

## Realization of Human Rights -Role of NGO

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### **Abstract:**

NGO's have a vital role to play in the promotion and protection of human right specially in the developing country, like as is India, it has the largest number of NGO's whose activates are spared in different fields for the welfare of human being with the promotion and protection of human rights. NGO's can play their vital role only when one realizes his/her own rights and have the courage to fight for it. NGOs become spokespersons for the poor and attempt to influence government policies and programs on their behalf. They not only fight for their rights but try to provide the exploited one a platform from where the voice can be raised against the wrong. They also work in the direction of rehabilitation of such exploited ones.

***"The evolution of the human rights movement clearly illustrates humanity's ongoing struggle toward creating a better world."- Robert Alan***

Many organizations around the world dedicate their efforts to protecting human rights and ending human rights abuses. Public support and condemnation of abuses is important to their success, as human rights organizations are most effective when their calls for reform are backed by strong public advocacy. Non Governmental Organization is one of the examples of such groups. In every part of the globe, there are Non-Governmental Organizations' (NGOs) working every hour of the day to document the injustices heaped upon women, children and the under-class, standing beneath the bottom rung of the society. By their active campaigning, they remind Governments to keep their promise in order to give practical shape to goals set by various national and international conventions on human rights. India is estimated to have between 1 million and 2 million NGOs. The NGO are a necessary corollary to the democratic machinery of the government, they are means of democratic empowerment of those who are less powerful and less advantaged as the government machinery and its authorized institution are not always sufficient to guarantee the protection of human right.

### **Human Right and NGO**

Human rights as the 'Rights relating to life, liberty, equality, and dignity of individuals guaranteed by the constitution or embodied in international covenants and enforceable by the courts in India.

The term non-governmental or, more accurately non-profit is normally used to cover the range of organizations which go to make up civil society. Such organizations are characterized, in general, by having as the purpose of their existence something other than financial profit.

However, this leaves a huge multitude of reasons for existence and a wide variety of enterprises and activities. NGOs range from small pressure groups on, for example, specific environmental concerns or specific human rights violations, through educational charities, women's refuges, cultural associations, religious organizations, legal foundations, humanitarian assistance programs. The Economic and Social Council may make suitable arrangements for consultation with nongovernmental organizations which are concerned with matters within its competence. Such arrangements may be made with international organizations and, where appropriate, with national organizations after consultation with the Member of the United Nations concerned.

NGO's have a vital role to play in the promotion and protection of human right specially in the developing country, has the largest number of NGO's whose activates are spared in different fields for the welfare of human being including the promotion and protection of human right.

### **Role of NGO**

"The 21st Century will be an era of NGOs." — Kofi Annan, Former UN Secretary General  
The world conference on human right was held in Vienna in Austria in 1993, with objective "to review and assess the progress made in the field of human right". The resolution no 38 of the declaration stated –the world conference on human right recognizes the important role of Non Government Organization in the promotion of all human right and in humanitarian. NGO organization have functioned as the conscience of the national in the field of human right by taking prompt action to investigate the instance human right by undertaking and the spot studies and publishing the observations. NGOs play a pivotal, role in many fields, such as in prevention of HIV/AIDS, to educate to teach and train vulnerable groups, child care, child exploitation, child labour, bonded labour, in sex tourism, and providing counselling in number of matters including domestic disputes, subject relating to rights of women and children and so

### **Among the wide variety of roles that NGOs play, the following are important**

*The Social Welfare Role* - where relief and charity are key actions. NGOs in this role can be seen as initiating internal programs and projects.

*The Mediator Role* - where communication as a skill is important for development and social action. NGOs in this role can be seen as participating or taking up external programs and projects.

*The Consultative Role* - where support documentation and dissemination of information and expertise is critical. NGOs in this role can be seen as working in collaborative programs. Local experts/professionals/resource persons play major secondary roles.

*Development and Operation of Infrastructure:* Community- based organizations and cooperatives can acquire, subdivide and develop land, construct housing, provide infrastructure and operate and maintain infrastructure such as wells or public toilets and solid waste collection services.

*Supporting Innovation, Demonstration and Pilot Projects:* NGO have the advantage of selecting

particular places for innovative projects and specify in advance the length of time which they will be supporting the project - overcoming some of the shortcomings that governments face in this respect.

