CHAPTER I

HISTORY OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Genesis of the Non-Governmental Organisations

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) or Voluntary Agencies or Voluntary Organisations are committed to the upliftment of the poor, marginalized underprivileged, impoverished and downtrodden\footnote{Robin Lall, The Dynamics of NGOS, New Delhi, 2004, P.6.}. Non-Governmental organisations have their origin in non-profit, value-based voluntary organisations and have been working throughout the world. Non-Governmental Organisations are playing a vital role in the formation of self-Help groups. Non-Governmental Organisations in India were responsible for converting the Self – Help Groups into a mass movement in our country.

Non-Governmental Organisations are legally constituted organisations created by natural or legal persons who act
independently from any form of Government. The word NGO in the modern sense of the term came to be used in 1945 when United Nations Organisation was formed. According to the United Nations Organisation any kind of private organization that is independent from government control can be termed as NGO provided it is non profitable and non-criminal.

**Emergence of Non-governmental Organisation**

After the creation of the United Nations Organisation more NGOs were established to deal with more specific issues. In 1946 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisiation (UNESCO) was created to serve the people of the whole world. "Since the 16th Century many charitable institutions in Europe and in the United States of America have played prominent roles in improving the condition of the poverty sticken people. The earliest International agencies in Western society were church – related societies. Along with missionary orgnisations

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educational institutions were founded in an attempt to educate the people in colonised countries in Africa and Asia.

'The American Medical Association which was founded in 1847 and 'Save the Children in London founded in 1919\(^3\) were the pioneer, secular and voluntary medical aided organizations. These organisations have engaged in socio-economic activities like education and disaster relief. The United States Government did not like to get involved in overseas aid till 1890. But the Government intervention in providing foreign aid became indispensable in 1898. In 1898 a major war known as Spanish American war broke out which involved heavy expenditure and many people, both the masses and the soldiers had to suffer a lot. The Government of the U.S.A. began to provide financial assistance to the affected people. Thus began the intervention of American Government to assist the affected people abroad through Non-Governmental Organisations. This period of the later part of the

\(^3\) Robin Lall, op.cit, P.1.
Nineteenth century was marked by an expansion of the Government's role in overseas philanthropy⁴.

Introduction of Western ideas and Christian faith caused wide spread emergence of social movements in Asia⁵ and especially in India. After 1813 the Christian missionaries expanded their service in a big way in the area already conquered by the British⁶. In India caste discriminations created segregation within the society⁷. These distractions which had been deep rooted had to be set aside through religious reforms. Social and religious improvements in the Indian society were brought about by the social reformer in 1828 by Raja Ram Mohan Roy. He founded the social based Non-Governmental Organization, the Brahmo Samaj. Another social reform organization, the Arya Samaj was founded by Dayanantha Saraswathi in 1875 in Bombay.

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⁴ Ibid, P.2.
⁷ Mathew, Mammen, 'Roots of Rural violence in Bihar' A case study, New Delhi, No.3 July-Sep 1986, P.340.
Mahatma Phule also founded Sathya Shodhak Samaj in 1873 for the improvement of the depressed classes. Another Non-Governmental Organisation Arya Mahila Samaj which worked for the emancipation of women was established in 1880. A home, another Non-Governmental Organisation for widows was started in Madras in 1898. Subsequently, Ramakrishna Mission, Servants of India Society and 'Friends in need society emerged to take care of the welfare of women, children and depressed people.

**Growth of N.G.O. in World arena**

Simultaneously in the world arena, Non-Governmental Organisations also developed. International Non-Governmental Organisations had their beginning in 1839\(^8\). It was the time when slave trade was rampant throughout the world. African Negroes were sold as slaves in America\(^9\). The English landlords kept a lot of slaves. Women and children had to serve in the fields of the British barons. The position of Women and children in England and the

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position of African slaves in America were highly deplorable that humanitarian activists in England and America began to form Non-Governmental Organisations to alleviate the sufferings of the slaves, women and destitute children.

