

INDIA'S MILLION MISSIONS



75 Years of Service
Toward Nation-Building

INDIA'S NON PROFIT SECTOR REPORT





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COLLABORATORS OF THIS REPORT INCLUDE

Art X, Business and Community Foundation, Banyan, Catalyst 2030, Crafts Council of India, Dasra, Digital Empowerment Foundation, GuideStar India, Indian School of Development Management (ISDM), IIM Ahmedabad Research Team, Praxis, Salaam Baalak Trust, Socio Reform Foundation (SRRF), Society for Social and Economic Research (SSER), South India Producers Association (SIPA), Fairtrade, Teamwork Fine Arts Society, VANI and Vidyasagar.



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The authors of this report are drawn from the CSO COALITION@75 and have devoted pro bono time for it, in the best traditions of civil society and have been involved in the research and writing of the various sections of this report.

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NOTE FROM THE AUTHORS

This research was undertaken by a group of civil society members to demonstrate the immense contribution of civil society to the nation in 75 years of Independence. This research summary containing an introduction to the study, key findings and recommendations has been prepared to accompany the main report and may be shared with external partners. Some of the insights shared which require more context, will be on the website prepared for this report.

This report is a public resource in the public domain in public interest. Anyone can use, critique, forward or copy this report in its entirety.

CSO Coalition @75

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This report is dedicated to the citizens of the nation whom the sector has worked with over the last 75 years.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the CSO Coalition or Catalyst 2030 or any other organisation mentioned. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this paper, however the research is subject to uncertainties that are beyond the author's ability to control or estimate precisely. Readers are responsible for assessing the relevance and accuracy of the content of this research.



ACRONYMS AND KEY TERMINOLOGY

CSO	Civil Society Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
PWD	People with Disabilities
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
NPO	Non-Profit Organisation
NPI	Non Profit Institution



FOREWORD

This report in the 75th year of India's independence attempts to measure the significant contribution by the Indian nonprofit sector (NPOs) or 'NGOs' as they are popularly known to the nation.

We have used 'Civil Society Organizations (CSO's)/NPOs - Non-Profit Organisations as this includes networks and citizen groups. It pays tribute to the stakeholders of India's 3 million estimated charitable nonprofit organisations that enrich the lives of Indians, upholding the nation's democratic ideals of equality and equity. Every day they touch the lives of more than 200 million Indians - children, youth, women, and elderly across the country including People with Disabilities (PWDs) and LGBTQ communities.

The report describes the vast canvas of work of the 16 million employees, 21 million nonprofit's honorary board volunteers/members who inspire the work and the millions of volunteers and donors who support the work and causes served of Civil Society/Non-Profit Organisations in India.

This report provides a snapshot on what millions of Non Profit Organizations have done in 75 years in India and welcomes journalists, policy makers, governments, educators, students and the general public to write about the good work being done with dedication across the country with meagre resources raised in difficult circumstances to reach the 'unreached', the 'Last and the least.

The full report will be available on many websites in the public domain as a public resource in public interest. Relevant statistics and sector reports will be added from time to time. Please circulate the report to well wishers of civil society.

CSO Coalition@75
January 2023



PREFACE

In mid-2021, a group of civil society organisations joined together with an express aim of measuring the contribution of civil society to the nation. The research covered all the states of India and tried to reach out to all the civil society organisations/non-profit institutions registered as trusts, societies, and section 8 companies.

A voluntary group came together convinced that a Narrative Change for the Non-Profit Associations (NPA) and non government organisations (NGO) , Non Profit Institutions (NPI) who collectively make up the civil society sector was the urgent need of the hour. Many of us are keen to demonstrate that the sector over the decades, has contributed in a holistic way to India's development, NPOs/CSOs* have several ways of working with communities, raising its resources to serve India. In order to present a realistic and holistic picture of the sector, contributions and good practices, a major survey to glean primary data to understand this sector has been undertaken. It is a public resource in the public domain to be used by all as they wish to for advocacy, or as a fact sheet, acknowledgement of civil society's (NPO/NGO) contribution to the Nation @ 75.

CSO COALITION@75

We have used NPO's - non profit organisations in the report but community based organisations are also called civil society organisations (CSO's). These terms will appear in the report but are all part of the non profit sector.



FACT SHEET

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs) improve lives of excluded people and LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND – BY 2030 they would have created substantial impact. Civil society organisations contribute to all Sustainable Development and are engaged in all the SDG goals and are a big player in SDG 17 on collaboration and partnership.

Civil Society organisations are places where Common Indians come together to solve many of India's problems in every sector of the economy and combine vision with commitment.

Civil Society Organisations are problem solvers, innovators, job creators and revenue generators and are creating community leaders in every sphere of activity. Civil Society Organizations are involved in Panchayats in rural areas and also in Urban wards in the country and promote community engagements and participation.

Civil Society organisations are Economic Engines of Growth and contribute to 2.7 million jobs and 3.4 million full time volunteers an employment larger than the public sector. A substantial portion of Civil Society Organizations contribute Rs 3.56 trillion rupees as high as 2% of GDP.

- Civil Society Organisations create skilling opportunities for millions of youth
- Civil Society Organisations provide services to millions of vulnerable children in children homes, vulnerable old people in old age homes
- Civil Society Organisations provide services to millions of treatments in various mission hospitals and charitable hospitals
- Civil Society Organisations provide shelter to about a million homeless in cities
- Civil Society Organisations spur economic activity by working with millions of artisans, make products and sell and promote crafts and crafts based livelihoods
- Civil Society Organisations work with almost 25 million self help groups creating livelihoods

Civil Society Organizations improve the lives of millions of individuals in India and are community focused, grassroot oriented and people centred to “leave no one behind”



INTRODUCTION





INTRODUCTION

India has a thriving culture of voluntary work and “shramdaan” (voluntary labour) which has played an important role in the country's civil society culture.

“He who gives all his time to the service of the people, his whole life is an unbroken round of prayer” – Mahatma Gandhi in Harijan November 10, 1946, Father of the Nation

Mahatma Gandhi had planned the convening of the 1948 Conference in Sevagram, Wardha. This plan was the outcome of his watching over a long period, the evolution of the political and social situation. And the outcome too, of his observing the working of the political class in India in the months leading up to Independence and the weeks immediately after political power had been transferred to Indian hands.

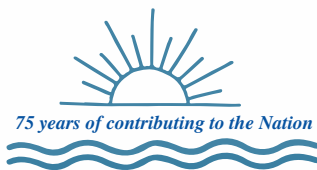
The Mahatma had become convinced that political formations and personalities were becoming self-absorbed and moving away from serving the public interest. His fear is expressed in his work. Hind Swaraj (1909) that home rule without “swaraj” would only mean the replacement of the “tiger” (the British) by another (our own) was active, once again, in his mind. In the weeks after Independence, Gandhi seemed to be convinced that political, social development would become a reality only when “Swaraj” as political self-government was accompanied by “Swaraj” as moral self-rule.

Gandhi's last message was that in a free society, political parties must regard politics to be a form of public service rather than a means to dominate fellow citizens. And the Mahatma wanted to take this new moral forward with the same force that he had applied to the political field.

The Sevagram meeting was to have embodied that derive of his New Delhi, 30 January 1948 Three bullets stopped Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi as he walked to a public prayer on the lawns of Birla House, New Delhi. His philosopher grandson Ramachandra Gandhi, then aged eleven, is, to put it differently, several years later “Gandhi stopped three bullets on their deathly trajectory of hate”.

In 75 years, the NGO sector thrived to become one of the largest non-profit sectors in the world. Gandhi was its ideological compass.





1947 ONWARDS- THE GROWTH OF THE NGO SECTOR

The many leaders who met in 1948 at Wardha, pledged to social action and the Sarva Seva Sangh was formed and this led to constructive work of "Gram Swaraj" as Gandhi envisioned. Many went into rural areas and set up Village Ashrams and voluntary organisations which later came to be known as "Gandhian" organisations. ASSEFA (Association of Sarva Seva Farms) took up lands donated to Vinobha Bhave during the Bhoodan movement (donating land to landless peasants) and worked in several states was the first Gandhian organisation in a multi-state model. Subsequently many other organisations followed this practice. Some Gandhians went to remote areas and established ashrams as Prembhai who started Banwasi Seva Ashram in Mirzapur district but now Sonbhadra district.

Subsequently several initiatives were taken up by Gandhians in different parts of the country. The organisation 'Church Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) which was established 75 years ago has done service for all communities in several parts of India in remote villages. The Catholic Hospital Association of India coordinated the work of several mission hospitals across India providing affordable, ethical healthcare to all citizens. Care India was invited by the then Government to begin the nutrition programme in schools and has completed 73 years of work with both Central state governments, with women and children in rural and urban India.

Organisations such as Gram Vikas, PREM, SWRC Tilonia, Jaipur Foot (Shri Mahavir Viklang Seva Samiti), Mobile Creches have completed 50 years of service to the nation. CRY, HelpAge India and PRIA have completed more than 40 years of dedicated service to children, elderly and the youth in India. During the pandemic, hundreds of organisations and volunteers including non-profits reached out to migrants walking home with food, logistics support until they reached their homes.

Professional NGOs in India emerged at the turn of the first four decades of Indian independence – mid 1980s. At a time when private capital and Indian corporations started asserting their presence and offered a chink in the armor of the erstwhile economic regime, in the name of "liberalization". The fall of the Soviet Union opened up the protected Indian market (1991 onwards) and created favourable conditions for Indian corporates to tap into a pent up consumer goods demand boom, as junior partners of big international companies (in automobiles and consumer goods companies that set up base in India. It was not that Indian capitalists had suffered under the previous economic regime. In fact, the closed Indian market, nationalisation of banks, allowed them at least 4 decades of protection from competition and a growing Indian middle-class market.





By the 1990s there were major shifts in India's economic landscape due to liberalization and its varied challenges. In response, CSOs came together to advocate for vulnerable populations. By the early 1990s, with the advent of a neoliberal economic regime and liberal finance capital at the disposal of investors, management education, urban planning, design, and architecture – became new employment providing avenues for young graduates. It is from these professions that many NGO professionals entered rural and urban development work in the 1980–90s.

Thousands of professional NGOs were registered in the mid-1970s and more specifically from the early 1980s (mostly under the Societies Act, 1860), with liberal funding support from international donor agencies as well as seed funding from central government agencies like PADI and CART and subsequently CAPART (in SPWD, NIUA, CPR). SWRC Tilonia led by Bunker and Aruna Roy, Gram Vikas led by Joe Madiath, and ASSEFA led by Loganathan were the leaders in this spread of professional NGO's.

The failure of the "Sampoorna Kranti" (total revolution) of Jayaprakash Narayan led to the young leaders becoming civil society leaders like Rajendra Singh (waterman of India) and their Jal Yatra and Ganga Andolan. In Jharkhand Satish Girija (NBJK) and Arbind Kumar (Lok Jagriti) became organisers of exploited tribals. Similarly, Ekta Parishad under PV Rajagopal started organising displaced tribals and forest dwellers who were pushed out by mega projects in Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh.

At the same time, by 1985, the government of India realised the importance of large-scale NGOs or Voluntary organisations and recognized their productive role in the development process. This led to the government starting state funding by introducing Grants-in-aid to the NGOs in the early 1980s. The union Govt made policies to fund NGOs many decades ago. The government has initiated centrally-sponsored programmes providing financial assistance to voluntary organisations as grants-in-aid through various departments and ministries in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

There are many governmental and semi or quasi-governmental agencies like the National Children's fund, the Central Social Welfare Board, the Family Planning Associations of India, CAPART, etc. provide funding for voluntary efforts.