*Facilitating Communication:* The significance of this role to the government is that NGOs can communicate to the policy-making levels of government, information about the lives, capabilities, attitudes and cultural characteristics of people at the local level. NGOs can facilitate communication upward from people to the government and downward from the government to the people.

*Technical Assistance and Training:* Training institutions and NGOs can develop a technical assistance and training capacity and use this to assist both CBOs and governments.

*Research, Monitoring and Evaluation:* Innovative activities need to be carefully documented and shared - effective participatory monitoring would permit the sharing of results with the people themselves as well as with the project staff.

### **Advocacy for and with the Poor:**

In some cases, NGOs become spokespersons or ombudsmen for the poor and attempt to influence government policies and programs on their behalf. This may be done through a variety of means ranging from demonstration and pilot projects to participation in public forums and the formulation of government policy and plans, to publicizing research results and case studies of the poor. Thus NGOs play roles from advocates for the poor to implementers of government programs; from agitators and critics to partners and advisors; from sponsors of pilot projects to mediators.

### **Role of NGO at International level in protecting human right**

At the international level, the status of human rights is watched by many NGOs. Amnesty International is one such organization. This Organization is dedicated to publicizing violation of human rights, especially freedom of speech and religion and right of political dissent. It also works for the release of political prisoners and, when necessary, for the relief of their families. For its commendable services in the field of human rights, Amnesty International was awarded the Nobel Prize for peace in 1977.

### **Role of NGO at national level in protecting human right**

NGO's having played the role of development factor has been crucial as service providers. In the development sector, many NGO's have moved ahead or gap filling initiatives to capacity building activities. Some example as follow:

*Sulabh Movement:* It is a major social movement in the country for the betterment and welfare of Dalits, in a generic sense, and in particular for the liberation and social mainstreaming of scavengers.

*Child Relief and You (CRY):* It is a voluntary organisation committed to the upliftment of millions

of children who have been deprived of their childhood due to various reasons. Campaign Against Child Labour (CACL): The campaign against child labour is a joint initiative of Youth for Voluntary Action (YUVA), Pune and Tere des Hommes (Germany) India Programme. The Campaign is currently supported by ILO and is actively working for progressive eradication of child labour through provision of education, organisation of awareness programmes, promotion of legislative changes and rescuing children in bondage or victims of abuse.

Organisations like Saheli and Chetna are actively involved in the protection of Women's Rights. They provide free legal aid to women to fight for their rights against gender bias and discrimination.

Butterflies are an NGO with a programme for street and working children. It was started in 1988 and its activities include non-formal education, saving schemes for children, vocational training, holding Bal Sabhas, and creating awareness for children's rights, Bal Mazdoor Union, networking with other NGOs and research and documentation. The researcher is going to look in to some important national level NGOs in India.

#### **Ramakrishna Mission Home of Service:**

It is an Indian non-governmental organization established in Varanasi, established in 1900 and became a branch of Ramakrishna Mission in 1902. It manages an education program on essential health problems in schools, slums and villages of Uttar Pradesh (India) thanks to auto produced multimedia educational films.

#### **People's Union for Civil Liberties:**

It is a prominent civil rights organization in India. It was formed in 1976 by veteran socialist and campaign leader Jaya Prakash Narayan, who launched it as the People's Union for Civil Liberties and Democratic Rights (PUCLDR), it was originally intended to be an organization free from political ideologies, bringing those concerned about defending civil liberties and human rights from different backgrounds onto a common platform.

#### **People's Union for Democratic Rights:**

It came into existence in 1976-77 as the Delhi unit of a larger national forum, and became PUDR on 1 February, 1981. In the last two and a half decades of its existence the organisation has taken up hundreds of instances of violations of democratic rights, covering most parts of the country and involving the rights of many sections of society. PUDR conducts investigations, issues statements, distributes leaflets, organizes public meetings, demonstrations and dharnas, and fights legal cases to highlight the violation of people's rights, and to help towards their redressal. PUDR also takes up issues of general importance that affect the rights of people through general campaigns, publications and legal interventions. These include: gender equality; rights of forest-dwellers and forest policy; working class rights; agrarian conflict; caste oppression; deaths, rapes and torture in police custody; and undemocratic legislation, in particular the various incarnations of the 'terrorist act' (TADA and POTA) etc.