The Non-Governmental organization is a legally constituted organization created by legal persons which operates independently from any form of Government. The term usually is being associated with the United Nations Organisations and is normally attributed to organisations which are not a part of the Government and are not intended for profit. The Non-Governmental organisations are helping the needy but they do not have any affinity towards party politics.

The number of Non-Governmental Organisations functioning in United States of America is 40000. Russia has 277000 Non-Governmental Organisations and India is estimated to have at 3.3

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10 Robin Lall, op.cit, P.7.
11 Purin Chandra, NGOS in India, New Delhi 2005, P.90.
million Non-Governmental Organisations\textsuperscript{13}. According to United Nations Organisation any kind of private organisation independent from Government control can be termed as Non-Governmental Organisation, provided it is non-profitable non-criminal and not influenced by any political party.

The founding of Non-Governmental Organisations mostly depend on the nature of the inspirations of the founders. This inspiration provides the philosophical perspective as well as analytical framework in viewing the social reality and thereby becomes the basis for evolving a set of actions by a given voluntary organisation. The inspiration of the founders of the Non-Governmental organisations may vary from person to person. The inspiration may be philosophical, intellectual, religious or ideological\textsuperscript{14}.

\textsuperscript{13} 'India; More NGO; one World Net, New Delhi, July 2010, P.18.
\textsuperscript{14} Farrington, John, Non Governmental Organisations and the state in Asia (ed) New Delhi, 1993, P.366.
Gandhian Inspiration for N.G.O.

One of the most significant inspirations has been the Gandhian school. The Gandhian school of inspiration is based on the experience obtained through freedom struggle, Gandhi’s call for rural development is to fulfill their economic, social and moral regeneration. Gandhian inspired voluntary organisations practice a set of norms and values in the conduct of organization and design specific targets and strategies for themselves. The keystone of such organisations has been village reconstruction.

The second school, also historically quite active, is a socialist school. This socialist influence could best be understood from the leadership of Ram Manohar Lohia and Jaya Prakash Narayan. The influence of this inspiration can be seen in the waves of voluntary organisations which emerged out of the political struggle and student movement. Chatra Yuva Saugarsh Vahini, an outcome of Jeyaprakash Narayan’s Movements in Bihar and other parts of

15 Farrington, John, Non Governmental Organisations and the State in Asia (ed) New Delhi, 1993, P.366.
North India during mid 70's is a typical example of this inspiration\textsuperscript{17}. Another inspiration is of the Maxist and Neo-Marxist perspective. Several persons inspired by this left political parties set up voluntary organisations and gave them an initial meaning from this ideological standpoint. Within the church the Maxist perspective among some clergy and a debate on liberation theology also inspired several voluntary development organisations in the country\textsuperscript{18}.

Historically the church has a major source of inspiration and the teachings of Jesus Christ have been used to inspire the whole generations of missionaries to serve the poor and the needy\textsuperscript{19}. Among the configuration of voluntary organisations, a large number of people and institutions continue to receive inspiration from Christian thought. Likewise, the influence of Islamic, Buddhist and other traditions has also been quite visible\textsuperscript{20}. One of

\begin{flushleft}
\textsuperscript{17} People's Action for Development Conference of Coordinaly Agencies, 1985, New Delhi, P.64.
\textsuperscript{18} Sharma Manoj, Health Promotion through community Action, New Delhi, 1991, P.96.
\textsuperscript{19} The Holy Bible, King James Version 1611, Mathew 25:40.
\textsuperscript{20} Joel, S.G.R.Bhose, NGOs And Rural Development New Delhi, 2003, P.50.
\end{flushleft}
the interesting inspirations of this type is reflected in the Rama Krishna Mission and its various development initiatives throughout the country. In several parts of the country inspiration for the founders of voluntary organisations emerged from social thinkers and reformers like Ambedkhar to work for the Dalits and the downtrodden\textsuperscript{21}.

