CHAPTER II

ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN INDIA

Now-a-days Governmental Organisations are recognized as an important force because they are innovative, flexible, independent and responsive to the problems of the poor people at the grass root level. They are engaged in all sorts of social life such as relief, rehabilitation, health, education, developing programmes, peace, human rights and environmental issues\(^1\). These Non-Governmental Organisations use finance raised from voluntary, private sources and donor agencies and manage themselves autonomously at local, national and international levels.

The modern civilised society is characterized by a large number of organisations. Our society in a way is an organized society. We not only live in, belong to and work through organisations but satisfy most of our desires and fulfill our

\(^1\) Historical Evolution of NGOS – published in Aurupa Gunlugu, No.4/2003, P.299.
aspirations through organisations. The term is generally used to mean an 'Association' or an 'Associated Group'.

**Origin:** The term voluntarism is derived from the Latin word, 'Voluntas' which means 'will'. Because of the will and inclination, the Non-Governmental Organisations adopt different means to approach the people and play their sustained role than that of the Government Organisations. Government Organisations have to work in its rigid periphery and have restrictive nature of work.

Voluntarism played an important role in ancient and medieval India. In ancient India although the responsibility of performing welfare activities and social services largely rested with the king and the religious institutions, social organisations of the people also played a significant role. There is historical evidence to show that in the Chola Kingdom of Tamil Nadu, Village and District Councils functioned with considerable autonomy over local

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3 Iriya, Akira, Global Community: The Role of International Organisations in the making of the contemporary world (1 paper back print ed) University of California Press ISBN 9780520231283
matters. The Panchayat or Assembly had been a social organization which still continues to exert influence in rural areas\textsuperscript{4}. Tamil Sagar worked as a voluntary organization to impart knowledge and culture to the Tamil Society.

Organisations are not a modern invention. The Pharohs of Egypt used organisations to build the pyramids. The Emperors of China used organisations a thousand years ago to construct great irrigation systems. The Chola emperor Karikala brought prisoners of war from Ceylon, formed them into one association of builders and erected the 'Grand anicut. The first Pope of Rome created a Universal Church to serve a world of religion. Voluntary guild Associations were formed for the development of trade.

In olden days voluntary agencies had some specific fields of work as of education, medicine, social concern, cultural development, providing special service to the people at the time of crises such as draughts, floods and epidemics. With a philanthropic

\textsuperscript{4} Mahajan, Vijay, Voluntary Action in India, A retrospective overview, Published in Voluntary Organsiation, 2000, Responsive partners in Nation Buildings, VANI.
spirit, voluntary agencies also played their role as social reformers and initiated many social, economic and political movements.

**Growth of Non-Governmental Organisations**

The impact of British rule on Indian society and Culture was different from what India had known before. The earlier intruders who had settled with in her frontiers were absorbed by her superior culture and had become one of the land and its people. But British conquest was different. Eighteenth century was a period of enlightenment to the European Continent. A new spirit of nationalism, rationalism and enquiry had given a new dynamism to European society. The advancement in scientific outlook in European continent had been highly responsible for the progress in the political, military, economic and even religious aspects of the people of Europe.

In contrast India presented the picture of a stagnant civilization and a static and decadent society. It seemed as if India had lagged behind in the race of civilization. It was the time when
the great Bengali scholar Raja Ram Mohan Roy came to the rescue of the stagnant Indian civilization. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was stimulated by Western ideas and Western values. At the same time he retained Hindu ideals. His aim was to reform Hindu religion and society. He saw the path of progress in an acceptance of the best of the East and the West.

The new scientific outlook, the doctrine of rationalism and humanism particularly impressed the English educated class. The Indian leaders stimulated by the new knowledge, sought to reform Hinduism from within and sought to purge it of superstitious beliefs and practices. The new class of ideas gave an expansive touch to Indian culture. A new spirit of renaissance pervaded the whole country. The result was the birth of many socio religious Non-Governmental Organizations touching almost every segment of Indian society.