### **Child Rights and You:**

Rights and You (formerly Child Relief and You, till 2005), commonly abbreviated as CRY is a non-profit organization in India that aims to restore children's rights in India. The organization was established in 1979. The organization partners with grass-roots Nongovernmental organizations to uplift thousands of Indian children denied basic children's rights. In 2007, its media campaign showing "smiling kids" and asking citizens to partner instead of simply donate, was seen as a departure from stereotypical NGO sector advertising in India.

### **Bandhua Mukti Morcha:**

Bandhua Mukti Morcha (BMM) or Bonded Labour Liberation Front (BLLF) is a non-governmental organisation in India working to end bonded labour. Based in New Delhi, it was founded in 1981 by Swami Agnivesh who continues as its chairman. Bonded labour was legally abolished in India in 1976 but it remains prevalent, with weak enforcement of the law by state governments. Estimates of the problem vary. Official figures include a 1993 estimate of only 251,000 bonded labourers while BMM says there are 65 million bonded child labourers, and a larger number of adults. A 2003 project by Human Rights Watch has reported a major problem with bonded child labour in the silk industry, BMM's efforts are credited with the passing of legislation to abolish child labour in India (the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act 1986).

The list of NGOs is by no means exhaustive. There are many other organisations working for the cause of human rights. The work of five organisations is reported here by way of illustration only. Role of NGOs in protecting Human Right through Judiciary and NHRC

NGOs have played an important role in the protection of human rights. They cannot succeed in their role unless there is help from the judiciary. The NGOs help the victim of human right violation by providing them assistance and advice. The NGOs have filed cases, writ petitions and public interest litigation on behalf of victims and public at large for protection of human rights. The NGOs have fought against the system of bonded labour, fake encounters by police, protection of women children's rights, custodial violence and custodial death, prevention of torture and other inhuman practices. The judiciary has passed appropriate orders and given compensation to the victims on a petition by the NGOs. The NHRC encourages NGOs in the field of human rights. The NGOs also take up cases of violation to the NHRC and state human rights commissions.

### **The following are some examples in which NGO take an action in court for protecting human right:**

- # Vishaka & Ors vs State of Rajasthan & Ors
- # 'Peoples Union For Democratic Rights V. State Of Bihar & Ors (19 December 1986)
- # Bandhua Mukti Morcha vs Union Of India & Ors (16 December 1983)
- # Saheli V/S Commissioner Of Police
- # 'Peoples Union for Democratic Rights V/s Police commissioner Delhi, head quarters 1989 4 SCC 730.

## Conclusion

The NGO play important role to become a concrete expression of international, national and regional and local level voice to assist and stand up for those who can't speak themselves. Every human being is entitled to certain basic human rights which are available to them without discrimination of any sort human rights are protected by the United Nations and its specialized agencies. In India human rights are protected by the judiciary, human rights commissions, apart from these organizations the Non Governmental organizations also have an important role in protection of human rights. The Non Governmental organizations work from grass roots level to the national and international level in the protection of human rights.

## Contribution of NGOs towards the development of Human Rights

- \* They mobilize public opinion.
- \* They contribute a lot to the society.
- \* They pressurize the government on certain issues, such as protection of prisoner's rights, torture etc.
- \* They approach the judiciary on behalf of poor people who otherwise have no access to justice.
- \* They ask for submission of certain reports.
- \* They play a special role especially in the developing countries for the development of human rights.

## Suggestions:

- \* NGOs need to expand their programmes, campaigns, skits from yearly or bi-yearly to monthly. Frequent programmes increase the awareness of human rights even more than yearly.
- \* NGOs also need to get more aid both from foreign and within India which will be useful to carry out their cause.
- \* NGOs must have clear goals and priorities, they should define what they are trying to achieve as clearly as possible. They should think strategically and assess how short term goals fit in with long term ones.
- \* NGOs must have a clear written work plan for both individual and staff activities. Plan reminds people of what the goals are, it helps keep things on track and with major projects or campaigns it helps people see where they fit into big picture.

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