The Non-Governmental Organisations have to work on the professional ethics and with a spirit of professionalism to usher in the process of growth in people's sector for the task of development which requires investment in people. The Non Government organisations are closer to the people and play substantial role than the Government Organisations. Government organisations do work within its rigid periphery and have restrictive nature of work\textsuperscript{22}.

**Growth of N.G.Os. in India**

Voluntarism played a significant role in ancient and medieval India. During the British period many philanthropists and charity

\textsuperscript{21} Ibid, P.51.

\textsuperscript{22} Raj Bhanti, Social work, Practices and services, New Delhi, 2005, p.83
organisations established agencies to provide welfare services to the poor, orphan, sick, suppressed and handicapped\textsuperscript{23}. Article 19(1) (c) of the Constitution of India confers on the Indian citizens the right to form associations or unions. The right includes the right to form associations for development.

The planners of our country after independence introduced many projects to initiate the community participation. Community Development Programme was introduced on Oct 2, 1952. This was the beginning of the progressive Government Organizations. The five year plans also championed the cause of Non-Government Organisations. Sufficient funds were also earmarked for providing sufficient funds for the Non-Government Organization\textsuperscript{24}. The third five year plan characterized the voluntary organization as an aspect of public cooperation. The sixth plan noted the voluntary agencies with a rise in grant-in-aid from a mere Rupees 4 crores during the first five year plan to Rs.83 crores during the fifth plan\textsuperscript{25}.

\textsuperscript{23} Ibid, P.84.
\textsuperscript{24} Raj Bhanti, op.cit, P.84.
\textsuperscript{25} Idem.
In the Seventh Five Year plan, a 20 point programme designed for the weaker section was emphasized by the Planning Commission which identified the voluntary organisations as the alternative mechanism for meeting the problems of the poor and to implement minimum needed programmes. This was for the first time voluntary organisations were given freedom to chalk out their plans according to the problems of the local people.26

The Non-Governmental Organisations' role in the social work has evolved great interest in recent times among the planners, administrators, political leaders and industrial or trading companies.27 Since the focus of the Eighth Plan seems to be social development with more emphasis on education, health, food, agriculture, women and environment it becomes necessary that the scope of the work of the Non-Government Organisation should be widened and should have professionalization in its approach.28 Non Government Organisation should maintain a level of creativity. To

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26 Raj Bhanti, op.cit., P.84.
implement all these, the process of professionalism should be developed. Professionalism does not mean maximization of profit but to bring forth systematic social reconstruction in the progress of the organization²⁹.

Voluntary Organisations have their commitment to voluntarism. Voluntary organisations should have dynamic character in taking up new responsibilities as pioneers in social welfare. But it is indispensable that these voluntary organisations should introduce new methods of working with the people. Professionalism would bring a clear and positive picture of ideology of social work and social welfare. The voluntary organisation should work on the principles and ideology of helping process.

They should work according to the needs of the people. In our country it was the voluntary organisations that worked for the cause of the needy and persisted until the statutory agencies were

established to undertake the particular services\textsuperscript{30}. Another important aspect is the relative degree of freedom from political trends which is not available in statutory organisations. A voluntary organization is also found to be more flexible and free from bureaucratic rigidity\textsuperscript{31}. It has also the advantage of ensuring public cooperation. The operational cost is minimum due to the fact that greater proportion of work is done by the volunteers\textsuperscript{32}. But in India private agencies are financially not sound and they have to depend mainly on public contributions, state grants and assistance. Social workers engaged in India in voluntary services are paid low. Still voluntary agencies and social activists do their best to redress the grievances of the poor people.