The first and foremost of the Non-Governmental Organisation influenced by the western ideas was the 'Brahma Samaj. (The Society of God). Raja Ram Mohan Roy was the
founder of the first Non-Governmental Organisation in Bengal in 1828. The Samaj opposed the idol worship. Great emphasis was laid on promotion of charity, morality, piety, benevolence, virtue and strengthening of bonds of union between men of all religious persuasions and creeds.

The Brahmo Samaj has highly influenced the Hindu society. It worked for a respectable status for women. It condemned sati⁵, and worked for the abolition of purdah system, discouraged child marriages and polygamy. It championed the cause of widow remarriage and the education of women. It also challenged the prevalence of untouchability and caste system⁶. Non-Governmental Organisations also championed the cause of the peasants⁷.

Another social Non-Governmental Organisation was the Arya Samaj founded by Dayanantha Saraswathi in 1875 in Bombay. The Arya Samaj lays great emphasis on education. Education imparted by Arya Samaj institutions combined the best

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⁵ Iswari Prasad, A History of Modern India, Allahabad, 1951, P.159.
⁷ Macimillan, op.cit, Delhi, 1980, P.809.
of the modern and classical Indian studies. Sadhya Shodhak Samaj was founded in 1873 by Mahatma Phule for the improvement of the depressed classes\(^8\). Another important voluntary Organisation, Arya Mahila Samaj which worked for the emancipation of women was established in 1880\(^9\). A home for the widows was started in Chennai in 1898. Subsequenty Ramakrishna Mission, Servants of India of Society and Friends in need emerged to take care of the welfare of women, children, the downtrodden and the depressed.

The Theosophical Society was another Non-Governmental Organisation founded by westerners who drew inspiration from Indian thought and culture. Blavatsky of Russo – German birth laid the foundation of the movement in United States in 1875. In 1882 they shifted their head quarters to Chennai. In 1907 Annie Besant was elected head of the Theosophical Organsiation. In India, under her guidance this Non-Governmental Organsiation brought in a revival to the Hindus. Under the purview of Thesophical Non-

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\(^8\) S.S. Sundaram, Non-Governmental Organisation in Tamilnadu, Journal of Indian History and Culture September 2005, P.172.

\(^9\) ibid, P.172.
Governmental Organisation the central Hindu college was started in 1898 in Benaras under the able of guidance of Annie Besant. The college became the nucleus for the formation of the Hindu Benaras University in 1916\textsuperscript{10}. Thus the Non-Governmental Organization paved the way for the creation of a University. This is the appropriate result of a properly administered Non-Governmental Organisation. This proves the fact that if Non-Governmental Organisations are properly administered without personal motives wonderful effects can be brought in the social arena of India as well as in Tamilnadu.

Annie Besant also formed the 'Home Rule League' which, strengthened the freedom movement in India. In 1897 another Non-Governmental Organisation, 'the Ramakrisna Mission' was conceived and founded by Swami Vivekananda eleven years after the death of Ramakrishna Paramahamsa. Ramakrishna stood for selfless devotion of God with a view to the ultimate absorption in Him. Swami Vivekananda, the disciple of Ramakrishna

\textsuperscript{10} B.L.Grover, 'A New Look at Mahera Indian History' 1948 New Delhi – P.400.
Paramahamsa decried untouchability and caste system. To inculcate this principle he founded 'Ramakrishna Mission'. Ever since its inception the Ramakrishna Mission has been in the forefront of social reform in the country. It runs a number of charitable dispensaries and hospitals, offers help to the afflicted in times of natural calamities like famine, floods and epidemics. Through his writings and speeches he infused into the new generation a sense of pride in India's past, a new faith in India's culture and a rare sense of self-confidence in India's future\textsuperscript{11}.