At the local level, funds are provided largely through the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs), Zilla Parishads, Panchayati Raj Institutions, etc. The Govt funding to the voluntary sector is many times larger than what they get from external sources. For example, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had supported 2,100 voluntary organisations in the country and had released around 1,800 million rupees during 1999- 2000, as against 1,110 million rupees in the year 1998-99. At present the total funding by Govt of India is estimated to cross about 10 billion rupees, which was just Rs. 1,500 million during the Seventh Five Year Plan period.

It will not be possible for the nation though to overlook the good work that NGOs have executed over a long period of time. The ASHA workers, polio eradication, TB, and leprosy control could not be achieved without NPO piloting and implementing it on the ground. Innovative and groundbreaking work in rehabilitation such as the 'Jaipur Foot', Watersheds, microfinance, livelihoods, Innovation, etc. have been led by non-profits across the country. Their contribution to the field of disaster and humanitarian assistance has been much appreciated by one and all including the government. The government especially during such national calamities waives off the FCRA for a certain limited period and allows foreign NGOs and aid agencies to freely bring aid and help people at large. This happened during the Gujarat earthquake in 2001 and the Tsunami in South India in 2004.

The NPOs' contribution to major policy and democratic reform - particularly in the formulation of the Right to Information (RTI), Right to Education (RTE), and MGNREGA (national rural employment Programme, JNNURM (urban renewal programme), and shaping policies on anti-corruption issues cannot be ignored or overlooked. They have done innovative work for society and the community. Despite the external environment, the sector is growing, and many young people are joining the sector and creating new startups and also going to remote areas, working in the public interest.

There must now be a fair and level playing field and a new regulatory system to incentivize NPOs. Those found guilty of acts that are forbidden by the laws of the land can be tried under established legal systems. The debate in changing times today should not be about the regulation of NGOs by the government nor about voluntary adherence to rules by NGOs the debate rather should center around what constitutes a good action. It is imperative that the good work and great contribution of civil society to the nation are acknowledged, and highlighted and an 'Ease of doing Good' index is established alongside the "Ease of doing Business" index and estimated annually. This narrative is of the significant contribution of NPOs/CSOs in all sectors of building the nation over 75 years.





Many Countries have tried to create a comparative database of the non-profit sector backed by the UN Statistics Division. The focus has been on creating non-profit satellite accounts as part of the UN system of National Accounts, the official international system of collecting and reporting economic statistics. Many Countries have tried to create a comparative database of the non-profit sector backed by the UN Statistics Division. The focus has been on creating non-profit satellite accounts as part of the UN system of National Accounts, the official international system of collecting and reporting economic statistics.

The first few countries to complete satellite accounts show the following results for the contribution of non-profit institutions to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). please see the Table below.

Country	Non-Profit Contribution to GDP	Research year
Canada	8.1	2008
Israel	7.1	2007
Mozambique	6.7	2003
United States	6.6	2009
Belgium	5.8	2008
Japan	5.2	2004
Brazil	3.4	2002
Kyrgyzstan	2.3	2008
France	4.7	2002

SOURCE: SALAMON, 2010



India was unable to complete this until 2013 when MOSPI completed the survey and released the report in 2014 and released the satellite accounts of the Non profit institutions (NPIs) in the country.

India completed its survey and indicated there are 3.17 million non profit institutions and involve as many as 19.2 million people, many of whom work on a voluntary basis (MOSPI report). This is equivalent to 2.7 million paid employees and 3.4 million full-time volunteers, a total of 6.1million which is considerable in India as 50 % of them are sole breadwinners.

During COVID in 2020 and the large migrant population stranded in several parts of the country with the sudden lockdown, it was seen that civil society was in the forefront of providing relief and humanitarian support to millions of migrants . Food relief, helping them travel back to the villages where they came from, providing medical aid and community kitchens. Some Civil society organisations became active across the country and organised medical camps, supplied oxygen cylinders and oxygen Concentrators. In some cases transported patients to hospitals and even volunteered to perform the last rites in many cases.

We realised that civil society was everywhere in action and it was the biggest Humanitarian Action in the 75 years of independent India. The contribution of the sector needed to be measured to determine the extent, role and positive value to society, and reaching the unreached.

The value of civil society work has contributed significantly over the years in education, health, livelihoods, skill development, disability, women's development and arts and culture. This study has tried to look at the various sectors of civil society and their contribution.

The international classification of Nonprofit Institutions called the ICNPO classification agreed by the UN has been used. It is also called the UN classification.

The research points towards increasing potential for Civil society organisations getting positive outcome on all sustainable development goals (SDG's) working in partnership with governments by 2030.

The bulk of the reports showed that many civil society organisations worked in all fields of education from early childhood education, primary education and secondary education, teacher training etc. Their contribution to nation building of the next generation is critical, commendable.





TRENDS IN CIVIL SOCIETY WORK

In India, the civil society work has been substantially involved with vision and commitment

- Nonprofit organisations have continued with grassroot innovation and moved to deep tech innovation
- The penetration of these innovations, analysts have pointed to positive trends during the pandemic that have changed
- The pandemic accelerated the adoption of digital medium
- Migrants and the lockdown highlighted the positive contribution of civil society
- Social media has been another frontier for respondents that COVID-19 has helped forge a path towards, with it being used by respondents to shore up their social media engagement and community building, and increased communication and fundraising
- There have been several technology start-ups centred around health tech, agriculture and farmer producer organisations – as a spin off from the Federation of self-help groups

PERCEPTIONS OF INDIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

- There is a lack of awareness of what civil society does across the country in remote corner and causes
- They work in many sectors at the grassroots and are highly innovative and low cost.
- The majority of the sector is small and people centred working with passion and commitment.
- India's strong tradition of voluntarism and shramdaan has helped many organisations involved in MNREGA and watershed programmes to scale up considerably.
- On some occasions, the media has tended to project negative stories on civil society organisations.
- The focus on positive impacts of our work during COVID ignored.
- Some Indian states, however have been very supportive of the voluntary sector especially in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan





SECTOR GAPS AND NEEDS

Regulation on Tax exemption: The charitable policy in the Income Tax Act of 1961 has been not implemented in a proper fashion with changes/amendments in Section 2 (15) of the Income Tax Act

The FCRA has been amended several times to make it tighter, more paperwork, no level playing field with either political parties or business

Skill training and NSDC: The opportunity to upskill for civil society training agencies is equally fraught with systemic challenges stemming from the nature of skill trainings being funded and the limited room for professional opportunities for civil society vocational schools

Even though the NIRD conducts annual training workshops for trainers in National Rural Livelihoods, the outcomes of these workshops are unknown. The training of Community Resource Persons (CRP's) leave them half trained and thereby livelihoods and jobs are still half done

Challenges in regulation include lack of government support for promoting Indian civil society (despite recent efforts by Niti Ayog during COVID) and lack of any proper enabling atmosphere as promised in the National Voluntary Sector Policy.

While there seem to exist multiple courses on social work and many social work colleges, their curriculum needs updating and upgradation. Recommended well-known NGO related courses in India include:

- Tata Institute of Social Sciences
- Gandhigram University- Madurai
- IRMA, Anand
- ISDM, Noida
- Indira Gandhi National Open University (PG Diploma in Rural development)
- Social Work Colleges in several states





MARKETING

Skills required for fundraising to local philanthropies and CSR foundations include:

- Negotiating skills: For projecting their programmes to foundations and CSR oriented companies
- Impact presentations: Advance information (AI) sheets, catalogues, brochures and the potential for impact fundraising

A significant area of concern is the lack of a civil society associations for voluntary and nonprofit association workers that could engage in advocacy such as a FICCI, CII

The lack of social security for those who have dedicated their lives for public causes, the inability to pay minimum wages due to a resource crunch, housing, health support, etc.





**NON PROFIT
SECTOR STUDY**





INTRODUCTION & PRECEDENCE

India's voluntary sector / NGOs as they are popularly known, has emerged from the nation's strong traditions of voluntary work (Shram dan) and contributions of philanthropy in education (vidya dan). In 1860, the then colonial administration wished to regulate civil society and implemented the Societies Registration Act 1860 stipulating groups with seven or more members be registered and The Trusts Act 1882. These Acts continue to not just exist but are the only legislations governing the sector, even after a century and 75 years after independence apart from the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950.

The CAF India study at the turn of the millennium in 2000 surveyed 2000 voluntary agencies along with the Planning Commission established the dimensions of the sector and their contribution to all sectors of the national economy. It also identified a system of accreditation for the sector and for the first time a validated database of the sector. The number of voluntary agencies in the last five decades in 2001 was over 1.2 million (PRIA – John Hopkins study, 2001). PRIA gave the first estimate of the size of the sector which is a million plus strong. The voluntary sector is very large, varied and encompasses different ideologies from Gandhian to Marxian thought.

Some agencies work in remote areas of India, bringing relief and succour to millions, while others concentrate on articulating the rights of the poor in order to reduce exploitation from vested interests, from exploitative systems, others work in areas such as policy, Juvenile Justice, Right to Information, access to entitlements, Art and Culture, heritage, etc.

In 2010 the Secretary, Dr Pranob Sen, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation had carried out a national survey and estimated that there were approximately 3.2 million nonprofit organisations in the country (MOSPI survey 2013). The report drew on an ambitious survey implemented in two phases. In the first phase, a comprehensive list of societies was prepared from the Registrar of Societies in each state; the second phase involved physical verification of these societies, collection of financial and employment data.





BACKGROUND

The first phase of the survey identified about 3.17 million NPIs registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, and the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950. As many as 58.7 percent of these were in rural areas. The majority of NPIs were engaged in community, social and personal services, cultural services, education, and health services. Subsequently, in the second phase, these listed societies were physically surveyed. Nearly 2.2 million societies, around 71 per cent of the registered societies were visited, however the final survey results were obtained for just 694,000, or 22 per cent.

Despite these limitations, the report sheds much-needed light on this sector. Three activities - social services (37 percent), education and research (24 per cent), and culture and recreation (15 percent) - account for 76 per cent of the traced societies. The number of non-profit organisations reporting religion as their primary activity is surprisingly low - less than five per cent (down from 18.4 per cent in 1970). Nearly 80 per cent of the traced societies were formed after 1990, and just three per cent before 1970. The total workforce - 18.2 million workers - exceeds the entire public sector workforce. However, only 2.7 million are paid workers (the rest are volunteers). Surprisingly, female workers in these societies make up just 28 per cent, not much higher than in the non-agriculture workforce in general. Statistically it is a large number but the work they contribute to the country is vast, extensive and significant.

A number of new initiatives emerged from NGOs in the late 1970s. They engaged in more focused work with target groups - landless labourers, tribals, small farmers, women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, dalits (untouchables), etc. NGOs grew in number and scope, and they began to specialise in certain aspects, such as health, agriculture, education, literacy. This period saw the growth of voluntary action at other levels: resource centres and support organisations specialising in training, research, advocacy, documentation, legal aid, etc. Issues such as women's development, the environment, forestry, and so on, began to gain significance. The work of NGOs also began to be organised around issues and campaigns related to droughts, floods, deforestation, bonded labour, housing rights, water, pollution, etc. The recognition and visibility of the work of NGOs increased during this period.

A more professional approach to development characterised the work of NGOs from the 1990s onwards led by organisations such as PRADAN, etc. Trained social workers from different academic institutions started joining the non-governmental sector, as did young professionals from engineering, medicine, service, management, accountancy and so on. They regarded the non-governmental sector as a profession and tried to find ways to match a career with their social commitment. CSOs have been accountable to the communities and donors and have been influential in having their communities to question them.





PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

The right to information has been there from the days of Mahatma Gandhi, but civil society took this issue to great lengths to reduce corruption in public works by bringing in a “right to information” Bill and Act to improve public life and promote transparency. MKSS in Bhim, Rajasthan under the leadership of Aruna Roy were able to take positive action in making this a public law in India.

CSOs rely on public funds for the work that they undertake, whether it is in the form of donations from individuals & corporates, grants from foundations, or CSR grants from companies under CSR programmes. It is essential for CSOs to build their credibility for the work that they do, as the consequences of any adverse impact on their credibility could be disastrous impacting their ability to garner funds for their future activities.

It is natural that questions are asked about who funds CSOs. Often CSOs acknowledge that they need to be transparent regarding the funds rec'd by the Sector and how these are utilised, since such transparency will also eliminate uninformed and unsubstantiated charges that the non-profits mis-utilise funds.

Several persons from the Sector itself acknowledge that lack of a well-publicised framework of transparency and accountability in the long-run harms the Sector, as the government uses such excuses to bring in provisions which ultimately stifles the work of civil society. Responsibility for addressing such criticisms lies with the CSOs itself.

In India, the Sector debated these concerns for 2 years, and responded by promoting Credibility Alliance (CA) in 2004, which developed Accreditation Norms for CSOs. At present CA's website claims that over 1000 organisations have been accredited, indicating establishment of an accreditation process for CSOs. This mechanism of accreditation needs to be encouraged and further strengthened. One also needs to critically assess its contribution considering the size of the Civil Society Sector in India and evaluate how it can be rolled out more widely across the Sector. GuideStar India which carried out the survey mapping the sector is the first transparent database of the civil society sector.





PAST EFFORTS IN MAINTAINING ACCOUNTABILITY

Historically accountability has been mostly conceived in economic / financial terms, mainly from the point of donors that if the money has been spent as expected by the donors, accountability is achieved. Other aspects of accountability have so far been heavily influenced by government controls, that is preparing financial statements to file returns. This meant that accountability was merely reduced to an administrative and legislative task. To gain the confidence of stakeholders, CSOs have been working on improving their processes and mechanisms of accountability. Some of these mechanisms can be summarised as below.

- Adoption of high standards & policies: Organisations have been adopting ethical code of conduct through a set of values, norms and standards. Many organisations follow high standard policies such as Conflict of Interest, Whistleblowing policies, etc. to indicate their set high ethical standards. Many follow self-regulation standards jointly developed with and by civil society actors.
- Governing boards includes independent individuals with experience and integrity to guard and advise in the best interest of the organisation. They ensure proper mechanisms in place to guard the sanctity of mechanisms put in place to maintain high standards of the organisation.
- Standards for disclosure and public reporting aim to democratise information about an organisation's finances, activities, programmatic learning and impact, governance and more through external evaluations, annual reports, disclosure of information to maintain high standards of public reporting.
- Consultative and participatory mechanisms with community and local stakeholders and "Jan sunwai" in many villages where CSO's work.
- However many of the above mechanisms while maintaining high standards of conduct in public and complying with various public postures do not necessarily achieve accountability of the desired levels.





NON PROFIT SECTOR SURVEY 2022-23

A REPORT ON PRELIMINARY RESULTS



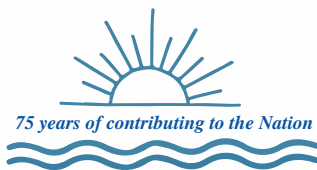


CONTEXT

To understand the contribution of the nonprofit sector, it is vital to know the size and composition of the sector, the breadth of activities that nonprofits engage in and the various dimensions of socio-cultural and economic life they influence. Over the years, various estimates have been put forth by government agencies for the number of nonprofits in the country, primarily due to definitional issues. The largest exercise to map nonprofit institutions was undertaken by the Central Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) in 2012. It was conducted in two phases. MOSPI put out a number of 31.64 Lakh nonprofit institutions/ organization (NPIs or NPOs) based on registration records until 2008. Subsequently in an effort to know the number of live organizations as a part of phase 2 of the MOSPI study in 2009-10, a physical exercise was conducted and 6.94 Lakh NPOs were traced. Since then, there has been no similar exercise to estimate the number of NPOs.

NITI Aayog's directory of NPOs called NGO Darpan has a list of 1.5 Lakh NPOs (as of October 2022), after removing duplicate records and entities like co-operatives. The Income Tax Department released a list of NPOs with tax exemption and tax deduction as of November 2022. This has 2.52 Lakh tax exempt NPOs of which 1.64 Lakh NPOs have valid registration to offer tax deductions to donors. As per the dashboard of FCRA division of the Ministry of Home Affairs that regulates NPOs receiving foreign contributions, in January 2023, there are 16508 NPOs with active status and 12,947 deemed expired. GuideStar India, the information repository of NPOs where NPOs voluntarily register, features 11,500 NPOs as of January 2023.





SURVEY OBJECTIVES

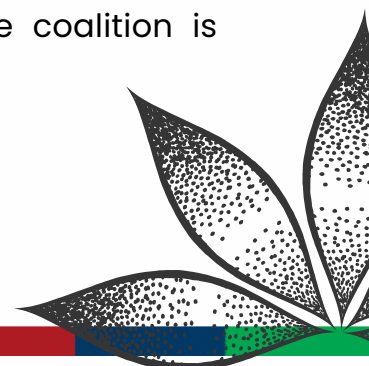
Given the paucity of secondary data about NPOs, to learn about the current state of the nonprofit sector, CSO Coalition@75 decided to conduct a cross-sectional study of nonprofit organisations working in different geographies and across diverse sets of activities through a primary survey. The survey data would allow developing a sector-wide understanding of practices and priorities. The aim is to examine associations between organisational characteristics and various dimensions captured in the survey to develop a more granular understanding of the sector. The data would also be useful in the creation of sector specific reports.

Owing to logistical constraints, as MOSPI does not provide the details of the surveyed organisations, the survey cannot reach out to all the nonprofits, and hence a sampling strategy was developed for the purposes of this study. Since, the MOSPI study is the largest exercise in mapping the sector, it serves as a benchmark. However, as the MOSPI report does not provide the identifier details of the surveyed organisations, the list of nonprofits from NGO Darpan, which is the largest government directory of nonprofits was referenced.

DATA AND METHODS

An online survey was designed to capture the organisational details, size, reach and scope of activities, contribution to UN SDGs, governance, accountability and employment. Further, it also had questions to capture the qualitative dimensions of the work of nonprofits.

The survey was anchored by GuideStar India and the outreach was a combined effort of all the coalition partners. The survey was emailed directly by GuideStar India to 1.55 Lakh organisations and the combined reach of the coalition is estimated to be about 2 Lakh NPOs.





The survey was conducted in English with translation support in Hindi. Webinars and workshops were conducted through networks of nonprofits and follow up calls, email reminders and call support was provided. NPOs took about 2 hours to complete the survey, with additional time spent on internal data gathering. Phase 1 of the NPO survey was open from September to December 2022. While over 1000 responses were received, these were validated for unique records of NPOs based on Income Tax PAN. 851 records were taken up for analysis. Data validations were done for registration status as regards tax exemption, tax deduction and FCRA registration, using publicly available data on the IT and FCRA portals. Outlier data points were cross checked on the GuideStar India profile of NPOs, websites of NPOs and through clarificatory calls and emails with respondents.

Given the complexity of the survey, not all organisations have responded to every question. Hence the number of responses used varies for different statistics. To account for this, the relevant sample size (n) is mentioned for each statistic when they vary.

- Limitations of Phase 1 and Plan for Subsequent Phases
 - The sample for the first phase was drawn using convenience sampling. Networks reached out to as many nonprofits as possible for follow-ups. The findings of this phase which are presented here should be read with this cautionary note. It is not intended to extrapolate the results to the overall population of nonprofits on the basis of Phase 1 results.
 - In the subsequent phases of data collection, it is planned to utilise stratified random sampling based on proportional representation of nonprofits geography in the NGO Darpan database. In the subsequent phases (from January to August 2023), the survey will have increased breadth of coverage through stronger outreach at the local level and multilingual survey communication.

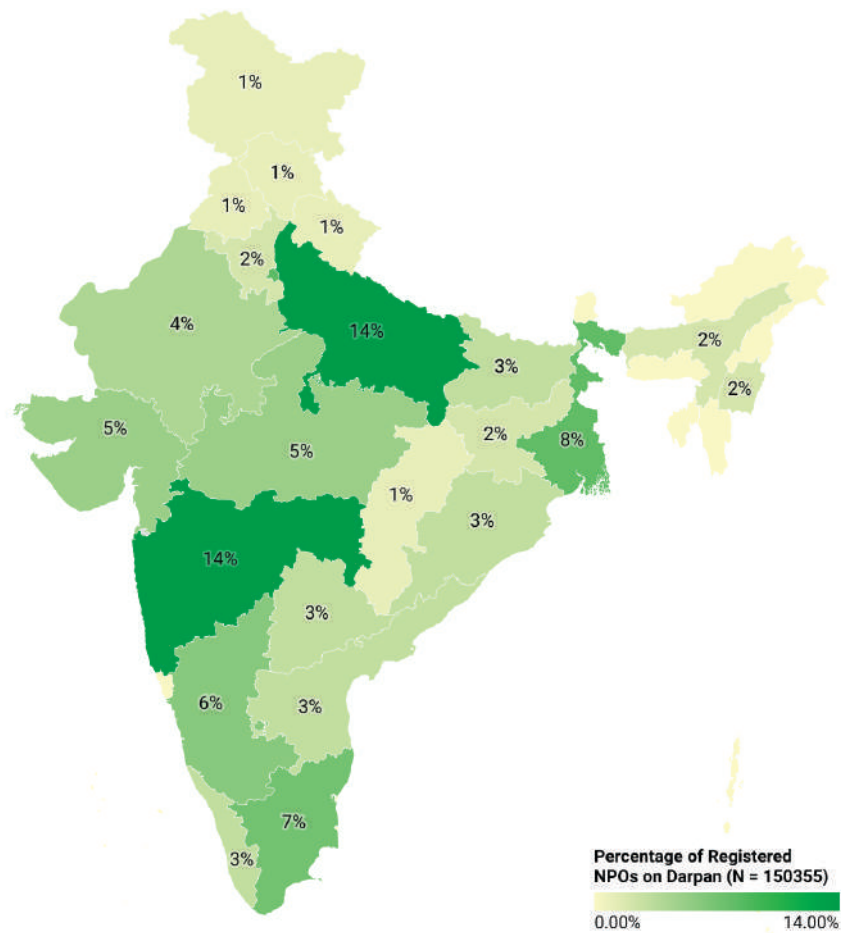




A REPORT BASED ON PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

The total number of validated unique nonprofit responses used for survey analysis in the first phase is 851. Comparing the state of registration of NPOs in our sample with that of NGO Darpan – a database maintained by NITI Aayog – we find that the geographical distribution of our sample broadly corresponds with that of organisations in NGO Darpan (see Figures 1 and 2). Although NGO Darpan database has known limitations, it serves as a useful benchmark as it is the largest directory of information on NPOs. States where the percentage point difference between NGO Darpan and our sample is more than 4 are Uttar Pradesh (which is under-represented) and Tamil Nadu (which is over-represented in our sample).

