

Types of NGOs

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Types of NGOs

- NGOs can be divided into several broad categories on the bases of different criteria
- Khan and Khan (2004) divided NGOs into three categories, according to their working styles in Pakistan.
 1. **Welfare- and charity-oriented**, which have little or no interaction with government and are involved at the community level.
 2. **Community development-oriented** organizations that emerged during the 1980s after the failure of top-down development programmes. These organizations, unlike the first category, also delivered government services to communities.
 3. **Sustainable development- and advocacy-oriented** organizations, emerged from the mid-1980s until the mid-1990s and focused on equitable (fair, unbiased) development, empowerment and advocacy for socioeconomic change.

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Types of NGOs

- Iqbal (2006) also defined three categories of NGOs on the basis of their function:
 1. **Welfare-oriented**
 2. **Religious organizations**
 3. **Modern development-oriented organizations**
- The first two categories mentioned by Khan and Khan (2004) seem to be similar to the welfare-oriented organizations described by Iqbal (2006)
- The religious organizations categorized by Iqbal (2006) have different working styles and could be put into the first category (welfare and charity) on the basis of their charitable nature.
- The third type of organizations described by both scholars has similar characteristics.

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Types of NGOs

- Organizations have also been divided on the basis of their geographical coverage and types of services.
- Ideological conflicts also exist between religious and advocacy organizations, especially regarding human rights and women's issues
- In any case, however, they are defined, it is clear all kinds of organizations exist at grassroots level that address the needs and problems and promote welfare and development of communities.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) categorized Pakistani NGOs as:

Advocacy and Lobbying NGOs

- Advocacy NGOs usually get the most attention.
- Being interested in mass contact, they know how to use the media well and are well-known even their actual impact is low.
- These include organizations focused on legal rights, literacy, women's issues, children, minorities and human rights. Many of these are favoured by funding agencies because their founders and managers are usually very clear and advocate of interest to such agencies.
- Some of these NGOs are involved in training and awareness programmes, but not in the actual implementation of development initiatives at the community level.

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NGOs Involved in Policy Advocacy

- Policy-based NGOs are relatively new in Pakistan.
- Their purpose is to participate in and initiate dialogue about policy issues.
- These dialogues could be with the government, other NGOs or international organizations.
- Policy-based NGOs are usually top heavy, involved in international and regional networking and keen on conferences and seminars.
- They most often do not get involved in project implementation or service delivery.

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Emergency, Rehabilitation and Relief Organizations

- The majority of NGOs in Pakistan, fall into the category of emergency, rehabilitation and relief organizations, including some of the finest and oldest in Pakistan.
- These include the Eidhi Foundation, the Fatmid Foundation, and the Red Crescent etc.
- Smaller grassroots organizations are overwhelmingly in this category.

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NGOs Involved in Implementation of Development Programmes

- Only a small proportion of NGOs in Pakistan can be described as development-oriented.
- They are largely service delivery organizations.
- Many of them are trying hard to transform themselves into either CBOs or community support organizations.
- Some have been successful and others are working hard to get there. Since the Bank's (ADB) interest is mainly in this type of NGOs.

The World Bank uses following typology for NGOs:

Operational NGOs

- Their primary purpose is the design and implementation of development-related projects.
- One categorization that is frequently used is the division into relief-oriented or development-oriented organizations; they can also be classified according to whether they stress service delivery or participation; or whether they are religious and secular; and whether they are more public or private-oriented.
- Operational NGOs can be community-based, national or international.

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Advocacy NGOs

- Their primary purpose is to defend or promote a specific cause.
- As opposed to operational project management, these organizations typically try to raise awareness, acceptance and knowledge by lobbying, press work and activist events.

NGOs could also be classified on the bases of their size, thematic scope and geographic coverage.

Types of NGOs on basis of Size

- Some organizations (e.g. Greenpeace, Oxfam, International Committee of the Red Cross) are large, multinational bodies with offices in many countries (and often multiple branches within a single country), and large full-time and salaried staffs.
- At the other extreme, there are number of "NGOs" that are in practice one- or two-person operations, dependent on and run by entirely voluntary (perhaps even part-time) effort.
- Huge numbers of organizations do have very small size with regards to membership and infrastructure.