Another prominent Non-Governmental Organisation motivated for the uplift of the Muslims was, the Aligarh Movement founded by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. He was in the judicial service of the British Company. In 1878 he became a member of the Imperial Legislative Council. He tried to reform the social abuses in the Muslim community. In 1875 he founded a college in Aligarh. Since then Aligarh had become the centre of the Aligarh Movement. By the strenuous efforts of Syed Ahmed Khan, this

\textsuperscript{11} B.L.Grover, op.cit., P.339.
Non-Governmental Organization, the Aligarh Movement developed the college in Aligarh into Aligarh Muslim University in 1920\textsuperscript{12}. The Non-Governmental Organisations, The Theosophical Movement and the Aligarh Movement paved the way for the foundations of Benaras University and Aligarh University respectively.

Non-Governmental Organisations thus had their gradual evolution in India from the early part of the nineteenth century. The term Non-Governmental Organisations were known as voluntary organisations, community organizations social actions groups and rural development organisations\textsuperscript{13}. Emancipation from the colonial rule gave birth to national volunteer movements throughout India. Non-Governmental Organisations are considered to be a constant source of satisfaction, learning, revelation and often joy. Voluntary organisations are able to give something for nothing. The voluntary Non-Governmental Organisations invest personally for material advantage to others. Voluntary

\textsuperscript{12} B.L.Grover, op.cit, P. 402.
\textsuperscript{13} S.S.Sundaram, Non-Governmental Organisations in Tamil Nadu – A.Historical Perspective – Journal of Indian History and Culture September 2005, P.169.
organisations are Charitable Organisations providing service and engaged in welfare oriented, relief and rehabilitation type of activities. They work at the grass root level to alleviate the sufferings of the poor. Voluntary Organisations are those where people give up their time voluntarily and hence do not receive any compensation. Such people are expected to earn their livelihood elsewhere.

Introduction of western ideas and Christian faith by the end of the 18th century had in a way precipitated the widespread emergence of social movements in that period. After 1813 the Christian missionaries expanded their service in a big way in the area already conquered by the British. During the period between 1850 and 1900 the nationalistic consciousness and self help spread the focus of socio-political movements and influenced the course of voluntary action.
Voluntary Activities in India after Independence

The major change in the nature of voluntary action took place in post-independent India when the constitution declared India as a welfare state and laid down the welfare and development obligations of the state in the Directive Principles of State policy. Welfare of the people became the responsibility of the State. The State monopolized the social service sector and became its sole patron. Services of the State not only extended to larger areas geographically and socially but also issues like environment and health were taken up.

The first two decades of independence till 1960 may be termed as the phase of nation building. This task focused on the extension work in the field of agriculture, health and community development. The extensive service of the missionaries and other charitable institutions also spread with new institutions of education and health set up in different parts of the country. In 1960 India was caught up in a dual crisis of economic stagnation and political instability. The increased volume of social activities pushed the
States into utter helplessness. The States failed even in fulfilling the basic minimum requirements of the people in spite of the huge infrastructure and permanent personnel. During the nineteen sixties the division between the rich and poor was widening. Consequently the Naxalite movements also gained momentum.

At this time landless labourers, small farmers, tribals, women scheduled castes and scheduled tribes were found throughout the Indian soil. To bring back these groups to a standard position was the programme of the voluntary organisations. The work of voluntary organisations also began to get organized around issues related to drought, floods, deforestations, land alienation, bonded labour and pollution. The recognition of work of voluntary organization also increased and more professionally trained social workers from different academic institutions joined this voluntary sector during this period.

When many individuals noticed that the governmental programmes seemed to be inadequate to deal with the deprived sections in India they formed organisations on behalf of the poor,
the landless, the tribals and the bonded labourers. Since independence in 1947 until 1980 there was little effort on the part of the Indian Government to define the role of the voluntary agency. In 1980 when the sixth five year plan was introduced the Government envisaged active role for voluntary organisations.