Figure 1: Geographical distribution of NPOs according to NGO Darpan (n=150355)

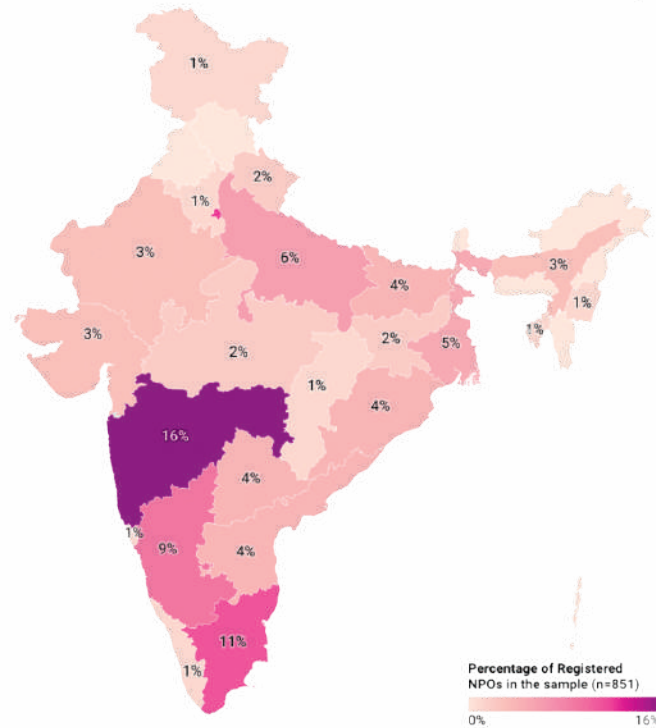


Disclaimer: Map of India may not be to scale and is only for illustration purpose.





Figure 2: Geographical distribution of NPOs in the Sample (n=851)



Disclaimer: Map of India may not be to scale and is only for illustration purpose.

KEY ATTRIBUTES OF SURVEYED ORGANIZATIONS

Geographies of Work

- Regions where NPOs are active:

Predominantly organizations in our survey report Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi as their primary areas of work. These 5 states/regions constitute 50% of our sample (n=642) (see Table 1). 47% of the NPOs in our sample work in only one State, with 31% working in 1-5 states, and the remaining 22% working pan-India (i.e. in more than five states).





Table 1: Geographical Spread of NPOs in decreasing order of their presence in percentage (n=642)

	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Maharashtra	16.04	15.95	16.36
Tamil Nadu	12.15	11.79	11.95
Karnataka	8.72	8.47	8.82
Uttar Pradesh	8.10	8.31	8.27
Delhi (NCT)	6.07	6.15	6.43
West Bengal	5.14	5.15	4.96
Bihar	4.67	4.98	4.96
Andhra Pradesh	4.36	4.49	4.23
Odisha	4.36	4.15	4.23
Rajasthan	4.36	4.65	4.41
Assam	3.89	3.99	3.86
Jharkhand	3.74	3.65	3.49
Gujarat	3.43	3.32	2.94
Telangana	3.43	3.49	3.31
Madhya Pradesh	2.18	2.33	2.57
Chhattisgarh	1.25	1.33	1.47
Uttarakhand	1.25	1.33	1.47
Manipur	0.93	1.00	0.92
Goa	0.78	0.83	0.55
Haryana	0.78	0.83	0.92
Jammu and Kashmir(UT)	0.78	0.83	0.74
Kerala	0.62	0.00	0.00
Tripura	0.47	0.50	0.55
Himachal Pradesh	0.31	0.17	0.18
Mizoram	0.31	0.33	0.37
Punjab	0.31	0.33	0.37

- Aspirational Districts: Aspirational districts are lowest on Human Development Index (HDI), and require significant synergies from businesses, nonprofits and the governments for development in these remote geographies. 54% of the NPOs (n=639) in our sample report work in aspirational districts (see Figure 3). Among those NPOs that responded (n=489), on an average 55% of their work is located in villages (as against metropolitan areas, urban and semi-rural areas).



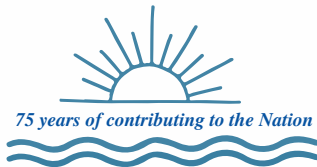


Figure 3: Percentage of NPOs working in Aspirational Districts (n=639)



Chart: GSI • Source: Nonprofit Sector Study, 2022 - 23 • Created with Datawrapper

Activities:

- Nature of Activity: NPOs (n=643) in our sample report working predominantly on implementation, direct charitable support and community-based approaches (see Figure 4). In terms of ICNPO primary classification (n=515), 70% of NPOs in our sample work on social services, 61% on education and research, 54% on health, 34% on environment, 9% on culture and recreation and 8% on development and housing.

Figure 4: Activities undertaken by NPOs (n=643)

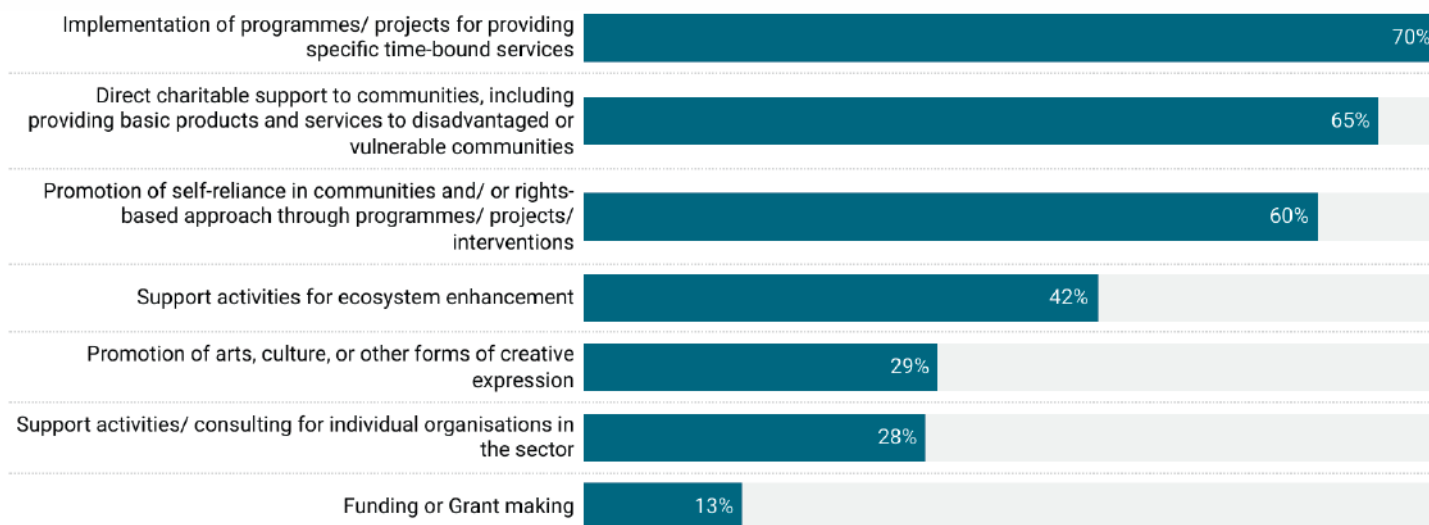


Chart: GSI • Source: Nonprofit Sector Study 2022 - 23 • Created with Datawrapper





- Contribution to SDGs: Among the 17 SDGs, NPOs (n=643) in our sample predominantly work on quality education, good health, no poverty and gender equality (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: Engagement of NPOs with SDGs (n=643)

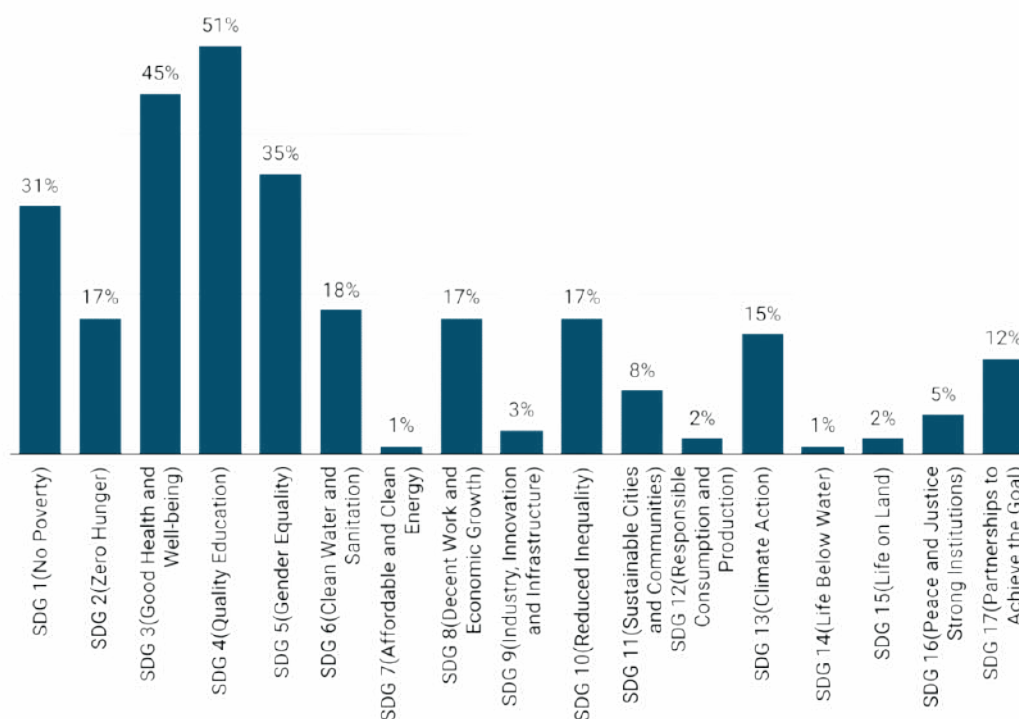


Chart: GSI • Source: Nonprofit Sector Study, 2022 - 23 • Created with Datawrapper

- Communities that NPOs work with: Among the different communities that NPOs work with, more than half of the NPOs (n=594) in our sample report working with women, rural poor, children, youth, students, self-help groups, girl children and NGOs. 94% of the NPOs (n=739) in our sample reported that at least two-thirds (67 percent) of their organisational activities cover target population segments that are under-served or less privileged or live in regions recording lower performance in the development priorities of central or state governments.





Organisational Attributes

- Age:

Over half of the organizations in our sample (n=851) were registered within the last 20 years. While 27% of NPOs are less than 10 years old, 30% are between 10 and 19 years old, 25% of the NPOs are between 20 and 29 years old and lastly only 18% NPOs are more than 30 years old (see Figure 6). As per the MOSPI report, 79% of traced societies were registered post 1990. In our sample, 87% of NPOs are registered after 1990.

Figure 6: Age-wise distribution of Nonprofits in the Sample (n=851)

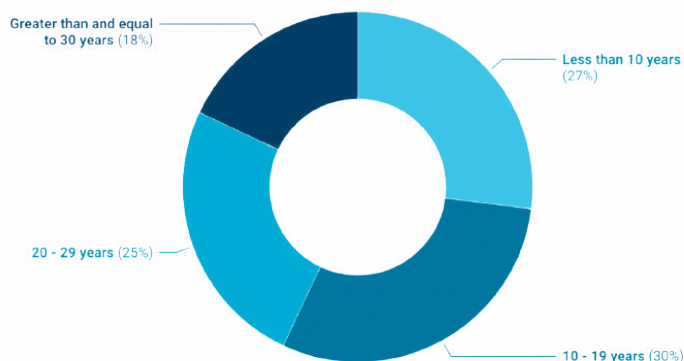


Chart: GSI • Source: Nonprofit Sector Study 2022 - 23 • Created with Datawrapper

- Size:

- Expenditure: Small organizations (annual expenditure less than INR1 Cr) constitute 62% of our sample (n=565), followed by medium-sized organizations (annual expenditure between INR1 Cr and INR5 Cr) at 21% and large organizations (annual expenditure above INR5 Cr) being 17% of the sample (see Figure 7). 26% had annual expenditure of less than INR10 Lakh in 2021-22; 24% had an annual expenditure between INR10-50 Lakh and 12% between INR50 Lakh and INR1 Cr.

