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“Role Of Ngo’s In India Making Of Trade And Comercial Polices”

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Introduction : At the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 1999, the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, explicitly called upon companies to widen their social responsibilities by entering into a Global Compact with the UN. Companies that do so agree to endorse nine principles, covering promotion of a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labor standards and protection of the environment. Soon afterwards, global business organizations, several hundred companies and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions responded positively, but only a handful of human rights, environment ‘and development NGOs did so. There remains a deep suspicion among many such NGOs about the possibility of companies implementing commitments to social responsibility.

KEY WORDS : International NGO’S , Growth And Evolution , Charitable , Audit Guidelines, Social Responsibilities , Workers And Trade Unions , Little Attention , ECOSOC, Help Age India, Community Development ,

There is a great variety of ways in which NGOs are structured. The classic model is of a membership organization, co-ordinated in a geographically- defined hierarchy. Individual people work in local groups, which co-ordinate in provinces and then have a headquarters in the capital city for the country as a whole. Such country-wide organizations are called national NGOs. Frequently, the national NGOs combine in an international NGO, or INGO, which may consist of regional groups of countries and be capped by a global body. Not all the levels of the hierarchy need exist. Many countries are too small to have provincial structures. Smaller specialist NGOs may simply enroll individual members at the national level, without having any local branches. Occasionally, individuals are enrolled at the international level. On the other hand in large organizations, the international level often seems relatively remote and attracts little attention, even among the NGO’s own members. The group running a local family planning clinic does not necessarily know about the work of the International Planned Parenthood Federation IPPF at the UN World Conference on Women in Beijing. Nevertheless, such global organizations with their membership measured in millions do maintain a democratic policy-making process. While some may hold direct elections for key posts at the national level, the responsibility to the membership at the global level is always indirect, via some international councilor assembly of national representatives.

GROWTH AND EVOLUTION OF NGO'S ORGANISATIONS IN INDIA

Though the roots of charity are to be found in religious belief and practice, charitable trusts and voluntary organizations are India's secular and institutional manifestation. India has a long history of civil society. Voluntary organizations were active in cultural promotion, education, health, and natural disaster relief as early as the medieval era. Religious organizations also took up work to help the poor to improve their condition. Towards the end of the 19th century the corporate community in India also began setting up organizations dedicated to the welfare and development of the underprivileged and a large number of Corporate Trusts and Societies came into existence. During the 19th and early 20th century these voluntary organizations received legal recognition as the Government enacted various laws such as the Societies Registration Act of 1860, The Religious Endowments Act of 1863, The Indian Trusts Act of 1882 and the Charitable Endowments Act of 1890. Such enactments gave public recognition to the intention of the founders and extended the protection of the law to their income and property, however these enactments were rather mild and did not impose strong regulatory controls. The British Government later added two more legislations i.e. the Charitable and Religious Trusts Act, 1920 and the Trade Unions Act, 1926.

The Income Tax had been introduced in 1860, and in 1922, the government granted (50% percent) tax exemption to individuals on donations for charitable purposes. The Government of independent India continued and extended the tax concessions given earlier only to individuals, to companies making charitable contributions. The Income Tax Act of 1961 further broadened the definition of charitable purpose. Section 2 of the Act defines the expression "charitable purpose". All Charitable organizations may exist as non-profit companies, societies or trusts. However, structure or management is not the essence of the charitable organization. It is the objectives, which distinguish a charitable organization from a business organization.

NGOs operating within their territory : Under the new mandate, each state government will be responsible for formulating audit guidelines applicable to NGOs operating within their territory. These guidelines will be aligned with national standards but customized to address local needs and regulatory frameworks. NGOs will be required to submit annual audited financial statements to designated state authorities, in addition to compliance reports covering their project implementation and expenditure. States will also maintain digital audit registries to keep track of timely submissions and flag discrepancies for further investigation.

The implementation of this policy will involve the establishment of audit cells within state departments responsible for social welfare or civil society engagement. These units will be tasked with reviewing the financial health of NGOs, identifying irregularities, and issuing compliance notices where necessary. To assist in the process, qualified chartered accountants and financial professionals will be empaneled at the state level, ensuring that audits are conducted with due diligence and expertise. States may also introduce tier-based audit frequencies depending on the size, funding, and operational scope of an NGO.