In the era of globalization and liberalization the State faced fiscal crisis which was subjected to severe criticism by the international lending agencies such as International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Hence the Government instituted some form of a structural adjustment policy in the last decade of the 20th century. This forced the Government to reduce its expenditure. As a result poverty, unemployment and under employment increased because of the reduced spending. The Government's role in health, education, housing, employment and social security was reduced. The structural adjustment has typically weakened the administrative capacity of governments for conducting welfare activities. Government activities in providing help to the needy came to a halt and it was left to the voluntary organization to compensate for the reduced role of the state in social service.
**Voluntary Activities in Tamil Nadu**

In Tamil Nadu, an important reform movement called Samarasa Sanmarga Sangham was established by Ramalinga Swamigal, an ascetic who campaigned against the practice of animal sacrifice and social inequalities. Likewise, the Ramakrishna Mission also established voluntary institutions in various parts of Tamil Nadu for carrying out a variety of activities ranging from service for improving the poor, education and health. The first known voluntary organization according to the records maintained in National Archives was the Friends in Need Society which applied for financial assistance in 1858 through the Governor of Madras.

Tamil Nadu also witnessed the emergence of a number of social reform groups, caste based associations and women organisations. In Tamil Nadu, the dominant castes, the Vanniyars and Nadars formed their own caste association, Vanniyars formed

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their Association in 1988 known as Vanniyakula Kshatriya Maha Sangam. The objective of the Association was to upgrade the position of Vanniyars and to provide better education for their children.\(^\text{16}\)

In December 1910 another voluntary organization, the Kshatriya Maha Sangam was founded. This was the Association of the Nadars. Education was the primary concern of this Sangam. In the early period this Sangam provided financial assistance to the needy students. In 1921 the first scholarship loans were awarded. In 1964 a total of 3024 students received scholarships amounting to more than 400000 Rupees. The Sangam also assisted villages and towns in establishing the schools for their community and played an important role in founding new colleges.\(^\text{17}\)

During the freedom struggle Mahatma Gandhi did a lot to alleviate the suffering of the poor sections of the society and to promote their socio-economic development. His programmes

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\(^\text{17}\) Rudholf, 'The Political Role of India's Caste Associations, Pacific Affairs, Vol.XXXIII No.1 March 1960.
promoted the Khadhi and Village industries, eradication of women's illiteracy and promotion of communal harmony. To develop Gandhian programmes many Non-Governmental Gandhian Associations were formed in all parts of the country. In Tamil Nadu such programmes were implemented under the leadership of Rajaji\(^\text{18}\). In 1917 Annie Besant founded the Women's India Association at Adyar in Chennai. Acharya Vinoba Bhave who set the Bhoodan Movement in 1954 assisted the landless people. Another such movement was the Sarvodaya Movement for commissioning constructive work. Sarvodaya organisations in Tamil Nadu are still quite active\(^\text{19}\).

Important changes took place in the functioning of the Non-Governmental sectors especially after the emergency period between 1975 and 1977. A new relationship between the State and the Non – Governmental sectors emerged. It provided the Government with grass-root level agencies whose services were necessary for implementing the government sponsored programmes.


\(^{19}\) Dhawan, G.N. The Polical Philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, New Delhi, 1951, P.203.
all over the country. Many new Non-Governmental Organisations came up to take advantage of this relationship and function with financial assistance provided by the Government\textsuperscript{20}. In the mid nineties in Tamil Nadu alone there were 230 Non-Governmental Organisations registered with the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART)\textsuperscript{21}.

In Tamil Nadu Non-Governmental activities took the form of organized protests against police atrocities, employment of child labour in match box industries, female foeticide, illegal quarrying of stones and digging of sand in river beds, and the pollution of rivers. The policies of liberalization and globalization followed by the country have also had the growth of Non-Governmental Organisations in Tamil Nadu. The Charity Aid Foundation of India has attempted to build a Non-Governmental Organisation Directory in 1999. A total of 2350 voluntary organizations are listed in the Directory, of which 228 are in Tamil Nadu. Nearly two-thirds of the Non-Governmental Organisations are engaged in rural

\textsuperscript{20} S.S.Sundaranm Op.Cit., P.175.
\textsuperscript{21} Society for Participatory Research in India, New Delhi, 1991.
development, such as general development, health, welfare of women and children and welfare of the handicapped.