The factors which motivate people to take to voluntary action rest on religion, Government, business, philanthropy and mutual aid. The missionary enthusiasm of religious organisations, the commitment of the Government to public interest, the profit making

\textsuperscript{30} Shanjay Bhattacharya, op.cit, P.128.
\textsuperscript{31} Ibid, P.127.
\textsuperscript{32} Karat Prakash, op.cit., P.52.
urge in business and the motive of self-help among fellowmen are all reflected in Non-Governmental voluntarism in India. Psychological impulses also lead the people of India to join voluntary action.

Generally the voluntary organisations render their services in all fields of social welfare. Their complexion and orientation also undergo changes with the change of time and situations\textsuperscript{33}. The voluntary action started by Acharya Vinoba Bhava in the form of Bhudan, Gramadhan, Sramdhan and Jeevandhan (gift of land, village, labour and life) so successfully to bring about a sort of revolution in the thinking process of the people to share their assets with less fortunate people has lost its vigour\textsuperscript{34}. New problems emerging in the complex society with the advance in science and technology have contributed to the roles of voluntary organization to meet the challenges. The new challenges which are met nowadays by the voluntary organisations are the problem of drug addicts, the impending issue associated with the prostitutes, the

\textsuperscript{33} Sanjay Bhattacharya, op.cit.P.134.
\textsuperscript{34} ibid, PP. 134-135.
problem of the migrants, victims of terrorist activities and the problems associated with drought, flood, epidemics, calamity and national disaster.\textsuperscript{35} Voluntary agencies equipped with necessary technical experience can be useful agencies of social and economic development.

Though voluntary action is not controlled by any external agents, the Government has accepted it as a major means of social welfare and provides financial assistance without being directly involved in their functioning. In October 1982 Prime minister Indira Gandhi wrote to all the Chief Ministers that consultative groups of voluntary agencies must be established at the State level.\textsuperscript{36} There are two ways by which the Government could help the existing agencies to function effectively and grow in response to changing situations. One is by offering direct help in terms of finance and equipment.\textsuperscript{37} Another way is through legislative action. It has now become a necessitated fact that voluntary action is

\textsuperscript{36} Sanjay Pattacharya, op.cit, P.136.
\textsuperscript{37} Shah Dhinesh, 'Voluntary Agencies in the Seventh Plan – Voluntary Action 27, Nos.9-10, 1985, New Delhi, P.259.
necessary for social welfare and development though there are innumerable statutory organisations and Government planning. The origin of the voluntary service of people in India could be traced back to the charitable impulse of inspired individuals\textsuperscript{38}.

Voluntary organisations encourage equality, fraternity, education and rehabilitation too. The concepts of equality and fraternity were advocated during the French revolution. The Girondists' organisation and the Jacobite organization were the voluntary Non-Governmental organisations which led the revolution in France in 1789 and brought a remarkable change in the French set up by enlisting the two prominent concepts, equality and fraternity\textsuperscript{39}.

In India organized efforts were taken by the Non-Governmental organization to impart education to the handicapped and hearing impaired during the last two dreads of the 19\textsuperscript{th} Century. These strenuous efforts were taken up by the Christian

\textsuperscript{38} Indian Express, 21-3-1993.
\textsuperscript{39} Ram Ratan Khajuria, Voluntary Organisation and Social services Jammu, 1995, P.129.
Missionaries. As years rolled by many voluntary organisations sprang up to offer services to the handicapped persons. In the early stages these Non-Governmental Organisations had to depend exclusively on donations arranged from the public. It was in late 1930s and 1940s that the state began to give small amount of money to Non-Governmental Organisations for developing the condition of the needy and disabled.

Seven to ten percent of the people in India have some disability. The great majority of them live in rural areas. The existing rehabilitation programmes are largely located in urban centres. The greatest development has taken place in the field of education but vocational training and employment have lagged behind. It is virtually impossible either for the Central Government or for the State Governments to undertake the task of education and rehabilitation of 100 million people who have very special needs.

