

ROLE OF NGO'S WORKING IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT (WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PROBLEMS FACED BY THE NGO'S)

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ABSTRACT

Today we come across various non-governmental organizations whose concerns are focused on various areas such as social issues, health issues, and environmental issues. There are large number of NGOs in India and other countries that are exclusively working for environmental, protection, conservation, and awareness. The number of these non-governmental organizations which are actively involved in environmental protection in our country is, in fact, more than in any of the developing country. These organizations extend beyond their own community and can reach places where Governmental agencies cannot sometimes reach.

Keywords: *Non-Governmental Organizations(NGOs), Environmental Issues, Environmental Protection.*

Introduction

Problems of NGO's

The achievements and success of NGO's in various fields and excellent work done by them in specific areas are remarkable to meet the changing needs of the social system. Their contribution to achieve the objectives of sustainable development cannot be limited but there are many problems which are faced by NGO's. These problems may differ from organization to organization and from region to region. Some of the common problems are as under:

- Absence of Spirit of Volunteerism
- Lack of Dedicated Leadership
- Lack of Funds
- Inadequate Trained Personnel
- Lack of coordination
- Centralization in Urban Area
- Deterioration in Quality of Services
- Lack of Public Participation
- Monopolisation of Leadership
- Misuse of Funds

Environmental Pollution and Solution of NGO's Problems

NGO's working in environmental area is facing many problems. These problems are divided into four parts:

- Financial Problems: It includes insufficient grants, delay in grant relaxing, more emphasis on paper work, problem of sustainability because of lack of continuous assignment etc.

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- Organizational Problems: It includes staff turnover, absenteeism, lack of required technical knowledge, low level of moral and inefficiency because of low salaries, problem of permanency etc.
- Community Problems: It includes community politics, low education level, absence of initiation, lack of financial support, non-cooperation with the NGO, lack of affiliation with the NGO projects etc. lack of people's participation.
- Working Problems: Non-cooperation of the other NGO's, lack of procedural knowledge and preparing projects, lack of infrastructure facilities, political interference, lack of spirit of volunteerism among NGO staff, cost efficiency, work efficiency, dedication towards objectives.

Assessment of Contribution of NGO's

It is the question of inquiry that if these problems are solved, is it possible that it will be helpful to prevent environmental pollution? A hypothesis is tested with the help of collected primary data. Chi-square (χ^2) test is applied to test the hypothesis.

Null Hypothesis

H₀: Solution of NGO's problems does not change the present position of environmental pollution. NGO's are not effective to prevent environmental pollution.

Alternative Hypothesis:

H₁: Solution of NGO's problems will be helpful to solve the problems of environmental pollution. NGO's are not effective to prevent environmental pollution.

The collected primary data are presented in the following table:

Observed Data

Efforts/Effect	Contribute Positively in Environmental area	Do not in Environmental Area	Total
Solve the financial problem	187	48	235
Solve the organizational problems	98	67	165
Solve the community problems	130	58	188
Solve the working problems	87	49	136
Total	502	222	724

Expected Data

Efforts/Effect	Contribute Positively in environmental Area	Do not contribute in environmental area	Total
Solve the financial problem	$502 \times 235 / 724 = 162.94$	$222 \times 235 / 724 = 72.06$	235
Solve the organizational problems	$502 \times 165 / 724 = 114.41$	$222 \times 165 / 724 = 50.59$	165
Solve the community problems	$502 \times 188 / 724 = 130.35$	$222 \times 136 / 724 = 57.65$	188
Solve the working problems	$502 \times 136 / 724 = 94.30$	$222 \times 136 / 724 = 41.70$	136
Total	502	222	724

χ^2 Table

S.No.	Observed Data (O)	Expected Data (E)	(O-E)	(O-E) ²	(O-E) ² /E
1.	187	162.94	24.06	578.88	3.5527
2.	48	72.06	(o) 24.06	578.88	08.0333
3.	98	114.41	(o) 16.41	269.29	2.3535
4.	67	50.59	16.41	269.29	5.3230
5.	130	130.35	(-)0.35	0.13	0.0010
6.	58	57.65	(-)0.35	0.13	0.0023
7.	87	94.30	(-)7.3	53.29	0.5651
8.	49	41.70	7.3	53.29	1.2779
Total	724	724			$\chi^2 = 21.1088$

$$\text{Degree of freedom} = (c - 1) (r - 1)$$

$$= (2 - 1) (4 - 1) = 4$$

Table value of χ^2 at 5% level of significance for 3 degrees of freedom is 7.815. Calculated value of χ^2 is 21.1088. The calculated value is much higher than the table value; hence, null hypothesis is rejected and Alternative hypothesis is accepted. It can be concluded that if problems of NGO's are solved then they will contribute significantly in the environment area.