But as days passed by voluntary organisations are being commercialized. The Non-Governmental Organisations have been used for business\textsuperscript{22} as a cover for business. They also provide employment. It is therefore ascertained that a number of Non-Governmental Organisations in Tamil Nadu have been set up for personal wellbeing of their founders. The new trend is that political parties set up voluntary organizations in certain areas to reach a wider population. The Non-Governmental Organisations are also set up by political parties to acquire funds from the Government so that their party workers could receive ongoing support on the basis of the Government grants and projects. Several party leaders after electoral defeat move on to set up voluntary non-profit organization for their sustenance.

Mass disappearing of Non-Government Organisations can also be noted in Tamil Nadu due to the emergence of certain corrupt

\textsuperscript{22} S.S.Sundaram, op.cit, P.176.
practices among voluntary organisations. Most of them are letter pad organisations created primarily to receive grants from Government Departments or foreign donor agencies to whisk away money for their own use. Moreover, there are also visible forces like casteism, communalism and favouritism within the voluntary organisations.

But in 1990 empowerment approach was started gaining momentum in voluntary action. During this period the number of Non-Governmental Organisations in India had multiplied. The Eighth Plan further added credit to the Non-Governmental Organisations and encouraged them to participate in the innovative projects like Agro- Climatic Regional Planning (ACRP). The Ninth Plan envisaged the involvement of the Non-Governmental Organisations right from the planning process. In 1999 the Swarajkar Grama Swaraji Yojana was launched in forming and promoting the Self Help Groups.

With the failure of the States in reaching the poor and the marginalized, the Non-Governmental Organisations in India have
come to play the role in micro-macro linkages which have become a dominant feature now. With the implementation of privatization policy the Government has entrusted the anti-poverty programme to the Non-Governmental Organisations and this has given a lot of scope for them to implement the Government programmes. The Non-Governmental Organisations receive foreign funds for a variety of rural projects. The total inflow of foreign funds is estimated to be more than 800 crores. In 2009 the total estimated Non-Governmental Organisations were 3.3 million which is just over one Non Government Organisation per 400 people.\(^{23}\)

**Funding**

Whether the Non-Governmental Organisations are small or large, they need budgets to operate. The Non-Governmental Organisations should take efforts to raise funds. The sources of funding for the Non-Governmental Organisations are membership fees, the sale of goods and services, grants from Governments and

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\(^{23}\) First Official Estimate: An NGO For every 400 people in India" – The Indian Express, July, 7, 2010.
donations from private persons or bodies. Many Non-Governmental Organisation depend heavily on Governments for funding. But certain Non-Governmental Organisations do not accept funds from Governmentals. When Non-Governmental Organisations obtain funds from any donor or from Government, gradually the independence of the concerned N.G.O. would be lost. In India the major source of funds for the Non-Governmental Organisations come from Central Government. Thirty three Non-Governmental Organisations are getting grants from Central Government. Such assistance from the Central Government to these Non-Governmental Organisations varies from 15% to 100% for the various projects. The State Government is funding 22 Non-Governmental Organisations. The assistance from the State Governments to the Non-Governmental Organisations varies from 25% to 100% for the projects. Only 10 Non-Governmental Organisations are getting foreign assistance. Fifteen Non-Governmental Organisations are running their limited programmes.

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on the basis of donations from the people, panchayats, villages and
two Non-Governmental Organisations are getting their source of income from sale of their products 26.

The Central and State level departments which are funding different Non-Governmental Organisations are CAPART, State Social Selfare Board. Central Social Welfare Board, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, Ministry of Human Resources Development, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, New Delhi and Department of Education and Welfare Organisations, Indian Environmental Society, Delhi, IGSSS Delhi, and APPRO,

Foreign agencies like CHF (Canada) NORAD, SIDA, FPP International; LWR West Germany, CHSA; Netherland Embassy; SAP; UNICEF (Canada), Action Aid (U.K.), Community Aid Abroad (Australia); WHO; and Ford Foundation are funding these organisations 27.