Figure 7: Size of NPOs by annual expenditure (n=565).

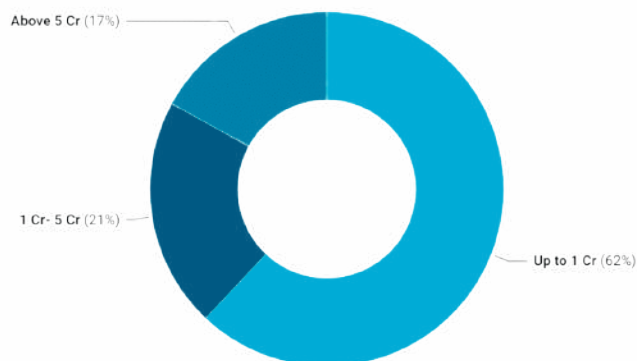


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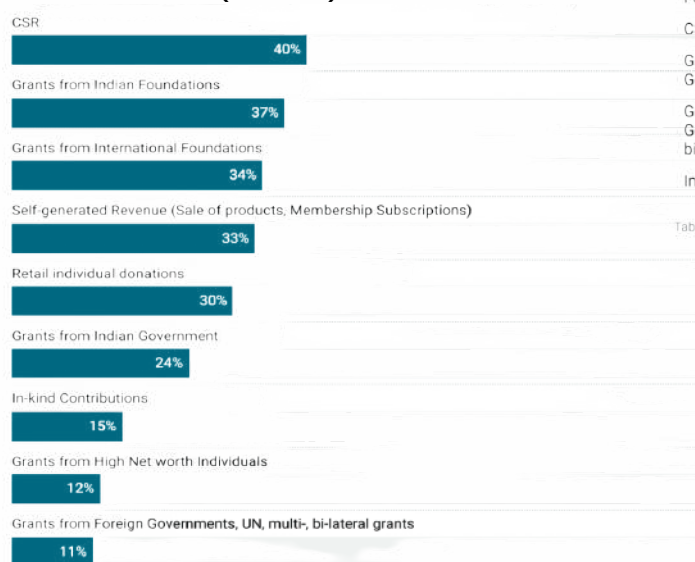
- Organizational Staff: Half the NPOs (n=515) in our sample have 20 or more employees and a volunteer strength of 30 or more.





- Promoters & Registration:
 - Of the total NPOs (n=515) in our sample, 9% are promoted by governments and 6% by professional/trade associations. Only 3% are promoted by businesses, religious organizations and families respectively.
 - 60% of the NPOs (n=515) in our sample are registered as societies, 32% as Trusts and 8% as Section 8 Not-for-Profit Companies. 92% NPOs report 12A/ 12AA/ 12AB as their tax exemption type with only 1% reporting 10(23C) as the tax exemption type. 7% NPOs report no exemption status. 87% NPOs report that their tax exemption certificate is currently valid. Further, 92% NPOs reported 80G as their tax deduction type and 8% reported no tax deduction status. 84% NPOs report that their tax deduction certificate is currently active.

Figure 8: Top Sources of Funds for NPOs (n=515)



- Sources of Funds (n=515):
 - Overall, NPOs in our sample report CSR as their top source of funding, followed by Grants from Indian Foundations and Grants from International Foundations (see Figure 8). Medium and large organizations have reported CSR and Foundations as their predominant sources of revenue. In contrast, smaller organizations more frequently reported relying on self-generated revenue and individual donations (see Figure 9).

Figure 9: Top sources of Funds for NPOs by size (n=515)

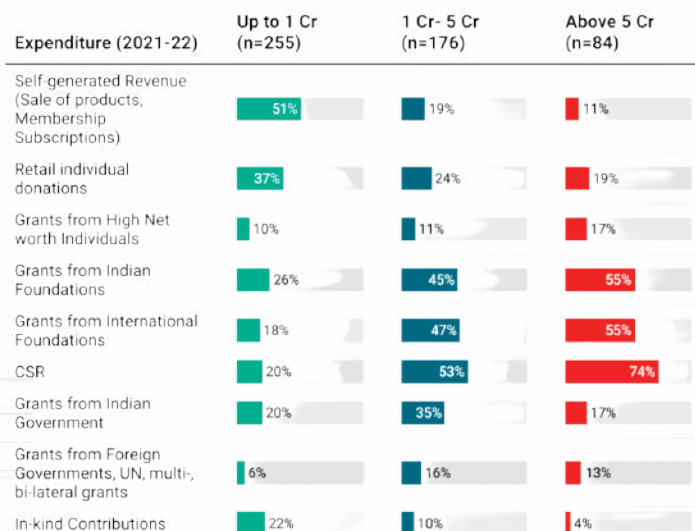


Table 9: GSI - Source: Nonprofit Sector Study, 2022 - 23 - Created with Datawrapper





• FCRA:

NPOs with a FCRA license constitute 54% of our sample (n=565) (see Figure 10). More than 78% of the mid-sized and large organizations in our sample report having a FCRA license. However, only 37% of the small organization have access to foreign funding.

Figure 10: NPOs with a FCRA license (n=565)



Chart: GSI • Source: Nonprofit Sector Study, 2022 - 23 • Created with Datawrapper

Systems of Accountability (n=515):

- While 65% of NPOs in our sample reported that they track directly reached numbers for all of their top three activities, 25% reported that they track directly reached numbers for at least one of their top three activities. Only 11% of NPOs reported that they do not track their reach numbers.
- Internal assessments constituted the primary source for reach numbers for 36% of NPOs in our sample. Project reports constituted as the primary source for 35% NPOs. Only 3% NPOs reported External evaluations as the primary source for their reach numbers. However, 84% NPOs in our sample reported that their reach numbers can be independently verified.
- 84% NPOs reported the availability of Governing Body Details on websites/ other public sources.
- 77% NPOs reported that their audited accounts are prepared, audited and publicly available, 20% reported that the accounts are prepared, audited but not publicly available, 2% reported that the accounts prepared but not audited and 1% reported that accounts are not prepared.





NPOs create local livelihoods, develop skills and promote social mobility (n=515)

- In terms of the contribution to the workforce, the median number of volunteers associated with NPOs in our sample is 30 and that of employees is 20. The median number of people mobilized by NPOs in our sample is 750. NPOs have reported mobilizing 3 Lakh volunteers, employed 60000 people and mobilized 64 Lakh people through SHGs.
- Besides, the number of people they directly create livelihood opportunities for, what should also be noted is the quality, nature and context of these opportunities.
- In geographies that NPOs work with, 47% NPOs report that they are the biggest source of formal employment in more than half of the local geographies (gram panchayats, urban neighborhoods) that they work in.
- 55% NPOs report that more than half of their economic activity is with local business and vendors.
- 67% NPOs report that more than half of their personnel (employees and volunteers) are from communities (geographical or beneficiary community) that they work with.
- On an average, 64% of the NPO employees are the sole breadwinners in their respective families.
- Organizations were asked to rank where the majority of their employees stood in terms of social and economic status and skills (compared to others with similar education and work background) on a scale of 1 to 7, (with 1 being "very poor", 2 "poor" 3 "fair" 4 "good" 5 "very good" 6 "excellent" and 7 being "exceptional") when they start working with you and after working five years with them.





In terms of contributing to the skilling of the workforce, NPOs have reported that on average skills of their employees have moved from fair to very good and excellent after five years of working with them. Moreover, the socio-economic status of their employees has changed from fair to good and very good after five years of working with them (see Figure 11).

- On average, over 50 percent of employees are characterized as having a “fair” or worse socio-economic status when they start. However, this proportion drops to less than 25 percent in five years.
- Likewise, while 40 percent of employees are characterized as having “fair” or worse skills when joining; the proportion drops to less than 10 percent, with the balance being seen as “good” or better in 5 years.

- Coupled with information on the disadvantaged geographies that the organizations work in, the high proportion of locals employed; the sector can be seen as contributing to creation of quality livelihoods and the development of skills among more disadvantaged sections of the society.

Figure 11: Skills and Economic Status of NPO Employees (n=515)

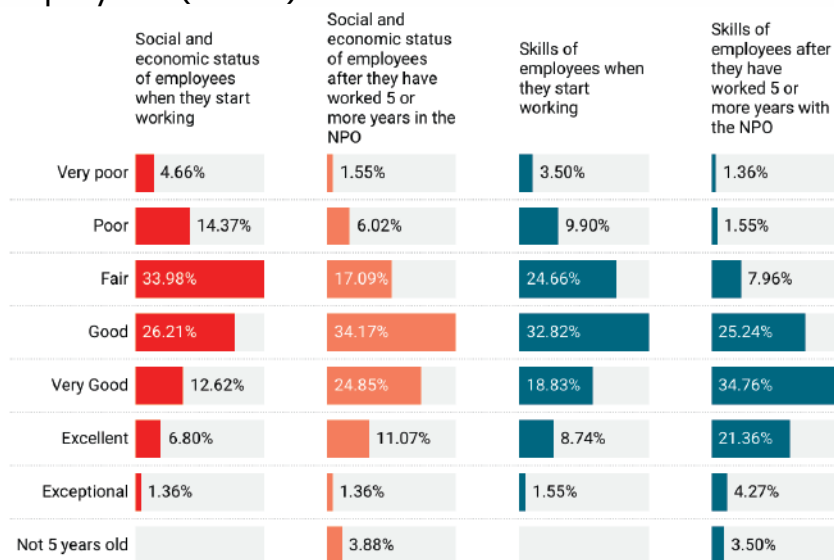


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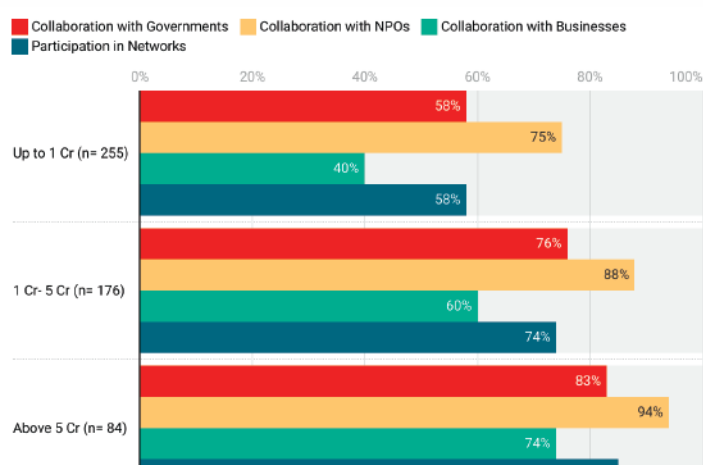
Working in partnerships and collaborations (n=515)

While NPOs in our sample have reported that on an average 65% of their organizational activities are dedicated to bringing about direct change in the lives of the communities they serve, the remaining 35% of their activities are aimed at bringing about ecosystem level changes at the national and international levels. In addition, the work of the NPOs is characterized by high levels of collaborations and working with complementary institutions of the government and even businesses.

- Working together with government bodies: Roughly 57% of NPOs in our sample report working with government schools (average 700 government schools), 53% report working with an Panchayats (average 380 panchayats), 44% report working with anganwadis (average 200 anganwadis), 46% report working with primary health centers (average of 62 PHCs), 52% report working with self-help groups (average 540 SHGs) and 45% report working with municipalities (average 130 municipalities).
- Collaborating within and across sectors: Collaborations with other NPOs are common across all sizes of nonprofits. While for larger organizations participation in networks is predominant choice of working together, for small and medium NPOs collaborations with governments are more common (see Figure 12).

