

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. The first are welfare- and charity-oriented, which have little or no interaction with government and are involved at the community level. The second are 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. The third category, 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. Iqbal (2006) also defined three categories of NGOs on the basis of their function, i.e., welfare-oriented, religious and 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) and the third type of organizations described by both scholars has similar characteristics. 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. 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 (Iqbal, 2006). 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 are involved in training and awareness programmes, but not in the actual implementation of development initiatives at the community level.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Geographic 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); and 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).

Acronyms

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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