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40 Ram Rattan Khajuria, op.cit, P.129.  
41 Ibid, P.129.  
42 Ibid, PP.129-130.
Their education and rehabilitation calls for considerable expenditure and dedication. The magnitude of the problem is such that it is not amenable to Government Management alone. A close partnership between Non-Government Organisations and the Government in the task of developing special education and rehabilitation services is imperative. Government services cost enormously more than services provided by Non-Governmental Organisations. One reason for this is that a great deal of dedicated voluntary services is given without any monetary compensation. Thus in a country with a very serious resource constraints, cost effectiveness is of crucial importance and partnership between the government and the Non-Governmental Organisations is the only way to make these programmes cost effective and efficacious. Voluntary Organisations have to play an active role for the success of rehabilitation programme of the disabled.

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43 Ram Rattan Khajuria, op.cit, P.129.
44 Abha, vijai, Prakash, "Voluntary Organisations and Social Welfare, Jaipur, 2000, P.68.
The Government may formulate policies and provide funding but the ultimate success of the programme will depend upon the large scale participation of voluntary organisations. In India a good network of voluntary organisations function and such voluntary organisations have played a tremendous role in the upliftment of the disabled. The voluntary organisations all over the world and more so in India have very specific goals and objectives of overall upliftment of the society by bringing in the mainstream, the lowest of the lower strata by providing services at practically no cost. The voluntary organisations work with a sense of service to the humanity without any discrimination of country, caste colour, race or religion.

**Challenges of Non-Governmental Organisation**

However the problems and challenges confronted by the voluntary organisations are numerous and peculiar. The prominent among them are of properly trained, dedicated and devoted manpower and sufficient regular supply of funds. The related issues such as sustainability and accountability are also equally
relevant and important. It has been realized that no voluntary organisation can function on its own without proper collaboration with other agencies especially the Government which lays down the general guidelines and decides on the policy norms.

Though there are many Non-Governmental Organisations expecting funds from international aid and voluntary donation yet there are also Non-Governmental Organisations not to take funds from donors and try to generate funding in other ways such as selling handicrafts or charging for services\textsuperscript{46}. During the Second World War much destruction was caused to the environmental factors. Hence the need of the society was to rejuvenate the environment factors throughout the world\textsuperscript{47}. Hence after the Second World War the creation of a new Non-Governmental Organisation known as "International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, became necessitated. On this basis in 1946 the United Nations Educational – Scientific and Cultural

\textsuperscript{46} GrantB. Stilman, Global standard NGOs, 2007, Geneva oo,13-14.
\textsuperscript{47} Indian Journal of Public Administration – 'Voluntary organisations and Development - Their Role' – July – September, 1987, New Delhi
Organisation was created with the purpose of advocating and representing Scientific issues and Collaboration among environmental Non-Governmental Organisations. In 1969 the Scientific Committee on problems of Environment was funded to increase and improve collaboration among environmentalists.

Non-Governmental Organisations are intended to fill a gap in Government services but in countries like India Non-Governmental Organisations are gaining a powerful stronghold in decision making. In the interest of sustainability most donors require that Non-Governmental Organisations demonstrate a relationship with Governments. State Governments are vulnerable because they lack strategic planning and vision. Non-Governmental Organisations in India are under regulated, political and recipients of large government and international donor funds. Governments have no access to the number of projects or amount of funding received by these Non-Governmental Organisations.

49 Shah Dhinesh, op.cit, P.258.
At the beginning of the 21st century environmental issues have emerged as a major concern for the welfare of the people. Late Prime ministers Nehru and Mrs. Indra Gandhi also campaigned for protection, conservation and development. They brought several legislations associated with them. Sunderlal Bhanguna through Chipko movement worked for the protection of the environmental factors. Anna Hazare took strenuous efforts for rain water harvesting. Bill Clinton is a major ambassador against aids. Bill Gates and Melinda Gates are major donors for Non-Governmental Organsiation. Diana fought against Land mines. The team of P.V. Narasimha Rao, ManMohan Singh, Chidambaram, Mrs.Sonia Gandhi as well as Vijpayee and Yaswanth Sinha took steps for social and economic development.