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26 Puran Chandra – NGOS in India, New Delhi, 2005, P.234.
27 Puran Chandra, op. cit., P.234.
With the financial assistance provided by the funding agencies the Non-Governmental Organisations in India play a vital role in rural reconstruction, agricultural development and rural development even during pre-independent era in our country. In the post-independent period the Non-Governmental Organisations became a supplementary agency for the developmental activities of the Government and in some cases they have become alternative to the Governments.

After the introduction of microfinance through Self Help Groups they penetrated into each and every corner in India and actually the Non-Governmental Organisations are responsible for converting the pilot project of microfinance into a major programme and the Non-Governmental Organisations are responsible for making the microfinance through Self Help Groups as the largest programme in the world.

Article 19 (1) (c) of the Indian Constitution confers on the Indian citizens the right to form associations or unions. The right includes the right to form associations for development.
Recognising the role of voluntary organisations, the planners of our country after independence introduced many projects which were to initiate the community participation. The Community Development Programme which was introduced on 2nd October 1952 was a beginning in this field and a new step in the First Five Year Plan in the area of social welfare.

The Twenty Point Programme intended for the weaker section was emphasized by the planning commission which also identified voluntary agencies as the alternative mechanism for meeting the problems of the poor and to implement anti-poverty and minimum needs programmes. This is for the first time that voluntary agencies were given the freedom to chalk out their plans according to the problems of the local people to reach out the people and to identify their problems and help the people to mobilise both men and material resources. They work as catalysts on the philosophy of volunteerism.

The role of Non-Governmental Organisations in different fields of social work has evoked great interest in recent times
among planners, administrators, political leaders and industrial corporate companies. As the Non-Governmental Organisations have more potentiality they can effectively supplement the Government in achieving the goals in many areas of development such as environmental, strengthening of rural women's organisations and innovative projects to implement new approaches involving community participation. Voluntary organizations should work on the principles and ideology of 'Helping Process'. The Non-Governmental Organisations should help the groups or communities to develop their knowledge, skill and confidence to excel in the field where they can use their capabilities. This is to help the people to help themselves and not to make the people as parasites on the society by getting the service only.

Religion plays an important role in shaping the voluntary organisations in India either positively or negatively. Religion may promote values which are considered to be an important source of
inspiration for voluntary endeavour. Voluntary actions are performed on one's own free will, impulse or choice. They are not constrained, prompted or suggested by another person. All religions encourage charitable activities. These charitable activities promote voluntary organizations.

Gandhian influence was also responsible for the promotion of voluntary organisations in India. He insisted that the Congress members after independence should give up politics and go in for constructive work. He wanted that the Congress Party should call itself as 'Lok Sevak Sangh' which meant that the Congress workers should voluntarily form Associations to help the people of India as a whole without any caste or creed distinction. Though the Congress Party did not pay heed to his suggestions, there were many social reformers within the Congress who came forward to adhere to the principles of Gandhiji. Many Non-Governmental Organisations were started to help the poor because as soon as India attained freedom there were communal clashes between the Hindus.

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28 Puran Chandra, op cit, P.3.
and Muslims in which thousands of people were rendered homeless and a sizeable number of people were killed. There was a genocide in North India. To set aside these inhuman and unwarranted activities many social reformers formed Non-Governmental Organisations and came forward to help the poor people. Vinoba Bhave formed "the Boodhan Movement" with the intention of getting house plots from the rich and to distribute them among the poor people. The projects of helping the poor people were thus run by voluntary organizations with those Gandhians\textsuperscript{29} and former Congress Party members who were either refused to find a place in the Party or in the Government.

Leftist influence within the party organisations has been another source of voluntarism. Even before independence there arose party factions. Congress Party itself got divided into two groups, the Extremists and the Moderates. Later on, the Communist Party was also divided into two factions, the Left Communist Party and the Right Communist Party. Gradually the

\textsuperscript{29} Hansman, H., 'The role of non-profit Enterprise', Yale Law Journal, 1989, PP.835-901.
extremists of the Congress Party and the left group of the Communist Party severed their party connections and began to work as independent voluntary organisations\textsuperscript{30}.

