6.0.0 INTRODUCTION

NGO initiatives aimed at development have a long history in India. The individual efforts of social workers are expressed in micro-terms but it deals with conditions that are caused by large macro-structures. There are number of NGOs working for the tribal development in India. The researcher has studied NGOs from the research area in Adilabad district engaged in the tribal development. These NGOs tackle development related issues and other orientation programmes widely. There are some NGOs who's nature is health and education of tribal development and there are some who are engaged on construction. In the present study, the aims and objectives, project area, target group, views of NGOs on problems of tribal communities, their suggestions have been studied. The work of NGO has been evaluated on the basis of nature of work, their priorities, staff position, their views on self-sufficiency, need for continuity of work. Their perception on tribal liberation and need to work with all NGOs under one banner has also been sought. Thus, this thesis evaluates the role of NGOs working with tribal communities in the study area of Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh, their strengths and weaknesses, future thrust.

The non-governmental or the voluntary organisations have been playing a crucial role in all the socio-economic spheres, including that of
the tribal peoples, in India. At one level, they can be termed as the means
by which the nation makes optimum use of its human resources. However, the mushrooming of voluntary organisations working in the
field of rural development in recent years has generated widespread
debate about their role, structure, programmes and performance.

A unique feature of voluntary organisations is that they stimulate voluntary action among the target community and involve the progressive elements of that community. In the present context of human resource development, voluntary organisations, in their functioning, have demonstrated the freedom and flexibility of working with a personal touch, a capacity for initiative and experimentation with novel programmes.

Thus, voluntary organisations exercise full freedom in selecting localities for programme implementation and are free of bureaucratic hassles. In the Indian context, the attributes of a tribe are that they live in relative isolation of hills and covered forests, and often in geographical areas inaccessible to the mainstream population. Tribes generally are groups without a written letter or script. Their sense of history is shallow or mixed with mythology, and in terms of their cultural ethos, language, customs, institutions and beliefs, they stand out from other sections of society.
6.1.0 FINDINGS

1. It was found from the study that three-fourths of the respondents i.e., 189 (75.6%) are beneficiary type who have taken the help from the NGOs in one-way or the other and remaining are elite group in the village and local political leaders.

2. It was found from the respondents’ opinion that eighty percent of the non-governmental organizations participating in development oriented programmes.

3. It was found from the study that the NGOs are mainly concentrated on general awareness programmes and their percentage is 51.6.

4. It was found that the non-governmental organizations undertaking the activities or programmes in their villages. Majority of the respondents opined that the Ekalavya Foundation is undertaking the activities.

5. 96% of the respondents satisfied with the activities of NGOs in the study area.

6. It was found that 39 (15.6%) of them impressed with the health camps and health awareness programmes conducted by NGOs.

7. It was found that ninety eight (245) per cent of respondents have awareness on activities of NGOs.

8. 73.6 per cent of respondents received the help from the NGOs in one way or the other on employment and education programmes.
9. 113 (45.2%) strongly believed on ‘awareness about the programmes among the tribal people' that tribal development programmes are successful with the active involvement of NGOs in the implementation.

10. Cent per cent responses received from tribal respondents, either of the gender, on capacity building and empowerment through NGOs activities or programmes.

11. It was found that three-fourths (i.e., 184) of the respondents opined that there is no creation of physical infrastructure by NGOs activities or programmes. However, 48 (72.72%) respondents the physical infrastructure is in the shape of public toilet.

12. It was found that 41.2 percent of respondents said that the NGOs adopt a method ‘organise awareness programmes’ to create awareness among the tribal people.

13. It was found that 86.4% respondents’ opinion is that the accessibility of government officials is high after involvement of NGOs.

6.2.0 CONCLUSIONS

The whole presentation with a special reference to the chapter covering the perceptions of the tribal population on the NGOs programmes or activities will help in arriving at the results in concise that facilitates in drawing the broad conclusions which are explained briefly in the following paras.
1. It was concluded that most of the respondents are beneficiary type in the study area.

2. It was concluded that most of the NGOs are conducting developmental programmes to the tribal community of Adilabad district.

3. It was understood that the NGOs are taking care about the general awareness as well as health & education among the tribal group of Adilabad district.

4. It was concluded that all the respondents, either of the gender, of the study area know that NGOs are undertook activities or programmes in their village and the Ekalavya Foundation is top-most NGO organization that undertook a higher number of activities.

5. It was concluded from the study that majority of the respondents shown their interest and Health camps & Health awareness programmes and Education awareness programmes. In general, the prime need of any society in the universe is health and education. For this purpose the NGOs are playing an important role in the development of tribals. This is a good sign on behalf of the respondents.

6. It was concluded that majority of the respondents agreed that the NGOs programmes have brought awareness among the tribal people on ‘More people are interested to know about tribal development programmes than earlier’.
7. It was concluded that tribal respondents requires more help on employment, education and agricultural.

8. The analysis in the above table shows that the tribal respondents strongly believed that due to active involvement of NGOs the tribal development of programmes successfully completing in the study area of Adilabad district.

