Healthy, happy and dignified post-retirement life in reasonable comfort and peace.

Membership-wise, Age-Care India has nearly 1500 Members at present spread all over the country. Doubtless Age-Care India today is the biggest National Voluntary Organization in the field of Ageing in the country.

Age-Care India has very strong National patronage. It has also been recognized by the United Nations and its name has been listed in the United Nations “Handbook of Organizations active in the field of Ageing” 1988 Edition as one of the 270 organizations and educational institutions collaborating in the field of Ageing world-wide.

The organization has many ‘Firsts’ to its credit. While it was the First NGO to start Free Geriatric Health Check-up Camps in the Capital for the urban poor, way back in 1981, it soon spread its network in the rural sector around the National Metropolies to provide much-needed health-care services to the rural poor, which
were almost non-existent in the absence of any primary health care facilities, then.

Another important feature of Age-Care India is the Celebration of Elder’s Day regularly every year to Honour Senior Citizens (above 80 years of age). The first such celebration was held on 18th November, 1981 and continued for the last 28 years. Apart from this, the organization has also been the first to demand a National Policy on Ageing way back in 1981 at the Age-Care Seminar held on May 12, 1981 at the India International Centre, New Delhi.

Soon after, the organization launched its varied activities viz.,

- An Urban Day Care Centre for the Elderly,
- Regular weekly Public Lectures on topics of age-relevance and allied interests, Counseling services,
- Old Age Pension for the indigent Elderly,
- Conferences and Seminars,
- Surveys,
- Essay Contests for School and College students,
- Declamation contests, Placement of Needy Elderly in Old Age Homes, etc. to create requisite awareness about the multifarious emerging problems of the Elderly.

The Organization is committed to uphold its ‘Gospel’ of “Growing Grey Gracefully” to improve quality of life through a wide range of Age-Care Programmes and Projects.

**Anugraha India**

Anugraha, a national level NGO is dedicated to the cause of alleviating the suffering and pain of the destitute and the neglected persons. Serving for communities in four states of India, it is
registered as a society in October 2000, the Anugraha\textsuperscript{14} was born out of a humanitarian and actual field level experiences of a graying people. As an advocate for the well being of the elderly persons, Anugraha is committed to providing forum for ageing issues.

**All India Senior Citizens’ Confederation – AISCCON**

AISCCON is the largest National organization to bring together and represent senior citizens across India. Today AISCCON\textsuperscript{15} has Federations/Associations affiliated to it from 14 States including Maharashtra. It is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950. Donation to AISCCON is eligible to Income-tax exemption under section 80G. Since 2002 AISCCON publishes a monthly Newsletter “AISCCON News”. Through its columns it is creating awareness among Senior Citizens and also informing them about development regarding senior citizens in India and abroad. It holds an all India Annual Conference “National Conference of AISCCON.”

**Nightingales Medical Trust (NMT)\textsuperscript{16}**

Nightingales Medical Trust is a nongovernmental organization dedicated to elder care. It firmly believes that elders should remain an integral part of their family. It works towards bringing joy, dignity, hope and health to their lives. It sensitizes the community and the government to the problems that elders face and encourage

\textsuperscript{14} www.anugrahaindia.net accessed on 24/9/2010.
\textsuperscript{15} www.aiscon.org/about_us.htm accessed on 24/9/2010.
public participation in their efforts to create various family-based support systems for elders of different socio economic groups.

Alzheimer’s & related Disorders Society of India (ARDSI)
Alzheimer’s and Related Disorders Society of India\textsuperscript{17} is the only national organization whose activities are exclusively devoted to help the victims and their families. Alzheimer’s disease is a silent killer of brain and lives of world’s elderly people. It is the fourth leading cause of death among the older adults in the developed world.

ARDSI was formed by the Team led by Dr. Jacob Roy, a Pediatrician by profession, to improve the quality of life of the people with Dementia particularly to raise awareness of the diseases. It’s not for profit organization presently having fourteen chapters in India.

The main activities of ARDSI are to:

- Raise awareness.
- To develop services.
- To train family members and professionals.
- To undertake research.