Voluntary organisations were involved not only in formulating policies, but their help was also sought in implementing programmes\textsuperscript{31}. The Planning Commission itself had realized at the outset that the State alone would not be able to accomplish it. Accordingly the very First Five Year Plan document had carried a plea to the voluntary organisations to become involved in the task of development, mainly by implementing government programmes. Appropriate financial provisions were also made for them. Beginning with an allocation of Rs.4 crore in the First Plan, the voluntary sector has been receiving increasing amounts of public funds. In the Seventh Five Year Plan the assistance to the voluntary

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\textsuperscript{30} Jian, Devaki 'Struggle against power; Notes on Indian political Behaviour, World politics, PP.393-96.
\textsuperscript{31} Eldridge Philip, The Political role of community Action Groups in India and Indonesia' – 1985, Delhi, PP 401- 434.
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organisations had gone upto 200 crores and in the Eight Five Year Plan the amount was increased Rs.750 crores\(^{32}\).

But there was a great change in 1970. In 1970 the philosophy and strategy of the international development community began to change. Foreign aid donors began to provide financial assistance to the poor through the voluntary organisations and the role of the Government seemed to be minimized. The flow of foreign funds led to the constant growth of voluntary organisations\(^{33}\).

Since independence in 1947 and till 1980 there was no effort on the part of the Government of India to define the role of a voluntary agency or to recognize its importance. In 1985 under the Seventh Five Year Plan the Government of India envisaged a more active role for voluntary organisations to aid in making communities as self reliant as possible. Today India has a vigorous Non-Governmental Organisational sector. On December 31\(^{st}\), 1989

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\(^{32}\) Clark, Peter, 13, and James Q.Wilson, Incentive System, H Theory of Organisations, Administrative Science Quaterly, 6, PP.129-166.

there were 12313 Non-Governmental Organisations registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs. In 2009 India was estimated to have around 3.3 million Non-Governmental Organisations which was just one Non-Governmental Organisation per 400 Indians.34

The Non-Governmental Organisations are primarily concerned to help the needy. They have some specific mission of helping the poor or needy in the centre. Hence within a short space of fifty years the Non-Governmental Organisations have grown into 3.3 million. It is only after seventies of the last millennium, India experienced the amazingly large reserve and growth of Non-Governmental Organisations. Occupationalism and professionalism entered there in. Resource mobilization gave them boost.

The contribution of the Non-Governmental Organisations in the overall development processes is too substantial and evident to be euologized. The fields of education, health, social and environmental uplift, epidemic containment, raising of awareness levels in respect of child labour, flesh trade and environmental

34 An NGO for Every 400 people in India – The Indian Express, July 7, 2010.
degradation are especially the recipients of the sustained and committed goodwill of the voluntary agencies. Secular Organisations have proliferated in recent decades. Non-Governmental Organisations have undergone a transition from charity oriented organisations to social oriented organisations. Their functions do not confine to one form of activity. NGOs, as organisations combine sets of activities. Combining many activities is a potential strength for the NGOs.

It has now become an unquestionable fact that voluntary action is necessary for social welfare and development though there are immense statutory organisations and governmental planning. In modern times voluntary organisations have penetrated into new spheres of work, and this has encouraged and enlarged the scope of voluntary action. At present, a large number of voluntary organisations are working in India for the development of the nation and the people. Their main fields of service rest with education, health, medicine, child and women welfare, human right issues.

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35 Robin Lal, op.cit., P.3.  
36 ibid, P.23.
abolition of the social evils, national integrity and peace throughout India.