The role of voluntary organisations in the international field has been greatly enlarged during last century. Apart from the international Red Cross in the field of relief and rehabilitation and the United Nations Organisation and its allied international bodies

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in the field of peace keeping and development, tremendous spirit of international voluntary bodies like the Rotary and the Lions have been witnessed\textsuperscript{51}. In the field of religion and philosophy, education and Philanthropy trade and commerce there have been an unanimous Universal response to voluntary effort and voluntary participation. The Olympics and the Asiad are examples of this exemplary progress towards voluntary unification of nations and towards a world brotherhood.

International Non-Governmental Organisations have the programmes which they may take up at the national, state and local levels within their broad framework. But voluntary action of the Non-Governmental organisation in India has always been an integral part of the cultural and social tradition\textsuperscript{52}. A variety of social services were provided by voluntary agencies prior to independence\textsuperscript{53}. Traditionally, voluntary agencies took a variety of activities in the areas of social reform in the pre-independence

\textsuperscript{51} Puranchandra, op.cit, P.168.
\textsuperscript{52} M.Raziaparvin, Empowerment of Women, New Delhi, 2005, P.132.
\textsuperscript{53} Journal of Arts, science and commerce, Vol II, issue – 4\textsuperscript{th} act, 2011 (203) Puducherry, P.8.
period\textsuperscript{54}. Independence resulted in the Government policy to support and strengthen voluntary organisations. Since then Non-Governmental Organizations have come into existence in this country in large numbers. The Non-Governmental Organisations in India are a repository of grass root realities because of their proximity to the people. Since eighties, an increasing role is being played by the Non-Governmental Organisations in women's development.

\textbf{Tasks of N.G.O.}

Voluntary Non-Governmental Organizations are capable of performing a wide variety of tasks. The aims, motivations, ideology, dedication and quality of work personnel differ from one agency to another. All the voluntary Non-Governmental Organizations are involved in development work in one way or the other. But they exhibit marked differences in the context, direction and quality of this involvement\textsuperscript{55}. Some voluntary non-

\begin{flushleft}
\textsuperscript{54} Ibid, P.79.
\textsuperscript{55} Ashok Kumar and Roy C.P., 'Role of voluntary organisations in women Development, New Delhi 1991, P.175.
\end{flushleft}
Governmental Organizations in India may not take up development programmes. But serve the people indirectly by placing checks on corruption and inefficiency that are associated with development administration\textsuperscript{56}. Based on the approaches the Non-Governmental Organizations have been classified into seven categories\textsuperscript{57}. Each category functions in seven separate areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas</th>
<th>Functions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Charity</td>
<td>Giving Food, Clothing, Medicine, Sums in Cash and Kind land and buildings</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Welfare</td>
<td>Providing facilities for education, health, drinking water, roads, and communications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Relief</td>
<td>Responding to call of duties during natural calamities like floods, drought, earthquakes and man made calamities like refuge influx and ravages of war.</td>
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\textsuperscript{56} Paul Chowdry. D.'Profile of Social Welfare and development in India, New Delhi, 1985, P.225.

\textsuperscript{57} Yojana, November, 1984, P.46.
| 4. | Rehabilitation | Continuing and followup of the work in areas struck by calamities and starting activities durable in nature |
| 5. | Services | Building up of infrastructure in depressed and Backward class areas, Tractor hiring services, providing credit, supply of seeds, fertilisers and technical know-how. |
| 6. | Development of Socio-economic development around human being | Socio-economic transformation on area basis – covering all people in a given area normally neglected and in need of help. |
| 7. | Development of Human Beings | Conscious raising, awakening, organising, recording of priorities to suit social justice, redeeming the past and opening doors to opportunities to the oppressed and the exploited. |
Government and Non-Governmental Organisation–A Comparison

The role of voluntary agencies\(^{58}\) in national development has been considered vital due to its direct and first hand experience and knowledge of local needs, problems and resources at the grass root. The commitment and enthusiasm of the Non-Governmental Organization is considered effective because it is not bound by rigid bureaucratic systems and more responsive to people. There is a process of continuous learning from past experiences in programme planning and implementation. The essential strength of the Non-Governmental Organization is derived from the fact that they are closer to the community and the people. They represent in many cases the needs and aspirations of the people\(^{59}\).