Society for Serving Seniors (SSS)\textsuperscript{18}
Society for Serving Seniors is a society set up in October 2006 to take up the cause of the Senior Citizens Community as a whole. SSS is a society established for empowering, nurturing, informing and organizing Responsible Seniors. Empowerment may be achieved through

\textsuperscript{17} \url{www.mykerala.net/alzheimer/index.html} accessed on 24/9/2010
\textsuperscript{18} \url{societyforservingseniors.satyamcsr.org} accessed on 22/9/2010.
a) Advising on matters of financial security,
b) Facilitating exchange of Information Knowledge or Experience,
c) Help them organize as groups and uniting such groups into a pressure group,
d) Providing opportunities for learning new things etc.

There could be many more things added to this list. Old age is second childhood or elders learn to play second innings. Here SSS steps in by offering a wide range of services, products or facilities tailored to various segments of the senior population.

Harmony

The Harmony for Silvers Foundation, founded in 2004 by Tina Anil Ambani, is a non-governmental organization working to enhance the quality of life of the elderly in India. It envisages India’s elderly as ‘Silver Citizens’—glowing and proud. Harmony’s mission is to create an environment where silvers, irrespective of their cultural beliefs, can retain dignity, self respect, pride and self-confidence. Since its inception, till today the foundation has accomplished the following:

a) An Interactive Centre for silver citizens, in South Mumbai,
b) Harmony the magazine,
c) The Harmony Senior Citizens’ Run,
d) Research monographs,
e) Seminars,
f) Networking with like-minded organizations,
g) Advocacy.

The Harmony Interactive Centre, operational from May 2004, provides a unique opportunity for silvers to interact with their peers in a space of their own and experience life anew. It also aims to educate the general public about issues pertaining to the elderly. Harmony-Celebrate Age, launched in June 2004, is India’s only lifestyle and empowerment publication for silvers. Harmony is actively networking with other agencies and organizations in India and abroad for exchange of expertise, ideas and experiences.

Over a period of time, the Harmony for Silvers Foundation intends to promote sound and forward looking strategies and mechanisms to enhance the abilities and participation of silver citizens in the overall development of society.

**Dignity Foundation**

Dignity Foundation—a popular and progressive NGO for senior citizens – promises avenues for productive living existence to the 50+ group. Headquartered at Mumbai. Set up as a charitable organization under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 and also as a Public Trust with Commissioner of Mumbai, the Foundation is premised upon scientific developments in the fields of Geriatrics and Gerontological structural opportunities to exercise the choice of how to live young in chronologically advancing years.

Objectives:

- Provide information to seniors through publishing, holding seminars and discussions.

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• Undertake various services for their support and welfare and enable them to live productive, meaningful and interesting lives, drawing upon their knowledge, skills and experience.
• Construct a database to determine needs of senior citizens in India and devise ways to meet them.
• Build awareness by dissemination of such data.
• Institute services that cater to needs.
• Mobilize senior citizens into an identity group.
• Undertake advocacy with government and public welfare bodies.

Agewell Foundation

Agewell Foundations vision for older persons is to empower them to lead a life of dignity and respect. It belive, sustained efforts would not only create older persons friendly environment, it would also awaken a sense of responsibility amongst us all, to make this possible. Agewell Foundation\textsuperscript{21} seeks to reach out to larger audience of older persons and act as a catalyst of change in bridging the gap between generations and ensuring respectful and comfortable life for old people. Agewell Foundation interacts with older persons and their caregivers at all levels – Family, Community and State.

Peepal Foundation

Peepal Foundation is a humane initiative by professional from different walks of life but like-minded individuals and sharing a common purpose to bettering conditions of the lesser-privileged

\textsuperscript{21}www.antya.com/detail/Agewell-Foundation/58532 accessed on 24/9/10.
section of society. The Peepal tree, steady and dependable, with its great branches spread wide in PUNE, MUMBAI, LONAVALA, encompass in its warmth and shelter was the inspiration behind the name. Ever since its inception, the foundation has had one single aim; Empowerment of the lesser privileged, including children, senior citizens, AIDS patients or any other disadvantaged section of society.

It organizes free medical checkups by specialists for common ailments that afflict the elderly such as diabetes, eye problems and so on. It also begun a free OPD that entails them to weekly health checks at a nearby clinic.

