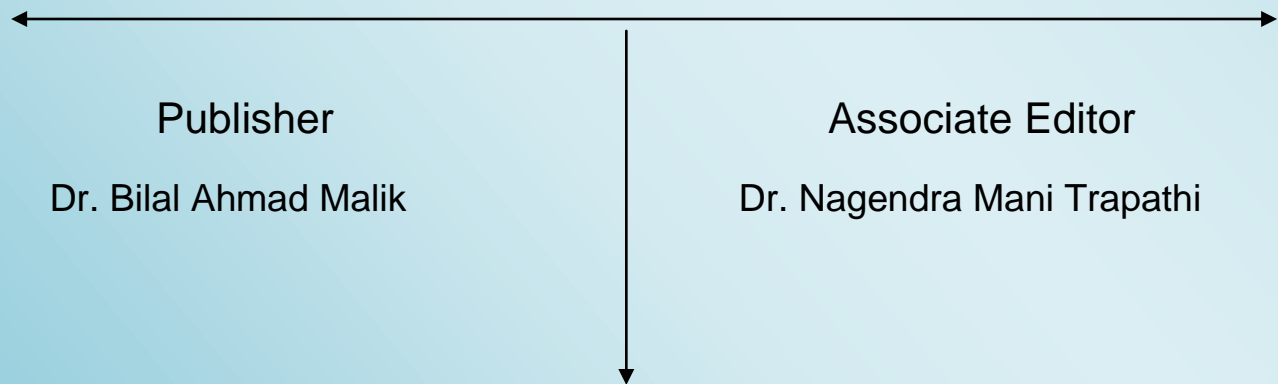


North Asian International Research Journal Consortium

*North Asian International Research Journal of
Social Science & Humanities*

Chief Editor

Dr Rama Singh



NAIRJC JOURNAL PUBLICATION

North Asian
International
Research Journal Consortium



Welcome to NAIRJC

ISSN NO: 2454 - 9827

North Asian International Research Journal Social Science and Humanities is a research journal, published monthly in English, Hindi, Urdu all research papers submitted to the journal will be double-blind peer reviewed referred by members of the editorial board. Readers will include investigator in Universities, Research Institutes Government and Industry with research interest in the general subjects

Editorial Board

J.Anil Kumar Head Geography University of Thirvanathpuram	Sanjuket Das Head Economics Samplpur University	Adgaonkar Ganesh Dept. of Commerce B.S.A.U, Aruganbad
Kiran Mishra Dept. of English,Ranchi University, Jharkhand	Somanath Reddy Dept. of Social Work, Gulbarga University.	Rajpal Choudhary Dept. Govt. Engg. College Bikaner Rajasthan
R.D. Sharma Head Commerce & Management Jammu University	R.P. Pandday Head Education Dr. C.V.Raman University	Moinuddin Khan Dept. of Botany SinghaniyaUniversity Rajasthan.
Manish Mishra Dept. of Engg, United College Ald.UPTU Lucknow	K.M Bhandarkar Praful Patel College of Education, Gondia	Ravi Kumar Pandey Director, H.I.M.T, Allahabad
Tihar Pandit Dept. of Environmental Science, University of Kashmir.	Simnani Dept. of Political Science, Govt. Degree College Pulwama, University of Kashmir.	Ashok D. Wagh Head PG. Dept. of Accountancy, B.N.N.College, Bhiwandi, Thane, Maharashtra.
Neelam Yaday Head Exam. Mat.K..M .Patel College Thakurli (E), Thane, Maharashtra	Nisar Hussain Dept. of Medicine A.I. Medical College (U.P) Kanpur University	M.C.P. Singh Head Information Technology Dr C.V. Rama University
Ashak Hussain Head Pol-Science G.B, PG College Ald. Kanpur University	Khagendra Nath Sethi Head Dept. of History Sambalpur University.	Rama Singh Dept. of Political Science A.K.D College, Ald.University of Allahabad

Address: -North Asian International Research Journal Consortium (NAIRJC) 221 Gangoo, Pulwama, Jammu and Kashmir, India - 192301, Cell: 09086405302, 09906662570, Ph. No: 01933-212815, Email: nairjc5@gmail.com , nairjc@nairjc.com , info@nairjc.com Website: www.nairjc.com

PERCEPTIONS OF PEOPLE ON THE ROLE OF NON- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN STRENGTHENING OF PANCHAYAT RAJ INSTITUTIONS

P. RAMA MOHAN*

*Research Scholar, Department of Political Science & Public Administration, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ananthapuramu.