Strengthening the Role of Major Groups : In global environmental politics, there is a unique set of caucuses -the system of "Major Groups". The term was adopted at the Earth Summit, when Agenda 21 devoted one of its four sections to "Strengthening the Role of Major Groups". The preamble argued that "one of the fundamental prerequisites for the achievement of sustainable development is broad public participation in decision-making" and this must be done as a "real social partnership" with "individuals, groups and organizations". The aim was for the UN to move beyond the traditional reliance on the established NGOs, in two ways. Communication must reach down to individuals at the level of local communities and particular sectors of society of importance for the environment must be mobilized. The section devoted separate chapters to nine Major Groups, under the following headings-

- Global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development
- Children and youth in sustainable development
- Recognizing and strengthening the role of indigenous people and their communities
- Strengthening the role of non-governmental organizations: partners for sustainable development
- Local authorities' initiatives in support of Agenda 21
- Strengthening the role of workers and their trade unions
- Strengthening the role of business and industry
- Scientific and technological community
- Strengthening the role of farmers.

The choice of these nine groups was the arbitrary and incoherent outcome of negotiations at UNCED. It was influenced by the personal concerns of Maurice Strong and by the lobbying of NGOs who were accredited to the conference. It is arbitrary to single out women but not men; the young but not the elderly; indigenous people but not other minorities; unions but not professional associations; business and industry but not commerce, finance and services; natural scientists but not social scientists; and farmers but not fishing communities. It is anomalous, but understandable, to emphasize one level of government, local authorities, when they have responsibility for all the Major Groups. Above all it is incoherent to have NGOs as one of the Major Groups, when all the other eight (including associations of local authorities) are represented in the UN system via the ECOSOC "arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations". This incoherence arises because many in the other Major Groups did not wish to be labeled as NGOs and there had to be a category to encompass environment and development NGOs.

Non-Governmental Organisations in India

Name	Category	Date of foundation	Headquarters	Founder(s)
World Vision India		1962	Chennai	Robert Pierce
Akshaya Patra Foundation	Children	2000	Bengaluru	Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
Butterflies India	Children Human Rights	1989	New Delhi	Rita Panicker
Deepalaya	Human Rights	16 July 1979	Delhi	T. K. Mathew Y. Chackochan P. J. Thomas
Child In Need	Children	1974	Kolkata	Samir Chaudhuri

Non-Governmental Organisations in India

Name	Category	Date of foundation	Headquarters	Founder(s)
Institute	Education			
SaveLIFE Foundation	Road safety Emergency medical care	2008	Delhi	Krishen Mehta Piyush Tewari
Evangelistic Association of the East	Children Elderly Care Education Humanitarian Aid	1924	Kerala	Geevarghese Cor- Episcopa Athunkal
Evidyaloka	Children Education	28 January 2011	Bengaluru	Satish Viswanathan Venkataraman Sriraman
Save the Children India	Children	2008	Gurugram	Sudarshan Suchi (CEO)
Sanjhi Sikhiya	Education	2018	Fatehgarh Sahib	Simranpreet Singh Oberoi
Goonj	Community Development Humanitarian Aids	1999	New Delhi	Anshu Gupta
Gurshaahi	Punjabi Literature Rural Libraries Education and Culture	2019	Bathinda	Arpit Arya Kulwinder Sharma Paramjot Joga Sharandeep Singh
Panjab Digital Library	Language and Literature Cultural Preservation	2003	Chandigarh	Davinder Pal Singh

Non-Governmental Organisations in India

Name	Category	Date of foundation	Headquarters	Founder(s)
	Education			
Help India Age	Community Development Elderly	April 1978	New Delhi	Cecil Jackson-Cole John F. Pearson Samson Daniel
HOPE (Hold On Pain Ends) Charitable Trust	Urban Development Health	2014	Kerala	Mahesh Parameswaran Nair
Katha	Children Education	1988	Chennai	Geeta Dharmarajan
Lepra	Community Development HIV/AIDS	1924	United Kingdom	Leonard Rogers
Maher	Children Women	2 February 1997	Pune	Lucy Kurien
Maitri Pune	Malnutrition Child mortality	1997	Pune	Anil Shidore
Mobile nurseries	Children Education Medical	1969	Delhi	Meera Mahadevan
MITRA	Community Development Human Rights	2004	Mumbai	B.G. Deshmukh