The Non-Governmental Organisations often function more effectively than the Government managed organisations in areas such as motivation, problem identification and analysis, project

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formulation, innovative methods of service delivery and the involvement of the community, due to their spirit. India has a well-established tradition of Non-Governmental effort in the field of social development in general and women's issues in particular. Many of the Non-Governmental Organizations such as the All India Women's Conference was founded during the freedom struggle in 1926. Sarvodhaya organisations were established in 1940 when there was widespread public support. Most of the organisations established in 1950 provided either relief work or were involved in institutionalized programmes such as schools, destitute homes, and hospitals. In the 1960s many of these organisations realized that families with a weak economic base would be unable to procure the benefits of institutional welfare and relief services. It led them to the conclusion that services should enable beneficiaries to be productive and self-reliant through income generating programmes.

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Since the 1970s most of the Non-Governmental Organisations were established in the wake of the increased interest in women's issues. During this period\textsuperscript{62} many of the Non-Governmental Organisations began to feel that economic inputs alone are not sufficient to help the poor to overcome poverty unless simultaneously the unequal social structure is alerted. The Government has also implemented its development services through non-Governmental Organisations to reach out to the community effectively. As a result from 1980 onwards non-Governmental organisations started emerging from different ideological backgrounds claiming as agents of development\textsuperscript{63}.

The 'Council for Advancement of people's Action and Rural Technology' is the highest Government concern to support the non-Governmental organisations through out India. Since 1985 the voluntary organisations have played an important role in providing a basis for testing and devising innovative projects and new models.

\textsuperscript{62} Ibid.P.191.
\textsuperscript{63} Organisational Development of NGOs in India – From a Gender Perspective" IWID Publications Chennai, 1991, P.2.
By adopting simple, innovative, flexible and inexpensive means to suit their limited resources they have tried to reach a larger number of beneficiaries with minimum overheads and with greater community participation$^{64}$.

From 1990 onwards there was an increasing interest of the Government in enhancing the role of voluntary organization. But Non-Governmental Organisations are considered to be superior to the Government because the members of the Non-Governmental Organisations are willing to spend time, energy and even money for an activity which they think good$^{65}$. This motivation and commitment make them work more sincerely for the cause when compared to Government officials. But it can not be categorically said that all Non-Governmental Organisations in India are committed and all government Departments are not committed and sincere. There are exceptions in both. But by and large Non-

$^{64}$ Ibid, PP.2-3.
$^{65}$ Shanti, K.op.cit, P.103.
Government Organisations are better placed when compared to the Government in the dissemination of developmental efforts\textsuperscript{66}.

The advantage enjoyed by the Non-Governmental Organisations is flexibility in operations. Revisions and modifications in the light of experience are possible. Thus there is a feed back and learning through experience in the activities of the Non-Governmental Organisations. The limited size of operations ensures efficiency and immediate accountability\textsuperscript{67}. Moreover, a new society needs a new value system. The poor and the deprived accept sufferings as their fate. Such people depressed in mental make up should be made to fight against exploitative forces and challenge the existing order. Domination of the rich against the poor could be retaliated only by an impartial autonomous body. Non-Governmental Organisations are best suited for this\textsuperscript{68}.

