

Economics Honours (Sixth Semester)
DSE604 (Rural Development and Entrepreneurial Economics)
Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)

Meaning

The term “NGO” was coined in Article 71 in the Charter of United Nations in 1945. An NGO is a non-profit, voluntary association, working at a regional, national or international level, in a democratic manner with the objective of social welfare, independent of governmental interference and control.

Box 1: Goals of NGOs in Rural Development

1. To help the people themselves in their endeavours to progress.
2. To promote the growth of inherent potential among the people.
3. To initiate a process of participatory development.
4. To bring about social justice for the poor and create awareness about their rights and duties
5. To promote growth in social, economic and political aspects of life of the rural people.

Source: William, A. T., & Christopher, A. J. (2011). *Rural development: Concept and recent approaches*.

Box 2: Role of NGOs in Rural Development

- To supplement government's effort, as to offer the rural poor choices and alternatives
- To be the eyes and the ears of the people at the village level.
- Teach how to adopt simple, innovative, flexible and inexpensive strategies of living with limited resources to the whole community
- To disseminate information relating to awareness and development programmes.
- To elicit participation from the community in greater number for the developmental programmes
- To address the needs of socially and economically marginalized population like the poor, the women and the children.
- To build self-reliant and self-sufficient communities through empowerment
- To make use of the indigenous resources available to the community like human resources, rural skills and local knowledge that remains highly underutilized.
- To create a team of grass root workers from rural base and train them in professional volunteerism
- To mobilize local financial resources and build awareness about alternative employment opportunities at the village level.
- To train and open the doors in self-employment.
- To promote the attitude of community consciousness.

Source: William, A. T., & Christopher, A. J. (2011). *Rural development: Concept and recent approaches*.

Mode of Operation

The NGOs in India are registered under Societies Registration Act and usually receive government support in the form of funding for their projects to address the different social and economic issues. The general sphere of action of most NGOs in India include welfare of children, problems and issues related to women, health, equality, poverty alleviation , rural development, under-privileged and marginalized, tribal development , human rights, training for self-employment, primary education, marketing of rural produce etc. Some Microfinance Institutions exist as NGOs in India. Most NGOs operate through Self Help Groups (SHGs) to work at the grass root level. It helps the NGOs to mobilize greater participation of the rural population. The SHGs organized with women have been found by far the most successful groups in sustaining the continuity of the programme adopted by NGOs.

*Note: For explanations and all theoretical dispositions we have referred to the following sources:

References

- *What is an NGO? What role does it play in civil society? / Knowledge base / GrantSpace.* (n.d.). GrantSpace. Retrieved May 14, 2020, from <https://grantspace.org/resources/knowledge-base/ngo-definition-and-role/>
- William, A. T., & Christopher, A. J. (2011). *Rural development: Concept and recent approaches.*