**Janaseva Foundation, Maharashtra—Pune**

Broad areas of its services are Health care, Elderly Care, Disable Care, Destitute Care and education, Training and Research. Foundation is always involved in helping victims of natural disasters. Janaseva Foundation is also engaged in other activities and continuously tries to expand its field of services. It firmly believes in serving the humanity. Its services are offered totally free or at a very nominal cost.

**Sahayog Foundation**

Poona Geriatric Care Centre is an outcome of the collective thinking of the professional social workers, social work teachers, psychiatrics consultants and neurologists. In is an idea of providing emotional support and nursing care for the elderly people who are

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24 Participative Development, January 2009, Social Sciences Centre, Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune, p.72
bed ridden, suffering from age related illness e.g. dementia, stroke etc. and elderly people who need attention but lack family support.

Objectives – To provide institutional services to the elderly people.

- To provide the care to the people with old age sickness.
- To provide physical and mental health services through
- The physio and yoga therapy.
- To provide counseling services.
- To provide the services for the at their residence
- Community Based Services.
- Rehabilitation of the elderly persons in need of special care support.
- To provide ‘Day Care Services’ for the old age persons.

Programmes/Activities: Professional counseling, Meditation and Yoga, Recreation and Cultural Activities, Physio therapy. Income generating activities such as painting, weaving, gardening, handicraft etc. Care Care services. Special care services for the sick elderly persons. Both long and short term residential services are provided.

Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (YASHADA)

YASHADA is a complete training institute having a dual role as an Administrative Training Institute and a State Institute of Rural Development. The objectives of YASHADA are as follows.

- To promote modern management science as a major instrument for development of economic and social activities

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25 [www.yashada.org/organization/activity.htm](http://www.yashada.org/organization/activity.htm) accessed on 22/02/2011
of the State Government, Zilla Parishads and other institutions and organizations of the State Government.

• To develop managerial skills, organizational capacity, leadership and decision-making ability for development planning and efficiency in implementation of policies, programs and projects.

• To carry on operational and policy-oriented research, leadership and decision concepts appropriate to the local, state and national environment and to formulate policy alternatives.

• To serve as the apex institute for the collection and dissemination of information regarding development administration.

• To foster, assist and support individuals, organizations and institutions in the use of management science.

• To provide consultancy services in development and public administration.

• To function as the nodal State-level training institute in the field of development administration.

Tata Institute of Social Sciences
The Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) was established in 1936, as the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work. The first school of social work in India. TISS was a pioneering effort with the objective of Social Welfare through academic

26 www.tiss.edu accessed on 21/10/2010
excellance, a characteristic of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust. Its establishment was the result of the decision of the trustees of the SDTT to accept DClifford Manshardt’s vision of a post-graduate school of social work of national stature that would engage in a continuous study of Indian social issues and problems and impart education in social work to meet the emerging need for trained human power. This subsequently influenced the direction of social work education and social research in India.

In 1944, the Sir Dorabji Tata Graduate School of Social Work wa renamed as the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. The year 1964 was an important landmark in the history of the Institute, when it was recognised a a Deemed University by the University Grants Commission of India.

Since then, the TISS has been expanding continuously in terms of educational programmes and infrastructure. While responding to the changing needs of the social and educational system in the country, the institute has gone far beyond the initial concern of social work education. Thus, what started as a small institution offering a post-graduate diploma in Social Work grew into a Deemed University and as a result, diversified its activities.

Since its inception in 1936, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences has never limited itself to the mandate of conventional university; rather, it has worked for the promotion of sustainable, equitable and participatory development, social welfare and social justice. Many research were carryout by TISS which helped in the identification problems of aged people, protection of rights and interest of aged people.
Non-Residents Indians’ Parents Organization—NRIPO

Many young Indians have moved to foreign countries for work, education or business, which results in their aged parents being left alone without assistance in daily living. NRIPO is working towards this goal by implementing certain programmes, including: Support services—basic needs related to passports, visa and travel, medical insurance, medical aid, moral support to the aged and single parents of advanced age to make lives easier for the parents in the absence of their children. Hospital admission for emergencies are made with local hospitals for priority and concessional treatment and admission without deposits. One by Two Scheme—efforts are made to look after needy aged families by two able families staying in the vicinity of such families. This step has proved very successful as the interfamily relations have proved to be cordial and helpful. Entertainment, get-togethers are arranged on special festive occasions. Picnics are also arranged occasionally. In cities like Hyderabad, Delhi telephone counseling is being implemented.