In 1995 the International Non-Governmental Organization was held at Beijing. Thousands of Non-Governmental

\textsuperscript{66} Raziaparvin, op.cit, P.143.
\textsuperscript{67} Raziaparvin, op.cit P.143.
\textsuperscript{68} The Hindu, March 19, 1998, Chennai
Organisations throughout the world participated in the conference. This conference was recognised by the United Nations Organisation. This conference specifically dealt with the economic development of the Non-Governmental Organisations generally throughout the world. In addition to this the International Micro Credit Summit\textsuperscript{69} was held in 1997 in Washington. This conference decided to provide credit to 100 million poor people throughout the world before 2000.

On many occasions income related activities lead to formation of socio-cultural activities\textsuperscript{70}. There are many Self Help Groups which jointly worked together to stop the brewing and selling of illicit liquors. There are also groups in West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Bihar which have worked on issues associated with child health, social forestry, literacy and drinking water\textsuperscript{71}. In Tamil Nadu, the Christian Missionaries are the biggest voluntary organisations managing educational Institutions. The

\textsuperscript{69}Mohapatra, D. "Income-Generating Activities by NGOS for women in Rural India: Some Reflections, Vol.IV.No.1 January – March 1998, P.17.

\textsuperscript{70}Ibid, P.18.

\textsuperscript{71}Razia Parvin, op.cit, P.148.
Non-Governmental Christian Missionaries are doing exemplary services in enhancing the educational pursuits of the people of Tamil Nadu. The most prominent Non-Governmental Organisations which have been doing yeomen service in enhancing the educational prospective of the people of Tamil Nadu are the Church of South India, the Roman Catholic Mission and the Tamil Nadu Evangelical Lutheran Church. Apart from the Christian Missionaries, the Rama Krishna Mission and the Muslim Educational Trusts like the 'Waqford' are also helping the people through formation of educational Institutions.

The Non-Governmental Organisations are not part of the Government sector. They are not brought within the limits of business sector. Hence the Non-Governmental Organisations are referred to as the 'third sector in society'. There is now almost no country of the world where Non-Governmental Organisations do not exist or operate.

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72 Journal of Indian History and culture, September 2005, XII Issue, P.171.
There was little effort on the part of the Indian Government to recognize the importance of Non-Governmental Organisations between 1947 and 1980. The Government identified new areas in which the Non-Governmental Organisations could participate to bring about development.

The new areas which were identified by the Government were family welfare, health and nutrition, education and community programmes, water management and soil conservation, disaster preparedness and management, promotion of tribal development and environmental protection. The Government of India took earnest steps to involve Non-Governmental Organisations in all these spheres so as to bring in efficient progress and growth.

Under the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-1990) the Indian Government envisioned a more active role for voluntary organisations in making communities as self reliant as possible. The Non-Governmental Organization because of their situation and

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74 Government of Tamilnadu, Policy Note on social welfare, Demand No.29, 1997-98. Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal programme, Department, Chennai PP.17-18.
interaction with local people can be very effective in bringing change since they are able to address issues that Governments are often not able to comprehend. As these organisations work out at the grass roots level they are able to sense the urgency of issues and Solve the problem as quicker as possible.

This advantage has also been noticed by the Indian Government\textsuperscript{75}. In the Eighth Five Year Plan the importance of Non-Governmental Organisations is further enhanced, paying particular attention to the role of these agencies as participants in rural appraisal for drawing up development plans at a very low cost and involving the rural community.

Today India has a vigorous Non-Governmental Organisations sector. It is estimated that 3000 Non-Governmental Organization are active in India. One problem with the Non-Governmental Organisations in India as with Non-Governmental Organisations anywhere else in the world, has been the increasing dependency on

\textsuperscript{75} Programme at a glance, 1996-1997, Tamil Nadu state social welfare Board, Chennai, PP.5-6.
Government funds or donations from external or foreign donors like the World Bank. This dependence has resulted in the lack of flexibility on the part of the Non-Governmental Organisations while chalking out the objectives despite this problem, the Non-Governmental Organisations are here to stay and continue to work in India on economical and social issues.