Recent research activities associated with social science are with alleviation of poverty and promotion of nutrition and self sufficiency of material needs to all with the help of voluntary organisations. India, as a developing country, is expected to be self sufficient in 2020\textsuperscript{37}. The problems of social welfare and development have now-a-days become an integral aspect of the process of planning and development. Many new agencies and institutions have come into vogue. In many parts of India there have been innumerable novel efforts through the initiative of voluntary leaders and voluntary organizations to develop the depressed condition of the poor masses.

Social challenges especially the insecurity of the minorities are being highlighted so as to bring a considerable progress in the lives of the poverty stricken multitudes. Hence voluntary actions need to be adapted according to the changing circumstance and the

\textsuperscript{37} Sanjay pattacharya, 'Social work-An Integrated Approach', New Delhi, 2006, P.139.
voluntary organisations have no other way but to change their outlook and the mode of functioning. Today, voluntary action is not a mere charitable activity. But voluntary action has become a profession as far as the voluntary workers are concerned\textsuperscript{38}. At present the volunteers of the Non-Governmental Organisations are handsomely paid. In addition to this, the staff and the workers of the Non-Governmental Organisations in India are highly trained professional workers. Owing to industrialization and urbanization the needs of the people have highly increased. For any welfare step like sanitation, dwelling, additional payment for the extra work done by the workers, and the ill feeling between the owners of the factor and workers, the affected parties have to approach the voluntary organisations. The voluntary organisations have to interfere in all these to redress the grivances of the poor masses. With the development of welfare State, the State would do more for the citizens in the future than it did in the past what-ever may be the political colour of the Government.

\textsuperscript{38} Sanjay Bhattacharya, op.cit., P.140.
With the development of Science and Technology in this computer era, the internet is becoming the ideal medium of communication, as it is much faster and cost effective. It is now accepted by all concerned that voluntary organisations are more successful in reaching the poor and in poverty alleviation due to their being small, flexible, innovative, participating and cost effective in their functioning.

Voluntary organisations in India with their registrations in all the States and the Union Territories exceed one million in number and increasingly getting aware of the potential of using the internet. A Survey in 1998 covering 4508 voluntary organisations revealed that 4.5% of all the respondents (20%) had already developed their websites. The web presents new potentials for working, information sharing and resource opportunities for voluntary organisations.

The information obtained through the website can prove to be the new path to self sufficiency for voluntary organisations in the fields of health, development and welfare. It is hoped that
voluntary organisations in India involved in implementation of socio-economic development programmes would use and speed up the internet and information technology to help the poor and thereby accelerate the pace of socio-economic development in India.

Though the Non-Governmental Organisations are functioning in India with all virulence yet the social problems especially the problems associated with women seem to be deplorable. Every year more than 5000 girls go missing in Madhya Pradesh, an average of 15 a day. In 2013 as many as 5726 girls were reported missing in Madhya Pradesh. 3117 of them are yet to be traced\textsuperscript{39}. From January to March 2014, 496 minor girls were reported missing\textsuperscript{40}; 282 are yet to be traced. Girls are being bought for Rupees 3000\textsuperscript{41} to 4000\textsuperscript{42}. The system of buying women has become a common feature in Madhyapradesh and Assam\textsuperscript{43}. Nasrudihin, a traffic says that a virgin teenanger is priced rupees

\textsuperscript{39} The Week, September 28, 2014, P.27.
\textsuperscript{40} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{41} Ibid, P.22.
\textsuperscript{42} Ibid, P.23.
\textsuperscript{43} Ibid, P.20.
15000 to 50000. Prices drop with every resale just like for any other commodity.44

Attempts are being made by the Non-Governmental Organisation in Mathyapradesh, "Empower People" to relieve the people of their grievances. But still, people of India do suffer a lot in every sphere. The Government of India has also been taking steps to put an end to the sufferings of the people. The Non-Governmental Organisations have been permitted by the Government at the centre and the States to put an end to the suffering of the people. The Non-Governmental Organisations such as Brahma Samaj in 1828 and 'Empower People' today have been trying their level best to redress the grievances of the people. Yet we have to travel a long distance in eradicating the hardships of the people of India.