V CONCLUSION

The role of NGO is important in implementing the legislations and schemes for the aged people. Government alone cannot take care of all the needs of the older population. The private sector consisting of the Voluntary Agencies and the family must have to play an important role in this regard. The Non-Governmental Organizations sector constitutes a very important institutional

mechanism to provide user friendly, affordable services to take care of the elderly persons.

While the government continues its efforts to introduce programmes for the welfare of the elderly, it is the non-governmental organizations which have played a key role in bringing to the forefront the problems of the older people to the society at large and through its various services it has sown the seeds for a forum whereby the voice and the concerns of the elderly can be addressed.

In recent years several national level and state level voluntary organizations have been set up for promoting the welfare of the elderly, for advocating a general national priority to their problems and needs and for organizing services. The services they are providing as residential care, day care, geriatric care, medical and psychiatric care, recreation, financial assistance and counseling.

Prominent among them are Help Age India, Age Care India, Dignity foundation, The International Longevity Centre of India, Silver Innings Foundation, Anugraha, All India Senior Citizens Confederation and Society for Serving Seniors, Alzaimers and Related Disorder Society of India etc.

The information collected from various sources regarding the NGOs working in India, revealed that, many NGO’s are working at national level as well as state level. In addition to this there are small organizations like senior Citizens Group, All India
Senior Citizens Federation, Pensioners Association etc. Majority of the NGOs are having their own website.

Upon perusal of their leaflet or broacher or information placed/available on the website it reveals that, most of the NGOs are working for or looking after the Care of aged and providing the only Medical facilities to aged people. But social security which is equally important issue has not been given that much priority by number of NGOs.

It is worth mentioning that, almost all the NGOs are providing all these as a charity towards aged people. Many of the NGOs are of International repute. Some of them are having tie up with the NGO’s at abroad e.g. International Federation of Aging and International Longevity centre. It also reveals that, most of the NGOs are receiving huge funds from the other Countries. That’s why they are carrying out various activities in the interest of aged people.

There are various mechanism adopted by the NGOs to look after the health care and related other issues of aged people. Commonly organizing health checkups camp, treatment and surgery in some disease like Cataract, free distribution of glasses, provision of mobile medical care units, dissemination of information regarding healthy ageing, organizing talks and like functions/events to provide platform to discuss various aspects of ageing etc, are the services rendered by the NGOs in India.

Study of the working of the NGO’s, further reveals that, most of the NGOs has concentrated on the aged urban population.
and that to in Metropolitan cities only. Whereas in fact more number of aged people is still residing in rural area, they are out of reach of these NGOs. This sector in India is playing only a minor role catering only to a rather small segment of the aged population, which is capable of paying for the services rendered.

Some of the NGOs run Old Age Homes and Day Care Centers where aged persons are admitted for a specified charge per month. The Old Age Homes having three star or five star facilities and luxurious amenities for the aged people, run and maintained by some NGOs are very expensive and not affordable by the common man. There is no scope or place for poor aged people in such OAHs.

To sum up, it is humbly submitted that, all the problems of the aged are not dealt with by the NGOs. When overall working is seen, it appears to be not satisfactory. Much can be done through this mechanism for up liftment of aged people and protection of their interests. There requires proper administration on the part of government in respect of working of NGOs.

In the light of foregoing observations the researcher put forth the following suggestions for proper and adequate implementation of the mechanism of NGOs and proper administration of the same in the interest of aged people:

NGOs working for the causes of elders are not working unitedly, there is a missing link. Hence it is suggested that, they should work together and sensitized the society and community about the issues of elderly like loneliness, security and care.
Second, the government shall earmark the nature and province of NGOs by suitable legislation.

Second, the NGOs shall be made accountable for the funds collected and disbursed.

There shall be some control by government over NGOs in respect of the property, funds and their day to day transactions, by enacting suitable legislation.