9. It was observed from the study that all the respondents strongly believed that the implementation of development programmes are more successful with the active involvement of NGOs in Adilabad district. Due to this there is a high increase in the awareness of the tribal people.

10. It was concluded that NGOs activities or programmes contributes in capacity building and empowerment among tribal people through creation of awareness mainly and educate the tribal people to some extent.

11. It was concluded that the physical infrastructure provided by the NGOs is very less and, even if it is less, the two important infrastructure facilities provided by them is public toilets and water tanks.

12. It was concluded that the NGOs organize mainly awareness programmes to create awareness among the tribal people.

13. There was no dissatisfaction among the respondents over the services rendered by NGOs for tribal development programmes.
14. It was concluded from the study that there is a major improvement with regard to self-esteem & dignity, change in attitude of government officials in solving in tribal problems and accessibility of government officials and resources. However, there is no much improvement in the social status of respondents as like as the above points.

6.3.0 OBSERVATIONS ON TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT

Voluntary sector has always played an important role in society from time immemorial. The concept and approach in voluntary work have undergone many changes from time to time. From pure charity, relief and welfare oriented approach this sector has in recent times suitably moulded and equipped itself to meet the development needs of the society. There is hardly any field which is not now touched by voluntary / NGO sector. The NGOs have acquired strong position in various fields at the national and international level.

In India, the role of NGOs in various fields has been increasingly recognized and the Government policy framework on paper encourages the participation of NGOs, but in reality it is not smooth sailing for NGO sector to participate in the development activities. In the same policy framework, one individual officer may encourage the participation of NGOs, whereas another officer may out rightly discourage such participation. Similarly, some States give prominence to NGOs role, whereas some States reject such role. Therefore, the first and foremost
need is to institutionalize the role of NGOs in various fields as strong policy directives and the implementation of such directives must be ensured by the Government of India and various State Governments. Particularly, the development departments like Rural Development, Tribal Affairs, Forest and Environment, Agriculture, Water Resources etc., must make definite and consistent room for the role of NGOs.

It must also be recognized by the Government of India and various State Governments that gone are the days when role of NGOs was conceived to be confined to the capacity building, conscientisation, awareness raising and mobilization of community. Also the present day NGOs are no longer confined to their traditional domain of health, education and welfare. The present day NGOs in India are very well equipped to take up highly sophisticated technical assignments in various technical fields like water resources, watershed, forestry, environment etc. Large numbers of Indian NGOs are now manned by professionals and technocrats of high end knowledge. These professionals are in fact, in no way inferior to their counterparts in the Government. Under this changing scenario, the competent NGOs need to be involved in all the developmental fields including technical fields.

The Government has also to be consistent in their policy in respect of the NGOs. While in general, Government of India favours the involvement of NGOs in some important programmes, NGOs are virtually debarred. To quote the specific example, under the new Swarnjayanti
Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), the NGOs are debarred from implementing the special projects under this SGSY. Very strangely, the industries, corporations and international organizations are eligible to implement this special project under SGSY, but not the NGOs. No one has any explanation to offer for such policy. At the same time there is no willingness on the part of the Government, Department of Rural Development to amend this policy.

In the revised guidelines of the Watershed Development, Government of India, there is apparent raw deal to NGO sector. In this field of watershed development where large numbers of successful watershed development projects have been attributed to good NGOs there should be recognition to the role of NGOs in the watershed development, giving priority to proven NGOs, wherever such proven NGOs are available.

It is necessary that all the development departments working with Rural Development and Tribal Development should have special and adequate funding provision for the programmes to be implemented through proven NGOs. Particularly, for the tribal regions, which are the most backward region in our country, there should be special policy, backed by adequate funding provisions to implement various programmes through proven NGOs. Both at the GOI and State level such provision should be made, which would enable fast development of such regions.
In the Government development programmes, particularly, for the tribal poors, the criteria for the selection of implementing agency should be the merit alone and not any other consideration. Whoever has merit, whether PRIs, Government Departments, Government Corporations or NGOs, the work must be allotted to such proven agencies, as it is essential to ensure the returns to the massive national investments.

Though our tribal regions and tribal people are the poorest by all indicators, these regions have enormous natural resources in the form of land, water and forests. These resources have to be capitalized through various relevant and effective programmes in the natural resource management to convert these backward regions into progressive regions. This is possible if adequate funds, right kind of programmes and right kind of implementing arrangements are ensured.

NGOs operating in more than one State at significant scale should be duly recognized under some procedure by the Government of India and they may be supported directly by the Government of India for various programmes.

Often some departments tell us that the NGOs should go to CAPART for the funds. While CAPART is meant to assist the NGOs, several NGOs do not prefer to approach CAPART. Perhaps, CAPART does not have adequate funds to meet the needs of entire NGO sector. The CAPART needs to be much more dynamic and responsive to fulfill the
needs of NGO sector. Good and competent NGOs cannot wait indefinitely for the approval of the project, nor can they afford any delay in the release of the funds and finalization of the project.