- Purpose of Collaboration: The primary purpose of collaborations with governments was reported as funding and improving service delivery by 35% of NPOs in our sample. 26% NPOs reported that they collaborate with governments to help them in achieving scale for impact.
- 37% NPOs reported funding and 19% capacity building of staff as primary motivations for collaborating with businesses.
- The primary motivations for collaboration with other NPOs included capacity building of staff (48%), improving service delivery (46%), knowledge production (39%) and achieving scale (38%).

Figure 12: Percentage of NPOs engaged in collaborations (n=515)





Recent Trends

- In the last five years, 58% NPOs (n=515) have reported that their annual budget sizes have increased, 22% reported a decrease in the number and 20% reported that the numbers have stayed the same. In terms of sources of funding too, 56% reported that the number of sources has increased in the last five years, with 22% reporting they stayed the same and 22% suggesting the number of sources have decreased.
- 78% NPOs (n=515) reported that their reach numbers have increased in the last five years, and only 8% reported that these numbers have come down during the same period.
- Influence of Pandemic
 - Roughly 65% of the small and mid-size NPOs have reported some form of losses due to COVID-19, whereas 55% of the larger organizations have reported the same (see Table 2).
 - In the aftermath of COVID-19, 45% NPOs reported that their reach numbers increased and 28% reported that these in fact decreased during and after the pandemic.
 - Roughly half of the NPOs (48%) reported attrition in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Table 2: Loss of Income due to COVID-19 (n=515)

	No loss at all	Upto Rs10 Lac	Rs10 Lac - Rs1 Cr	Rs1 Cr - Rs10 Cr	More than Rs10 Cr	Total
Up to 1 Cr	37%	42%	18%	2%	1%	255
1 Cr- 5 Cr	34%	15%	43%	8%	1%	176
Above 5 Cr	45%	6%	19%	26%	4%	84

- Increased efficacy in the last 15 years

Among respondent NPOs that were registered on or before 2007 (n=312), more than half have reported an increase in: their ability to achieve impact, to collaborate with other organizations, to work on causes that they consider to be most important, to work with the most disadvantaged/groups needing attention and clarity, consistency, timeliness of interactions with regulators.

The GuideStar India team implemented outreach activities through mailers, webinars and workshops, as well as managed data gathering, de-duplication, validations and reporting. The survey design and analysis were guided by the IIM Ahmedabad Research team led by Prof. Ankur Sarin and supported by Bikalp Chamola, Doctoral Student, Public Systems Group, IIM Ahmedabad.

We thank every NPO that participated in the NPO Survey. Our sincere acknowledgement to all the CSO Coalition@75 partners and other partners like BPA, CASA, CFAR, Goonj, Janpath that hosted meetings.



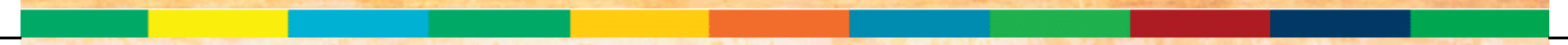


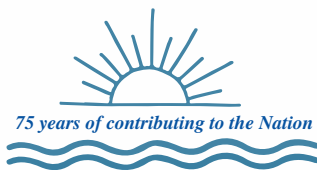
A THREEFOLD GROWTH STORY

THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN INDIA'S
SOCIAL JUSTICE, EDUCATION & HEALTH SECTORS



Authored by Kasturi Gandhi, Pratyaksha Jha and Ami Misra
with inputs from Sampath Vemulapati and Deval Sanghavi





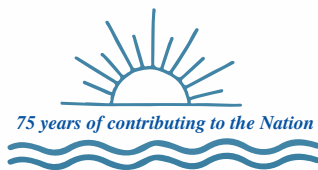
FOREWORD | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY-SECTORS

Dasra has compiled three reports to reflect on the efforts of civil society across the themes of social justice, education, and health since 1947. These reports shine a light on key interventions by organizations, policy shifts, and on ground impact across diverse landscapes and timeframes. This executive summary is a glimpse into the past 75 years – the context and civil society interventions that shaped India's growth story.

India at 75 – our struggle for Independence, selfhood, milestones, and emerging as one of the top economies in the world – is a collective effort. Civil society organizations (CSOs), often regarded as a “third” sector, have always been at the frontline of this collective effort: as partners, service providers, facilitators, and torchbearers consistently shining the light on what is fundamental to the idea of India. Starting with the First Five Year Plan, the government emphasized on the involvement of CSOs in realizing progress, stating that “any plan for social and economic regeneration should take into account the services rendered by these agencies and the state should give them maximum cooperation in strengthening their efforts.”

Five-year plans may have run their course, but the government's think tank, the NITI Aayog, continues to consult with the civil society through the NGO Darpan portal and several other consultative processes on the national development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. G20 Sherpa and former CEO of the NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, acknowledging the productive and creative role of the sector in India's development story has said, “India's philanthropy and civil society, noted for its vibrancy, innovation and advocacy, is an important nation building partner for the government.”





Echoing this ethos, this report recognizes and celebrates CSOs as important actors in the development ecosystem. We spotlight the especially important role CSOs have played in sectors that have the most direct impact on the lived experiences of citizens, focusing on themes of social justice, education, and health – cornerstones of the social contract. Across the three reports, we have followed a structure that provides a perspective on decadal milestones and key civil society intervention models that continue to offer good practices for the country's growth. We have also touched upon the collaborations, processes, and institution building work undertaken by CSOs. In our summary on social justice, we focus on landmark judgements through the decades and analyze key practices that strengthened citizens' access to the judicial system. Next, we prioritize milestones of India's education sector since 1947, alongside the social workers and organizations who contributed to their success. Finally, for the health sector, we map the role of civil society in delivering health services and resources, acting as a supporting institution for the government, or simply carrying people's voices and stories to policymakers and the world at large.

Undertaking archival research on the multi-fold decadal milestones has reiterated the strong partnership among different stakeholders and underscored how critical this partnership is for our present and future. This exercise has helped us learn that CSOs have worked closely with all three branches of the state – legislature, executive, and judiciary – resulting in tangible outcomes such as policy reform, service delivery models, behavior change, and judicial precedents for India's most vulnerable communities and individuals. The underlying theme revealed through our research is the collective ability of CSOs to transcend geography and time, while remaining firmly rooted to the ground in their service for India's diverse billions.





SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

“The economics of poverty affects the receipt and delivery of justice. Democratic India has tried to tackle this very knotty issue from the bottom up.”

– Aruna Roy, Co-founder of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan

Social justice in the context of India borrows from constitutional and Ambedkarite values that secure **social, economic and political justice, along with liberty, equality and fraternity** for all its citizens. Equality, legal aid, living wages for all, good health and environment, and education are some social justice provisions featured in the Constitution's Directive Principles of State Policy. The underpinnings of the term social justice in this section emphasize on the equal right of all citizens towards meeting their basic needs and accessing opportunities, while eliminating unjustified inequalities, hierarchies, and discriminatory practice.

In India, although the government has the chief mandate of ensuring social justice through its policies, several social action groups – consisting of the judiciary, media, and civil society – have been instrumental in realizing and solidifying key principles of social justice in the Indian setting. Together, these actors have helped contextualize India's social justice sector into the following thematic areas:

1. Social justice movements for creating recognition, awareness, and advocacy
2. Social action litigation towards juristic activism and adjudication in India's highest court
3. Partnerships for social justice via community associations, media, and rehabilitation
4. Access to justice by facilitating redressal, reform, and enforcement

MILESTONES, INTERVENTIONS AND CSOS IN SOCIAL JUSTICE

The table below lists key milestones in India's social justice sector since 1947, alongside the social workers and organizations who contributed to them.





TABLE 1: SOCIAL JUSTICE MILESTONES IN INDIA AND THE CSO SECTOR

Milestone	Civil Society Contribution
1950: The first free speech challenge by civil society and landmark ruling by the Supreme Court of India to uphold the Constitution of India	When “ Crossroads ”, an English journal by journalist Romesh Thapar, was banned in Madras due to its political commentary and critique, Thapar appealed to the Supreme Court. The court upheld his Freedom of Speech and Expression, striking down the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act (1949).
1977: Precedent set for poor workers to directly approach the Supreme Court of India, expanding the Right to Live with Fundamental Human Dignity	People’s Union for Democratic Rights , a CSO working for the protection of democratic rights, spotlighted the exploitation and living conditions of workmen working for the Asian Games to be held in India, in a writ petition.
1979: The genesis of the Public Interest Litigation (PIL), right to speedy trials, and upholding the Fundamental Right to Life and Liberty	Based on The Indian Express’s series of articles about languishing undertrial prisoners in Bihar, Supreme Court advocate Kapila Hingorani filed a writ petition. This, together with GK Rustom’s reporting on undertrial prisoners, led to the formulation of PILs and the immediate release of 40,000 languishing prisoners all over India.
1985: Landmark judgement that led to the inclusion of the Right to Livelihood under the purview of Right to Life	Petitions by the Peoples’ Union of Civil Liberties , the Committee for the Protection of Democratic Rights , and civil society actors like Olga Tellis , Indira Jaisingh , and Prafulla Chandra Bidwai helped spotlight the rights of pavement dwellers in Mumbai, the State’s duty to provide them with housing sites close to their workspaces, and their experiences of forced evictions.
1987: The first conviction in the country under the Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act	To obtain redressal for bonded agricultural laborers in Maharashtra, Shramjivi Sanghatana , a social organization, mobilized 300 bonded laborers into registering complaints against the exploitative landlords with local authorities. This led to the first conviction in the country under the Bonded Labour (Abolition) Act.
1980s: The emergence of post-Emergency lawyer led social justice groups enabling legal recourse against oppression, violence, and torture	Three principal groups of this decade include the Citizens for Democracy (CFD) , the People's Union of Civil Liberties , and the People's Union for Democratic Rights . Their work spanned prison reform, conflict resolution and peace building in the context of the North East, and riots of 1984, among others.
1990s: International spotlight on environmental and rehabilitation issues due to big dams, and the	The Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) mobilized 250,000 people who faced submergence during the construction of big dams along the Narmada River. The organization's biggest triumph was in 1993, when the World Bank withdrew its



people most affected by such projects in India	Narmada loan and published an independent review of the project.
1990s: A series of initiatives across the country using human rights fact findings, reports of fact findings leading to court interventions and public hearings across the country	Initiatives in fact findings were undertaken by organizations such as Human Rights Law Network, People's Watch and several others. Popularization of public hearings/people's tribunals undertaken across the country through bodies such as the Indian People's Tribunal led by retired judges investigating a variety of human rights themes.
1990s: The first all rural women run news bulletin is launched in Madhya Pradesh	Mahila Dakiya , succeeded by Khabar Lahariya , was then India's only women-run ethical and independent rural news brand. It resulted from a government literacy initiative, Mahila Samikhya Program, and was set up with support from Nirantar Trust , a Delhi-based centre for Gender and Education.
1997: A PIL by women's rights activists results in the creation of the 'Vishaka guidelines'	The petitioners in <i>Vishaka and Ors v State of Rajasthan</i> were a coalition of women's rights organizations and activists led by Sakshi , an NGO working against sexual violence in India. In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court instituted a set of definitions and guidelines against sexual harassment at the workplace, also laying the foundation of current laws.
1997: The Supreme Court issues welfare directives for children under the age of 14 to be protected from participation in labor	Bandhua Mukti Morcha , an organization working to abolish bonded labor in India, filed a PIL in 1997 against the exploitation of children employed in the carpet industry in Uttar Pradesh. The ensuing judgment directed the state to stop the employment of children in this industry, and further provided directives to prevent child labor and increase children's access to health and education facilities.
2001: The Right to Food case creates pathbreaking imperatives for food policy in India	In 2001, in the aftermath of severe drought and famine in Rajasthan, a network of civil society organizations and activists known as the Right to Food Campaign moved the Supreme Court. <i>People's Union for Civil Liberties v Union of India</i> culminated in the court directing states to lift the food grains allotted to them by the Central government and disburse them in accordance with existing schemes. In 2002, the court also appointed two former bureaucrats as food commissioners to oversee the implementation of this order.
2002: Landmark judgment requiring electoral candidates to disclose their criminal record, financial background, and educational background	Association for Democratic Reforms , a non-profit working on electoral reforms in India, petitioned about voters' right to more information about the backgrounds of electoral candidates in 1999. Three years later, the Supreme Court directed that the Election Commission of India must seek information about criminal records, financial assets, and educational qualifications of all candidates contesting elections to the Parliament or state legislatures. In 2003,