Non-Governmental Organisations in India

Name	Category	Date of foundation	Headquarters	Founder(s)
MOHAN Foundation	Healthcare	1997	Chennai	Sunil Shroff
Narayan Seva Sansthan	Children Disabled	1985	Udaipur	Kailash Ji Agrawal 'Manav'
	Community Development Education Tribal Upliftment	2014	People's Archive of Rural India	Palagummi Sainath
Pratham	Children Education	1994	Mumbai	Madhav Chavan Farida Lambay
Prayas	Children Trafficking	1988	Delhi	Amod Kanth
Project Nanhi Kali	Children Education	1996	Mumbai	Anand Mahindra
Salaam Baalak Trust	Children Education	1988	Delhi	Praveen Nair
SERUDS	Children Elderly Care Education Health	2003	Andhra Pradesh	Mallikarjuna Gorla
Seva Mandir	Rural and Community Development	1968	Rajasthan	Mohan Sinha Mehta

Non-Governmental Organisations in India

Name	Category	Date of foundation	Headquarters	Founder(s)
Shoshit Seva Sangh	Children Education	16 July 2004	Patna	J. K. Sinha
Sree Ramaseva Mandali	Arts Education	1939	Bengaluru	S. V. Narayanaswamy Rao S. N. Varadaraj
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Seva Dal	Health Human rights Sikhism	unknown	Delhi	Jitender Singh Shunty
Tulir	Children Sex Abuse		Chennai	Vidya Reddy
Church's Auxiliary for Social Action	Humanitarian Aid Education Sustainable Livelihood Skill Development development Gender Justice	1947	Delhi	Sushant Agarawal
Leaf Bank	Environment Conservation	2023	Delhi	RJ Raawat
Akanksha Foundation	Education	1991	Mumbai	Shaheen Mistri
CHD Group	Global Public Health Medical Relief in Disasters Nutrition Child Health Road Safety Primary Health Care	2014	Mangaluru	Dr Edmond Fernandes Cynthia Fernandes

Non-Governmental Organisations in India

Name	Category	Date of foundation	Headquarters	Founder(s)
Social Network for Assistance to People	Human Rights Community Development	2008	<u>Kolkata</u>	
Nilgiri Wildlife and Environmental Association	Environment	1877	Ooty	

Help Age India began in the late 1960s when the speaker of the Loka Sabha visited his counterpart in the House of Commons of the United Kingdom, who was also honorary secretary of Help the Aged. He came back with a vision of setting up something similar in India. In March 1974, when Jackson Cole, founder of Help Age International visited India, Samson Daniel, a philanthropist, approached him for financial help to set up a member organization in Delhi. Cole instead offered to train him to raise funds. After a three-month training course in London, Daniel and his wife returned to India and organized a sponsored walk with schoolchildren in Delhi. It was so successful that in 1975 Help Age International recruited more staff to cover Bombay, Madras, and Calcutta. Help Age India is one of the founding members of Help Age International, a high-profile body having 97 member countries representing the cause of the elderly at the United Nations. It is closely associated with Help the Aged, UK and has received a special testimonial from the United Nations for Dedicated service in support of the United Nations Programme on Ageing. Help Age India is also a full member of the International Federation on Ageing. In April 1978, Help Age India was registered in Delhi. Within three months it became autonomous as financial support ceased from the UK. Soon after, in July, the society was awarded Certificates of Exemption under Sections 12A and 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961. In the year 2020, Help Age India received the UN Population Award for the care of elderly disadvantaged persons and senior citizens, a first for an NGO institution in India, in recognition of its work on population issues and efforts in the realization of rights of older persons in India since its inception. The award was presented to mark Human Rights Day, at a virtual event held at UN headquarters in New York. JRD Tata was the last Indian individual laureate to be conferred with this award about 28 years ago in the year 1992. The award highlights the issue of aging with India being a place for an estimated 140 million elderly and with 42 years of field work with a presence in 125 districts across 25 states.

CONCLUSION : Many observers have noted that this decentralized approach offers a practical framework for supervision while respecting the federal structure of governance. NGO representatives have expressed cautious optimism, acknowledging the potential for improved trust and transparency, especially when seeking donor support or government grants. However, they have also emphasized the importance of fair implementation and avoiding excessive bureaucratic burden. If executed efficiently, the state-wise audit mandate could become a transformative step toward a more robust, transparent, and ethically governed nonprofit ecosystem in India.

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