India is blessed to have a very vibrant democratic set up where all the organs of the state are working in tandem to bring about name and fame to our Country globally. We have free press, active judiciary and very brisk executive. With increasing competition globally we have to face many problems also. We are also grappling with many social evils, environmental problems and economic upheavals.

Amongst the non state actors from civil society, Non- Governmental Organisations have found prominence during the last 3-4 decades. Their scope and value has only strengthened over the years given their penetration and increase in numbers. They have been playing the role of enabler, facilitator and bridging the gap between common man and Government agencies.

Over the last many years very much importance has been attached to the issue of Sustainable Development which has increased phenomenally. The kind of research and literature on the subject is so vast that one can’t avoid giving a serious look at the veracity of the issue. NGOs which have been always considered as the friends of common man have been instrumental in passing the message of development and need for balanced approach to the Government. They have been playing the role of watchdog over the years which make them far more a serious actor in social set-up. A very comprehensive analysis was taken up regarding the evolution of NGOs and need for Sustainable Development in today’s time. On top of it the Gandhian principles of ‘needs and wants’ and ‘means and ends’ were contrasted and studied vis-a-vis the approach followed by the NGOs at the ground level. The study is very significant and interesting because Chandigarh, the city beautiful and the NGOs working here was the subject matter of case studies which were thoroughly studied and various results were analyzed critically in Gandhian perspective who based all his philosophy on ethics and morals.
In the light of these issues, Gandhian alternatives have been studied, discussed, examined and analyzed keeping in view the contemporary problems in India.

The study is based on primary and the secondary sources. The data from the original writings of Gandhi, such as The Story of My Experiments with Truth, Hind Swaraj, Constructive Programme, Young India, Harijan and 100 Volumes of Collected Works have been analysed thoroughly and systematically. The important information regarding the concept of NGOs and Sustainable Development has been extracted from both the primary and secondary sources. The collected data has been thoroughly investigated, critically analyzed and presented accordingly.

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CHANDIGARH

KANWARDEEP SINGH