A Comparative Study of Govt. Organizations, NGO's and Private Organizations Regarding Environmental Contribution.

Government departments are working in the field of environmental planning, environmental management and execution of environment projects. Central Pollution Control Board at all India level and State Pollution Control Boards at each state level are monitoring the environmental related aspects. Similarly many large and small NGO's are contributing significantly in environmental area with working efficiency and cost effectiveness. Projects assigned to NGO's are funded by State and Control Government, private agencies and foreign organizations. Private organizations are also contributing significantly in environmental area. It is the question of enquiry as to which type of organization is doing better than others. The data presents a comparative study regarding the performance of Govt. organizations, NGO's and private organizations.

A comparative study of the performance of Govt. organizations, NGO's and private organizations in environmental area.

(Score on weight basis)

Information	Govt. Organizations x_1	NGO's x_2	Private Organizations x_3
Managing financial aspects	326	253	290
Solving organizational problems	309	284	280
Managing community environment	102	409	195
Managing working problem	91	438	142
Working Efficiency and cost effectiveness	87	446	248
Total	915	1830	1155
Average Score	183	366	231

The above data indicates that performance of NGO's are better than Govt. organizations and private organizations. Average score of NGO's is 366 while the average score of Govt. organizations and private organizations is 183 and 231 respectively. So it can be said that priority should be given to NGO's in environmental area. It is the questions of enquiry that the difference between average score as above is significant or not. A hypothesis is tested by using analysis of variance (ANOVA) technique to judge the significance of differences.

H₀: Difference of average score among various environmental agencies is not significant. Performance of Govt. Organizations, NGO's and private organizations is equal.

Alternative Hypothesis

H₁: Difference of average score among various environmental agencies is significant. Performance of NGO's is better than that of other environmental agencies.

ANOVA Table

Source	Sum of Squares	degree of Freedom	Variance	F ratio
Between samples	90030	2	45015	F= Larger Value/ Small Value = $\frac{45015}{9073.33}$ = 4.96
Within Samples	108880	12	9073.33	
Total	19890	14		

Table value of F for $V_1=2$, $V_2=12$ at 5% level of significance is 3.88. Calculated value of F is higher than that of the table value; hence, null hypothesis (H₀) is rejected and Alternative hypothesis is accepted. There are significant differences among performance of different environmental agencies. Average of score of NGO is much higher than score of other agencies; hence, it can be concluded that performance of NGO's is better than that of other agencies.

Limitations in the Performance of NGO's

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who come forward to sharing and shouldering several social responsibilities have been facing a credibility crisis with a number of cases and scandals.

About 400 such NGOs have been blacklisted by the Council for the Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) while the Central Social and Welfare Board (CSWB) has blacklisted 3,000 NGOs for their poor performance in different fields in our country. The NGOs which are really working at the rural areas do not even know how to write a project report necessary to get the money and those who do not work but know the skill of writing project report, manage to get the money sanctioned. After getting funds from the Government, the NGOs default in fulfilling requirements like submission of audited accounts and details of the programme implementation within a stipulated period of time. NGOs have become a money-making machine. The NGO's who are smart in public relations, they are more encouraged by the press, which gives them coverage and does not cover the positive work done by the genuine NGOs, as good work is not an important news item to the press.

The total number of NGOs in the country is about 70,000; while the actual number might be in lakh, the number of the registered NGOs may not be more than 10,000. Commercialization of NGOs has no doubt led to their rapid growth but it does not mean that everyone joining the field is coming because of money only. A code of conduct should be evolved to evaluate and rate the NGOs and the initiative should come from within the NGO sector.

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