	legislation was passed making it mandatory for electoral candidates to share their criminal records, but not their financial or educational backgrounds. However, the Supreme Court reverted this back to the original precedent.
2010: India sets up the National Green Tribunal (NGT) – a specialized judicial body adjudicating environmental cases in the country	Discussions at the NGT showed the active collaboration between environmental NPOs and environmental advocates , who were simultaneously attorneys and environmental activists. Outside the courts, some of these lawyers were associated with national and international environmental initiatives to promote better legal access to justice and environmental protection.
2014: The NGT recognizes the environmental rights of non-citizen residents of India	Betty Alvares , a resident of Goa, filed a High Court petition in 2012 claiming instances of illegal construction in the Coastal Regulation Zone of Candolim. The petition was transferred to the National Green Tribunal, which examined if Alvares had <i>locus standi</i> to petition the court as a foreign national. In a landmark judgment, the Tribunal declared in 2014 that any individual could file a petition linked to environmental disputes, irrespective of nationality and citizenship.
2014: Supreme Court sets up a Social Justice Bench to hear cases concerning socially marginalized groups	The bench heard cases on issues such as rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits, exploitation of children in orphanages in Tamil Nadu, monitoring of rehabilitation of those impacted by the construction of the Sardar Sarovar dam, monitoring of the Nirbhaya Fund and the fund for rehabilitation of Devdasis in Karnataka – each of these was represented by CSOs like MASS, NBA, We the Citizens , among others.
2014: Supreme Court verdict on regulation of hate speech in the 2014 Pravasi Bhalai Sangthan versus Union of India judgment to protect of marginalized communities	The Center for Justice & Peace (CJP) launched a program to counter hate speech, especially that focused on religious minorities, Dalits, Adivasis, Women, Children and LGBTQIA+ and continues to work on various social justice and peace issues.
2016: The Save Mon Region Federation judgment addresses the overlap between indigenous, cultural, and environmental rights	The Save Mon Region Federation , an organization representing the indigenous Monpa community in Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang region, petitioned the NGT against a hydroelectric project on the Naymjang Chhu river basin. The petition challenged the environmental clearance granted to the project due to its location in an eco-sensitive stretch. This stretch was a wintering site for the endangered, black-necked crane, which is revered by the Monpas. The Tribunal held that the project must be halted while a fresh environmental review is undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, keeping in mind this cultural context.



<p>2016: PIL on the rights of senior citizens examines government schemes and programs for the elderly</p>	<p>Former Union Minister Dr. Ashwani Kumar moved the Supreme Court in 2016 with a plea for the protection of elderly citizens. The presiding bench enlisted assistance from non-profit HelpAge India and the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to understand the problems being faced by senior citizens and issued directions to ensure effective implementation of government interventions linked to pensions, shelter, and geriatric care.</p>
<p>2016: Supreme Court issues directives for homeless shelters to be built in urban areas</p>	<p>In 2003, a group of lawyer-activists moved the Supreme Court over the right of homeless individuals to shelters in urban areas. This matter sat in court for more than a decade due to a lack of response from state governments. In 2016, upon examining the status of the implementation of a scheme for urban homeless shelters under the National Urban Livelihoods Mission of 2013, the court constituted a committee to oversee the building of homeless shelters as well as temporary winter shelters. The impact of this judgment led to 200 homeless shelters and 150 temporary winter shelters being built in the NCT of Delhi.</p>
<p>2018: Homosexuality is decriminalized in India through a reading down of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code</p>	<p>The decriminalization of homosexuality in India came as a culmination of decades of civil society efforts. One of the first prominent petitions against Section 377, which criminalized homosexual acts, was filed by HIV/AIDS activist group AIDS Bhedhav Virodhi Andolan in 1994. In 2001, Naz Foundation, a queer rights organization, petitioned courts again, leading to a 2009 Delhi High Court judgment that declared the Section to be violative of fundamental rights. This judgment was overturned by the Supreme Court in 2013. In 2018, a five-member bench of the Supreme Court was constituted to hear pleas against Section 377 from queer rights activists, organizations, and members of civil society, and ultimately repealed its applicability to consensual homosexual acts.</p>

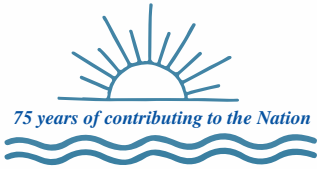
The table below reviews unique and impactful CSO interventions in social justice and highlights good practices within the sector.





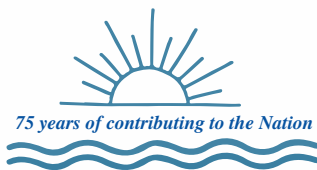
TABLE 2: CSO MODELS AND SYSTEMS FOR CHANGE OVER THE YEARS

CSO's area of work	Intervention	Good practices
Recognition	Social Justice movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mobilizing and educating critical stakeholders ● Attracting committed activists ● Strategizing plans of action ● Interacting with people across the board and international actors
	Community partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presence of a catalytic agent with knowledge of the issue, and a problem-solving mindset ● Organizational transformations to respond to community needs more efficiently ● Regular community patrols to stay on top of local issues of health, education, environmental issues, issues related to communal harmony etc.
	Research and documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Setting up education camps where stakeholders can hone reading and writing skills ● Documenting information in languages and dialects known to stakeholders ● Digital dissemination
Advocacy and Social Action Litigation	Training of paralegals or 'Barefoot Lawyers'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Incubating personnel to support lawyers at lower-level courts ● Training camps for barefoot lawyers to identify the problems of the poor, give voice to their demands and protect them against injustices, alert them against deprivation and exploitation, and give them first aid in law
	Training social action groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promoting legal awareness amongst people ● Equipping the poor with the knowledge of how law works, and how to use law to assert or defend their rights
	Independent, domestic funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funding from social service organizations and public-spirited individuals ● <i>Pro bono</i> work by established lawyers ● Self-reliance and availability of easy finances which enables grassroot work, instead of



		preoccupation with administrative structures and reporting obligations
Access to justice, adjudication, and rehabilitation	Prison reform initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training police officials and/ or prison authorities in effective law enforcement • Monitoring and ensuring accountability of police and prison authorities • Providing psycho-social and rehabilitative support to inmates, released prisoners and their families
	Monitoring judicial pendency (number of pending cases)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating case management • Conducting training and sensitization workshops for the judiciary • Leveraging informal dispute resolution systems





EDUCATION AND THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

“Education is what makes a person fearless, teaches him the lesson of unity, makes him aware of his rights and inspires him to struggle for his rights”

- Dr BR Ambedkar

EDUCATION AND INDIA: A SUMMARY

In the three decades that followed Independence, various review committees formed the crux of the central government's engagement with the idea of a national education system in India. Although the first National Policy on Education – conceptualizing a national school system geared towards universalizing elementary education – was legislated in 1968, guidelines for education in Independent India were released much sooner, through the Constitution of India. These guidelines covered free compulsory education until the age of 14 and education for minority groups.

Since then, through decades of policy reform and milestones within the sector, civil society groups have worked extensively alongside central and local governments through each step of education delivery – inclusion, capacity building, curriculum improvement and in scaling programs.

The common goals of civil society organizations and governments have been:

- Universalization of elementary education, foundational literacy, and numeracy
- Eradication of gender, caste, economic, and other barriers to education
- Technical training, research, and innovation through higher education
- Non-formal education, vocational training, and adult literacy programs
- Holistic development, life skills, and social and political education





MILESTONES, INTERVENTIONS, AND CSOS IN EDUCATION

Non-profit interventions in education can be conceptualized through three distinct phases:

- Phase 1: Substitution: For several decades following independence, social activists and non-profits in India prioritized building education systems parallel to government infrastructure, with a focus on providing socially and economically marginalized groups with education services. These interventions included setting up welfare schools and centers for non-formal education
- Phase 2: Ensuring government-provided access: In the aftermath of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (2001) and the Right to Education Act (2009), non-profit interventions became focused on ensuring that marginalized groups could access government-led education systems. This often took the shape of collaborating with government schools and programs to make them more responsive to community needs
- Phase 3: Quality improvement phase: Despite the existence of accessible government infrastructure, learning outcomes for students are not being met to a satisfactory standard. This has led to non-profits focusing on quality-of-learning interventions more keenly since 2020





The table below lists key social justice milestones of India's education sector since 1947, alongside the social workers and organizations who contributed to their success.

TABLE 1: EDUCATION MILESTONES IN INDIA AND THE CSO SECTOR

Milestone	Civil society contribution
1945: Dr BR Ambedkar establishes the People's Education Society for the advancement of Scheduled Caste (SC) students	Starting from 1945, People's Education Society has established approximately 30 schools and colleges in Maharashtra that offer freeships and scholarships to SC students. These institutions have been built around an Ambedkarite blueprint that centers moral, social, and political education linked to caste emancipation. Their key features include giving students the opportunity to work and earn while pursuing their education and allowing them to gain admissions in disciplines of their choice irrespective of past performance.
1963: Introduction of modern science teaching in government schools through learning based on experiments, demonstration, and cultivating scientific curiosity among students	From 1963 onwards, NCERT received external support from UNICEF and UNESCO to improve science teaching in Indian schools. Several initiatives were taken up as part of this program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cohort of 49 science educationists from NCERT received training in curriculum development and service delivery from UNESCO experts • Science kits were supplied to approximately 30,000 schools • Activity-based instructional materials were developed through trials in government primary schools
1972: The Hoshangabad Science Teaching Program for science teaching and innovation in rural schools is initiated in Madhya Pradesh	The Hoshangabad Science Teaching Program (HSTP) was set up in 1972, by non-profit organizations Friends Rural Centre and Kishore Bharati . Drawing on academic guidance from scientific experts, the program developed innovative learning practices based on experiments and field studies, with curricula focused on students' lived contexts and environments. In 1982, Eklavya Foundation was established to scale the HSTP model to foster learning innovations in other parts of Madhya Pradesh, and over subsequent decades, across other Indian states.