ABSTRACT

The Non-Governmental Organizations have taken over the increasing responsibilities in the development sector. Generating people's power and harnessing it for development purpose is their objective. While elected representatives have their obligations and accountability to the community, the civil society organizations have a role to strengthen the process of people's empowerment. The major role that the NGO sector has played is in facilitating changes in socio-economic environment through people's organizations. Other intervention areas have been capacity building of different stakeholders-PRIs and NGOs themselves, information dissemination and awareness programmes and advocacy.

Key Words: Participation, Behaviour, Transparency, Cooperation, Rural Areas

INTRODUCTION

The job of NGOs is to see that good, decent, honest and committed people get elected to manage PRIs, provide leadership, and tackle the problems of corruption and wastage of public funds. It is time NGOs started looking at the PRIs as a way of acquiring some legitimacy. Since the general move is towards channelizing substantial funds directly to Panchayats, is one of the main tasks of NGOs at the village level to see that the funds are properly used, that there is some transparency and more involvement of the poor in the decision-making process. But to be able to expect this from PRIs, the NGOs need to set an example themselves. The tragedy is, NGOs are refusing to set their own house in order, thus making themselves vulnerable to pressure and public criticism from outside.

A review of post 73rd Amendment reveals the basic challenge in our quest for social justice is to how to protect and enhance the right of the Dalits, the tribals, the other most backward communities and the minorities vigorously without creating animosities and jealousies and therefore, a backlash on the part of the rest of the

community in our villages. Every backlash sets the clock back by several years. 'Social integration' should be the key in the emancipation of the marginalized sections of our society. For this, the support of all sections of rural society is essential. Therefore, articulation and assertion of the rights of the marginalized must be matched by the education of the non-marginalized in regard to the justification of such rights and the acceptance of that position on the part of the entire rural society. This is possible if all the resources are pooled.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To critically examine the role of Non- Governmental Organizations in strengthening of Panchayat raj Institutions.
2. To evaluate the perceptions of sample respondents on the relationship between Panchayat Raj Institutions and Non- Governmental Organizations.

SAMPLE DESIGN

There are several NGOs in Ananthapuramu district. For the present study three NGOs are selected for in-depth study. From the operational area of each NGO 80 sample respondents were selected by simple random sampling method. So the total sample for the present study constitutes 240 respondents.

Impact of NGOs on People's Participation in PRIS

It is expected that NGOs which are functioning as supportive agencies of PRIs is to enhance the people's participation in Panchayat Raj Institutions. As such during field survey the sample respondents were asked "Did the NGOs increase the people's participation in PRIs". The responses to such question are given in table 1.

Table 1
Respondent's Views on the Impact of NGOs on People's Participation in PRIS

S. No.	Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Increased	117	48.75
2	Not Increased	109	45.42
3	Can't Say	14	5.83
Total		240	100.00

Source: Field Data

It is clear from table 1 that there are mixed reactions with regard to the impact of NGOs on peoples participation in PRIs. Around 48.75 per cent of sample responded positively on the role of NGOs in enhancing the people's participation in Panchayat Raj Institutions. On the other hand 45.42 per cent of sample declared that the NGOs have no impact enhancing the people's participation in PRIs. Around 5.83 per cent of sample respondents were unable to respond.

Gap between people and Government

The NGOs acts as intermediaries between the government and people. As such they are expected to fill the gap between people and government. Table 2 gives the responses of sample respondents' opinion on the role of NGOs in reducing the gaps between people and government.

Table 2
Respondents Opinion on the Role of NGOs in Reducing Gap between people and Government

S. No.	Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Reduced	97	40.42
2	Not Reduced	132	55.00
3	Can't Say	11	4.58
Total		240	100.00

Source: Field Data

It is clear from table 2 that more than half i.e. 55 per cent of sample respondents stated that the NGOs failed to reduce the gap between people and government through their activities. While, 40.42 per cent of sample respondents declared that NGOs are helpful in reducing the gap between people and government. The responses of 4.58 per cent of the respondents were not known.

NGOs and Village Development

The views of sample respondents on the role NGOs in the development of villages through PRIs are presented in table 3.

Table 3
Respondent's Responses on the Role of NGOs in Development of Villages through PRIs

S. No.	Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Positive Role	59	24.58
2	No Role	172	71.67
3	Don't Know	9	3.75
Total		240	100.00

Source: Field Data

It is evident from table 3 that nearly 71.67 per cent of respondents declared no role of NGOs in the development of rural areas through PRIs. Only 24.58 per cent of sample opined that NGOs have positive role in the development of villages through PRIs. Around 3.75 per cent of respondents denied to respond.