In this large country, having thousands of NGOs, it is perhaps impossible for a single organization like CAPART to fulfill the needs of the NGO sector. Time has come when Institutions like NABARD also need to open up as a window to the NGO sector to channelise the Government financial assistance / grants. To some extent this has been done recently for the watershed programme in which GOI have allotted some funds to NABARD for the watershed programme and NABARD in turn has involved NGOs in this programme, in some States. More funds could be allotted to NABARD for the watershed and other development activities to be carried out through NGOs. This would relieve some pressure on CAPART and at the same time NGOs will have a choice between CAPART and NABARD. NABARD has a strong network of its regional offices all over the country and it has qualified manpower to deal with the development activities, and therefore, new regional set up will not be necessary to fulfill the needs of NGOs in different regions.

While advocating effective and enlarged role of NGOs, it must be admitted that there has been mushrooming of NGOs in recent years, particularly, after the commencement of watershed development programme. Many of such NGOs lack dedication, commitment, transparency and track record. Many of them have been promoted under
the political patronage and also by unscrupulous elements. It is necessary to curb such undesirable NGOs. One way is to strictly screen the NGOs at some level and categorize them into different categories so that really good NGOs are encouraged and undeserving NGOs are discouraged and weeded out, if necessary. There could be a special policy for highly competent NGOs with good track record to assign the work through simplified procedures. Gujarat Government has adopted such simplified procedures for “A” Category of NGOs in the field of Rural Development. The Tribal Development Department in Gujarat is also using this simplified procedure. Such simplified procedure could be formulated by GOI and various State Governments for proven and fast track NGOs, with strict conditions of performance, integrity and transparency on the part of the NGOs. It is neither rational nor in the interest of the society that because of some bad NGOs, good NGOs are not allowed to play their role. The Government should have the will and rules to weed out wrong doers and encourage good ones.

It is also necessary that at all levels of the Government planning and decision-making bodies, the NGOs are represented. In every DRDA Governing Bodies there should be couple of NGO representatives, nominated on the basis of merit and track record in the respective district. Similarly, in other bodies like the District Planning Board, Tribal Development Board, State Advisory Bodies for Rural and Tribal Development, etc. couple of NGO representatives should be nominated on merit. In some programmes like watershed development and in some
States for other programmes also, there is provision for the representation of NGOs at State Advisory Council. But this is not uniformly done for all programmes in all the States.

It is essential that there is an active NGO cell at the level of Government of India, preferably in Planning Commission, which may guide and monitor the effective involvement of NGO sector in the development activities. Similarly, there should be NGO cell in each State, which can coordinate among the NGOs and different departments and support the programmes implemented through NGOs. Such set up may be very helpful in institutionalizing the NGOs’ role and also in providing the necessary support to the NGOs.

In this age of globalization and liberalization when every field is being opened up for the industries, private sector and multi-nationals, our own NGOs who have proven their worth by hard work and commitment cannot be denied their legitimate role in all the development activities.

The NGOs surveyed are shaping up as professional resource agencies. The pattern of funding to NGOs needs to recognize and facilitate such a role. There is a case for the Government to consider infrastructure and capacity building support to a few key NGOs to enhance their professional competence.
In India, we have a pluralistic society as opposed to a monolithic culture. The voluntary organisations cater to the needs of our cultural plurality. If we would like to avoid concentration of power in the hands of a few, we must retain this multi-ethnic character of a free society and make full use of it. Voluntary organisations can serve as power breakers. Efforts should be made to prepare people for a new kind of society through voluntary work. When the States resources are limited, voluntary action would bring forth additional resources and cover the areas hitherto uncovered by the State. In view of their flexibility in operation, ability at experimentation and innovation, pioneering spirit and other such qualities, voluntary organisations can continue to work for better standards, better methods and better forms of organisation. There is an argument that at the empirical-existential level voluntary agencies are nothing but the stooges of the ruling elite and the corporate sector, mainly of the capital finance variety. In this new role, voluntary organisations have created a crisis that begs a comprehensive solution.

However, given the circumstances in terms of administrative or governmental reach, especially in the implementation of welfare schemes for the tribal peoples, we for once cannot deny the positive role of the non-governmental organisations. There are many areas yet to blink the states radar. They are either very remote or inaccessible. In such a situation, the concerned and committed civil society groups have no other alternative but voluntary approach. The role of NGOs in the fields of education, health, sanitation, housing and particularly agriculture has
not been a wide ranging one. We shall hope they would expand their area of action.

6.4.0 SUGGESTIONS

1. The NGOs concentrate on the youth in carrying out their work.
2. Information dissemination, strengths of rural development.
3. There is a need to advocacy and organisational work especially for women.
4. Availability of employment to tribal community.
5. The NGOs should concentrate on education and health awareness programmes or activities in the study area.
6. Implement ideal project of land development in tribal area of the state.
7. With co-operation of industries, there is a chance to implement developmental projects for the tribals.
8. For strengthening of NGOs programmes or activities, they should recruit volunteers in tribal area.
9. Women’s federations should be created for active participation
10. The NGOs concentrate on thrift habit encourage programmes, social action programmes and income generation programme.
11. The priority should be given to female tribal people.
12. NGOs should focus on construction of water tanks and toilets, agricultural development and tree plantation etc.