Economic empowerment of citizens could be created through employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. When the government initiatives need a backing of voluntary efforts that provide awareness, access, and support to the target group of beneficiaries, nongovernmental organisations have a role to play. The role and impact of non-governmental organisations in entrepreneurship development in Kerala was studied on the theoretical and empirical dimension.

As the factors contributing to the role of NGOs in entrepreneurship development were assessed in detail, the support of non-governmental organisations in formation and instigation of SHGs, support through dealings of NGO officials, support of NGOs through training, and financing are found to be more prominent in the distribution in relation to the total variance.

As the factors contributing to the impact of NGOs are analysed, impact in standard of living, impact on earnings, effective utilisation of man hours through income generating activities, and impact on savings/assets creation are found to be prominent in the distribution in relation to the total variance. The deficiencies in the relationship were found to occur in the marketing support, fetching of inputs and adequacy of financing, other than follow up. Risk of balloon defaults and succession planning of visionaries at the NGO level and beneficiaries who take up ventures have also been put forth as areas of concern.

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KEYWORDS