NGOs and Change in the Behaviour of PRI Officials

The views of sample respondents on the impact of NGOs in changing the behaviour of PRI officials towards the rural masses are presented in table 4.

Table 4
Respondent's Views on the Impact of NGOs in Changing the Behaviour of PRI Officials

S. No.	Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Positive Role	51	21.25
2	No Role	186	77.50
3	Don't Know	3	1.25
Total		240	100.00

Source: Field Data

It is clear from table 4 even with regard to the impact of NGOs in changing the behaviour of PRI officials, the responses of sample respondents is not encouraging. A preponderant majority i.e. 77.50 per cent of sample respondents declared that NGOs have no role in changing the behaviour of PRI officials. On the other hand 21.25

per cent of sample respondents has assigned positive role to the NGOs in changing the behaviour of officials. 3 out of 240 respondents, constituting 1.25 per cent of total sample denied to respond.

NGOs Role in increasing Quality of Services and Transparency

Table 5 gives the details of views of the sample respondents in enhancing the quality of services and transparency.

Table 5
Respondents Views on the role of NGOs in increasing Quality of Services and Transparency

S. No.	Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Increased	39	16.25
2	Not Increased	198	82.50
3	Can't Say	3	1.25
Total		240	100.00

Source: Field Data

As per table 5 a preponderant majority i.e. 82.50 per cent of sample respondents denied any role of NGOs in enhancing the quality of services and transparency. Only 16.25 per cent of sample respondents stated that NGOs increasing quality of service and transparency. Around 1.25 per cent of sample respondents denied to respond.

NGOs Attitude towards PRIs

Table 6 presents the opinions of the sample respondents on the NGOs attitude towards Panchayat Raj Institutions.

Table 6
Respondent's Opinion on NGOs Attitude towards PRIs

S. No.	Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Pro- Panchayat	29	12.08
2	Anti- Panchayat	57	23.75
3	Don't Know	154	64.17
Total		240	100.00

Source: Field Data

Table 6 reveals that good number of sample respondents did not framed any idea on the NGOs attitude towards Panchayat Raj Institutions. As such a preponderant majority i.e. 64.17 per cent of sample that they have no idea on the attitude of NGOs towards the Panchayat Raj Institutions. On the other hand 23.75 per cent of sample respondents state that NGOs have anti-Panchayat attitude towards Panchayat Raj Institutions. While, 12.08 per cent of sample respondents declared that the NGOs have pro-Panchayat attitude towards Panchayat Raj Institutions.

Cooperation between Government and people

Government is very big machinery, which can't make special focus on each and every village or community in planning and implementation of the scheme. As such the need for Non-Governmental Organizations has been raised. These Non-Governmental Organizations through their staff at field level is expected to bring the administration closer to people. So, it is otherwise must be helpful in bringing cooperation between the people and government. Table 7 presents the views sample respondents on the role of Non-Governmental Organizations in bringing cooperation between people and government.

Table 7

Views of Respondents on the role of NGOs in Enhancing Cooperation between Government and people

S. No.	Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	84	35.00
2	No	152	63.33
3	Don't Know	4	1.67
Total		240	100.00

Source: Field Data

It is clear from table 7 that majority (63.33 per cent) of sample respondents in the study area opined that the Non-Governmental Organizations have failed in their efforts to bring cooperation between people and government. They argue that the staff of NGOs will never encourage the people to meet the officials of government. They ask the public to approach the government officials through their mediations. On the other hand about 35 per cent of sample respondents accepted the positive role of Non-Governmental Organizations in bringing cooperation between people and government. The opinions of 1.67 per cent were unknown.

NGOs and Socio-economic Development of Rural Areas

The views of sample respondents on the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Socio-economic Development of Rural Areas are presented in table 8.

Table 8
Respondents Opinion Role of NGOs in Socio-economic Development of Rural Areas

S. No.	Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	58	24.17
2	No	168	70.00
3	Don't Know	14	5.83
Total		240	100.00

Source: Field Data

Table 8 shows that nearly 70 per cent of sample respondents in the study area denied any role of Non-Governmental Organizations in the socio-economic development of rural areas. On the other hand 24.17 per cent of sample respondents accepted the role of Non-Governmental Organizations in socio-economic development of village community. 14 out of 240 respondents constituting 5.83 per cent of total sample denied to respond.