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Types of NGOs on basis of Thematic Scope

- Thematic scope means the types of events or activities the NGOs are performing or doing.
- It could include health, sanitation, environment, human rights, social issues, development or many others.
- They could primarily concern with education, emergency relief. They could have very focused issues, or they do have a broader, multi-issue portfolio (range).

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Types of NGOs on basis of Geographical Coverage

- Compare large bodies such as ILO, who take on issues from global to local (but anywhere in the world) scale, with, for example, an Asian NGO whose work focuses only on a specific country or region or issue overseas (e.g. there is an NGO in Pakistan, which focuses on development issues and human rights at national or provincial level);
- Then there are purely local NGOs, concerned with purely local "on our own doorstep" issues (e.g. protesting against a specific waste dump or factory).

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Acronyms related to NGOs

Nongovernmental organizations are a heterogeneous group. A long list of acronyms has developed around the term 'NGO'. These include:

INGO stands for international NGO, such as CARE;

BINGO is short for business-oriented international NGO;

RINGO is an abbreviation of religious international NGO such as Catholic Relief Services;

ENGO means environmental NGO, such as Global 2000;

TANGO means technical assistance NGO;

GONGOS are government-operated NGOs, which may have been set up by governments to look like NGOs in order to qualify for outside aid;

CSO means civil society organization;

DONGO means Donor Organized NGO.

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Role of NGOs

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Role of NGOs

- NGOs role is often critical, especially in developing countries
- During emergencies and famine, the non-governmental organizations have been important in providing food to the needy and poor people
- NGOs often provide essential services in the developing world that in developed countries governmental agencies or institutions would provide
- NGOs provide services that are in line with sitting governmental policy
- In a wider approach, NGOs are also the source and centre of social justice for the marginalized members of society in developing countries or failed states
- NGOs are often left as the only ones that defend or promote the economic needs and requirements for developing states, often bringing cases to the International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization and World Bank

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Role of NGOs

- The United Nations has recognized the special role of CSOs and NGOs
- The Millennium Development Goals, as well as the United Nations Development Program have recognized the work put in by NGOs in developing countries.
- If the Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved, the role of NGOs will have to be recognized by the international community
- However, the role of NGOs has also been criticized, as many international experts estimate that much of the work done by NGOs is not harmonized or tailor-made to the countries' preferences

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1. Development and Operation of Infrastructure

- Community-based organizations can get, subdivide and develop land,
- Construct housing
- Provide infrastructure
- Operate and maintain infrastructure such as wells or public toilets solid waste collection services
- For example establishment of school at local level
- In many cases, they will need technical assistance or advice from governmental agencies or higher-level NGOs

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2. 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.
- NGOs can also be pilots for larger government projects by virtue of their ability to act more quickly than the government bureaucracy.

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3. Facilitating Communication

- NGOs use interpersonal methods of communication, and study the right entry points whereby they gain the trust of the community they seek to benefit.
- They would also have a good idea of the feasibility of the projects they take up.
- 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.
- NGOs are also in a unique position to share information horizontally, networking between other organizations doing similar work.

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4. 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.

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5. Research, Monitoring and Evaluation

- Researches to collect facts and figures about different issues
- Research provide bases for development projects
- Effective participatory monitoring would permit the sharing of results with the people themselves as well as with the project staff.

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6. Advocacy for and with the Poor

- In some cases, NGOs become spokespersons for the poor and attempt to influence government policies and programs on their behalf.
- NGOs play roles from advocates for the poor to implementers of government programs; from protesters and critics to partners and advisors; from sponsors of pilot projects to mediators.

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Advantages of NGOs

- They have the ability to experiment freely with innovative approaches and, if necessary, to take risks.
- They are flexible in adapting to local situations and responding to local needs and therefore able to develop integrated projects, as well as sectoral projects.
- They enjoy good rapport with people and can render micro-assistance to very poor people as they can identify those who are most in need and tailor assistance to their needs.

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Advantages of NGOs

- They have the ability to communicate at all levels, from the neighborhood to the top levels of government.
- They are able to recruit both experts and highly motivated staff with fewer restrictions than the government.

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Disadvantages of NGOs

- Paternalistic attitudes restrict the degree of participation in program/project design.
- Restricted/constrained ways of approach to a problem or area.
- Reduced reliability of an idea, due to non-representativeness of the project or selected area, relatively small project coverage, dependence on outside financial resources, etc.
- "Territorial (Defensive) possessiveness" of an area or project reduces cooperation between agencies, seen as threatening or competitive.

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