NGO Role in Enhancing Powers of PRIs

The Non-Governmental Organizations as supportive agencies of Panchayat Raj Institutions is expected to expand the power base of PRIs. The efforts of Non-Governmental Organizations in bringing all sections of the society to come together for the development of village are expected to expand the power base of Panchayat Raj Institutions. The opinion of sample respondents on the role of Non-Governmental Organizations in enhancing power of Panchayat Raj Institutions is presented in table 9.

Table 9
Respondent's Views on the role of NGO in Enhancing Powers of PRIs

S. No.	Responses	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Enhanced Power base of PRIs	19	7.92
2	Made decentralization Meaningful	24	10.00
3	Made PRIs dummy	186	77.50
4	Don't Know	11	4.58
Total		240	100.00

Source: Field Data

It is evident from table 9 that the Non-Governmental Organizations is not helpful in expanding the power base of Panchayat Raj Institutions. A preponderant majority i.e. 77.50 per cent of sample respondents has considering that Non-Governmental Organizations making the Panchayat Raj Institutions as ‘dummy’ institutions. It means that the Non-Governmental Organizations were eroding the powers of PRIs. But, 10 per cent of sample stated that the Non-Governmental Organizations made the decentralization as meaningful. Around 7.92 per cent of sample respondents declared that the Non-Governmental Organizations enhancing the power base of PRIs. About 4.58 per cent of sample respondents not responded.

CONCLUSION

The PRIs should identify good NGOs, and provide them with more and more opportunities to get involved in the planning and development process. The Gram Sabhas, as the crucial institution of the PRIs, have a major role to play. Various institutions working at the village level, whether they are NGOs or community groups such as the watershed development committees, joint forest management committees, user groups under the district primary education programmes or drinking water projects of World Bank, can be made directly answerable to the Gram Sabha during their periodic meetings. This will give them an opportunity to assess the competence of these organizations in the field of delivering development benefits. PRIs must be given priority for any work in the rural areas. They should take pride in rural reconstruction and rural development. When this happens, all the personnel both elected and permanent would work whole heartedly as the credit or discredit would come to them.

Hence, multiplicity of institutions must be avoided and a rational structure of PRIs should be developed, modernized, rejuvenated, to usher an era of modern village as in foreign countries. The delivery of programmes would improve only if the PRIs emerge as strong players in the social and economic life of the country. NGOs and other civil society organisations can facilitate the evolution of PRIs as institutions geared to promote the well-being of the rural poor.

REFERENCES

1. Goel S. L., and Shalini Rajneesh, “Panchayati Raj in India: Theory and Practice”, Deep & Deep Publications, New Delhi, 2003.
2. Sanyal, Bishwapriya. Cooperative Autonomy: the Dialectic of State-NGOs Relationship in Developing Countries. Geneva: International Institute for Labour Studies, ILO, 1994.

3. N.V. Laltha and Madhu Kohli, Status of Voluntary Effort in Social Welfare, National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development, New Delhi, pp. 187-88.
4. Brown, David L., and Rajesh Tandon, Strengthening the Grass-Roots: Nature and Role of Support Organizations, Society for Participatory Research in Asia, PRIA, New Delhi, 1990, p.23.
5. Carroll, Thomas F. Intermediary NGOs: The Supporting Link in Grassroots Development, Kumarian Press, West Hartford, 1992, p.8.
6. Clark, John. Democratizing Development: the Role of Voluntary Organizations, Kumarian Press, West Hartford, 1991, p.213.
7. Gulhati, Ravi, and Kaval Gulhati with Ajay Mehra, and Janaki Rajan. Strengthening Voluntary Action in India. Health—Family Planning, the Environment and Women’s Development. Centre for Policy Research and Konark Publishers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, 1995, p.32.
8. Report of The Steering Committee on Voluntary Sector for the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-07), Planning Commission, Government of India, 2002, p.6.

Publish Research Article

Dear Sir/Mam,

We invite unpublished Research Paper, Summary of Research Project, Theses, Books and Book Review for publication.

Address:- North Asian International Research Journal Consortium (NAIRJC) 221, Gangoo Pulwama - 192301

Jammu & Kashmir, India

Cell: 09086405302, 09906662570,

Ph No: 01933212815

Email: _nairjc5@gmail.com, nairjc@nairjc.com, info@nairjc.com

Website: www.nairjc.com