<p>1984: The Shiksha Karmi community primary schooling project is set up in Rajasthan</p>	<p>Under the Shiksha Karmi project, primary school teachers in 2000 remote villages in Rajasthan were replaced by two volunteer <i>shiksha karmis</i> (education workers) from local communities. Non-profit organizations were key collaborators in the implementation of the program. SANDHAN, a non-profit organization based in Jaipur, took up the implementational charge for training and supporting <i>shiksha karmis</i>, as well as introducing other learning innovations in schools where the project was operational. In addition to the Shiksha Karmi project, the organization also served as an implementation partner for the Lok Jumbish program in the 1990s.</p>
<p>1989: The Mahila Samakhya Program is established for community-oriented development and women's participation in education in rural areas</p>	<p>The Mahila Samakhya program engages women in rural areas in the process of planning, implementing, and overseeing school education in their villages. Initiated in districts where women's literacy rates and participation in education are low, the program organizes women into sanghas (collectives) that are responsible for developing education goals and strategies for their villages. Autonomous state-level education societies function as implementation partners for these strategies. Many women who have been participants in the program have gone on to become school board members and school administrators, as well as getting involved in other local political bodies. As of 2014, Mahila Samakhya was operational in 130 districts and 679 blocks across India.</p>
<p>1991: MV Foundation initiates area-based interventions in Andhra Pradesh to combat child labor through school retention and enrolment programs</p>	<p>In 1991, Mamidipudi Venkatarangaiya Foundation (MV Foundation) began work in the Ranga Reddy district in Andhra Pradesh, a state with one of the highest incidences of child labor in India at the time. The organization followed an area-based approach, securing over a million children's removal from the workforce and integration into the formal schooling pipeline to date. The organization has also worked with non-profits and government-initiated education programs in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Bihar, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu to scale its model.</p>
<p>1992: The Lok Jumbish program is initiated in Rajasthan by the</p>	<p>Lok Jumbish set the precedent for a period of decentralized, district-level micro-planning as a policy</p>



<p>government of India, as a grassroots-level multistakeholder intervention to achieve <i>Education for All</i> in the state</p>	<p>norm in education. Aided by 52 non-profit organizations in the state (including SANDHAN), the program created local management systems for primary schooling in more than 50 blocks in Rajasthan. Primary schools were reviewed and updated with a focus on environment-building activities, and pedagogical and curricular changes such as the development and mainstreaming of new textbooks for the state were initiated as an outcome.</p>
<p>2005: The National Curriculum Framework made in collaboration with civil society is drafted</p>	<p>A thorough revision of curricula in primary, elementary, and secondary education was undertaken to create the National Curriculum Framework, 2005. Consultations were held between NCERT officials, non-governmental organizations, teachers' associations, and academic experts to draft this framework. Key civil society actors who served on the central steering committee of this exercise included Prof Shantha Sinha from the MV Foundation, Ms Mina Swaminathan from the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, and academics such as Dr Padma Sarangapani, Prof Gopal Guru, and Dr Ramachandra Guha.</p>
<p>2009: The RTE Forum emerges as a national consortium of civil society actors to oversee the implementation of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009</p>	<p>The RTE Forum was initiated by Oxfam India as a national coalition of more than 10,000 NGOs, educationists, and social activists in the aftermath of the legislation of the Right to Education Act. Its primary goal was to examine progress made by the Act along parameters such as quality, inclusivity, and addressing communities' needs. By 2018, state-level RTE Forums had been initiated in 14 states—Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.</p>
<p>2012: Interventions by 17000 ft Foundation reach remote Himalayan schools in Ladakh</p>	<p>Remote rural schools in Ladakh are often cut off from other regions for several months a year due to harsh winter weather. 17000 ft Foundation was set up in 2012 to work with these schools to achieve quality education, and ultimately, economic independence for individuals living in these remote regions. Mobilizing technology, capacity-building exercises, and collaborations with volunteers, the organization has expanded to cover two districts and almost 900 schools in the region.</p>





<p>2017: Pratham Education Foundation scales impact and implements learning innovations in 24 states</p>	<p>Founded in 1995, Pratham Education Foundation develops learning innovations, impacting millions of children across the country every year. This decade saw the organization achieve unprecedented scale by working with government schools, bodies, and programs in 24 Indian states. Key milestones in Pratham’s story of success include their flagship publication ASER (Annual Status of Education Report), innovations in early childhood education and foundational literacy, and introducing digital classrooms into their programs.</p>
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The table below reviews unique and impactful CSO interventions in education and highlights good practices within the sector.

TABLE 2: CSO MODELS, INTERVENTIONS, AND GOOD PRACTICES

CSO's area of work	Intervention	Good practices
<p>Process</p>	<p>Science teaching</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use of experiments and demonstrations ● Engagement with students’ natural surroundings and lived contexts ● Student and teacher feedback mechanisms for developing new pedagogies
	<p>Curriculum development and teaching-learning materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Development of relatable and culturally responsive instructional material ● Incorporation of vocational skills and life skills-oriented material ● Models for holistic education that encompass mental, physical, and social wellbeing
<p>Governance</p>	<p>Policy advocacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multi-stakeholder civil society networks and coalitions to serve as advocacy forums ● External monitoring and evaluation for existing education programs
	<p>Program implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Capacity-building and teacher training





		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-level engagement with the government (schools, districts, states, Center) • Updating technical and digital capacities
Research	Learning innovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prototype-testing and pilot projects to gather monitoring, evaluation, and learning insights • Operating within existing government school infrastructure • Cultivation of community-led thought leadership and implementation models
	Archives and knowledge dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of cultural and lived experiences as knowledge • Emphasis on the need for marginalized groups to have control over their own representation, visibility, and knowledge dissemination
Implementation	School enrolments and retention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grassroots-level awareness and sensitization campaigns • Focus on lowering children's workforce participation and preventing child marriage • Securing access to government schools, schemes, and programs
	Early childcare and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted interventions for at-risk communities that lack access to childcare (e.g., unorganized sector workers) • Preparing children from under-resourced groups for integration into the formal schooling pipeline
	Vocational skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating education with self-sustaining community-oriented development projects • Skill training as an alternate form of education for individuals excluded from formal education • Different modes of hands-on skill learning, such as home-based





		programs, mobile skill labs, and training centers
	Charitable and budget-private schools, scholarships, and funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support or provision of voluntary education services to marginalized (e.g., women, Dalits, Adivasis) and at-risk (e.g., homeless children, children living in conflict-stricken regions) groups • Non-formal education centers in high-risk, under-resourced, and remote regions





PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

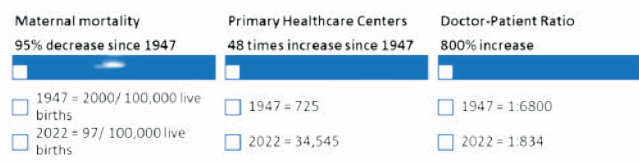
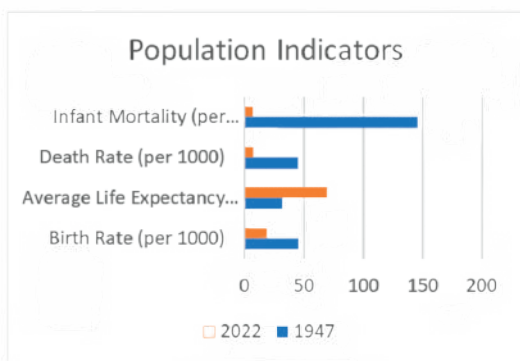
“They went beyond simply improving health conditions...demonstrating that health could be an entering wedge into total socioeconomic development.”

- Carl Taylor, 'Jamkhed: A Comprehensive Rural Health Project' (1994)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND INDIA: A SUMMARY

In 1946, as India was preparing for Independence, the 'Health Survey and Development Committee Report' popularly referred to as the Bhore Committee Report, prepared a detailed plan of a National Health Service for the country, envisioning universal coverage for the entire population, free of charge, through a comprehensive state-run salaried health service. However, it was not until four decades later that India notified its first policy on health – the National Health Policy of 1983.

Despite the lack of a policy, the Constitution of India did the job of articulating public health and its many facets like the right to life, often taken as the right to health by extension, the health status of young citizens, workers, mothers, the standard of living and the environment. Since 1947, India's public health sector has crossed huge milestones:



Several of these milestones have been conceived, enabled, and launched from the ground up by India's civil society sector. Every decade since independence has seen the emergence and success of community interventions, and the ability of civil society groups to shoulder the massive task of achieving public health for all in a newly independent India – be it delivering health services and resources, acting as a supporting institution for the government, or simply carrying people's voices and stories to policymakers and the world at large.





MILESTONES, INTERVENTIONS AND CSOS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

The table below lists key social justice milestones of India's public health sector since 1947, alongside the social workers and organizations who contributed to their success.

TABLE 1: PUBLIC HEALTH MILESTONES IN INDIA AND THE CSO SECTOR

Milestone	Civil Society Contribution
1949: India becomes the first country in the world to devise a Family Planning Program	A group of concerned women led by Dhanvanti Rama Rau, a feminist freedom fighter and civil society activist, established the Family Planning Association of India (FPA India) .
1950s and 1960s: India launches anti malaria program and makes progress in the fight against malaria	The Co-operative Anti-Malaria Society and Panihati (Bengal) set international precedents on combating malaria in remote villages, growing from 27 members and one village to 3500 voluntary village societies in 10 years.
1964: India gets its first registered NGO and halfway home for mentally ill patients	The Medico Pastoralist Association – comprising professionals like doctors and clergymen under the Urban Industrial Mission Program of St. Mark's Cathedral, Bangalore – got together to create awareness, and to provide training in skills required to remove the fear and misconceptions surrounding mental health problems.
1971: ORS “the most important medical discovery of the 20th century” deployed to cure cholera at Bangaon refugee camp	Dr Dilip Mahalanabis , the ORS pioneer, was working as a doctor saved thousands of people affected by cholera at the Bangaon refugee camp by administering oral rehydration therapy or ORT. He prepared ORS for the masses by mixing table salt, baking soda and glucose, and deployed it via health volunteers at the camp.
1975: Integrated Child Development Scheme – one of the world's largest and unique programs for early childhood care and development – launched in India	Child in Need Institute of West Bengal, through its services for growth monitoring, treatment of common childhood diseases and preventive measures like immunization, health and nutrition education, realized the Health for All goal of reduced infant mortality rate, received the 1985 'National Award for Child Welfare', and was nominated for the SASAKAWA Health prize at the 39th World Health Assembly in 1985.
1977: India launches Village Health Guides or Community Health Worker scheme	Inspired by the 1970 Jamkhed Comprehensive Rural Health Project approach, developed by Rajanikant and Mabelle Arole in rural Maharashtra – which was instrumental in influencing these concepts and principles, which were embedded in the international 1978 Declaration of Alma-Ata. Inspired by the 1977 Pachod CHDP Community Health Worker program , which focused on maternal health and covered 72 villages and hamlets situated in the southern part of Paithan block of Aurangabad district, Maharashtra.



1976: National Blindness Control Program launched	Aravind Eye Hospitals – a hospital chain founded by Dr. Govindappa Venkataswamy at Madurai, Tamil Nadu – starts a network of eye hospitals and goes on to have a major impact in eradicating cataract related blindness in India.
1979: India is small-pox free	India was hailed for eradicating smallpox through the aid of civil society organizations, where thousands of healthcare workers and one lakh community workers trained by WHO went door to door in the country and covered a hundred million households in 575,721 villages and 2,641 cities.
1983: India notifies its first National Health Policy	Recommended a decentralized system of health care, the key features of which were low cost, and use of volunteers and paramedics, and community participation.
1986: National Rural Sanitation Program launched by the government	The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) , the apex organization for supporting and coordinating the activities of NGOs in the field of rural development oversaw involving more NGOs. In Gujarat, the entire sanitation program was implemented through a network of NGOs. In West Bengal, it was the Ram Krishna Mission that helped the government implement sanitation programs.
1995: launch of the Pulse Polio Program	The government's polio eradication program was faced by immense people-driven challenges, which created the need for tailor-made and novel responses. This took form as a combination of international NGOs and Indian civil society groups, individuals, and activists. One of the most effective interventions of this collaboration was generating intermediaries from within the community itself – through the CORE Group Polio Project.
2004: India launches Integrated Disease Surveillance Program	The North Arcot District Health Information Network's community-based District Level Disease Surveillance (DLDS) model and monthly health information bulletin (called NADHI) helped extend this program to include tribal health.
2000s: exponential decline in child undernutrition between 2006 and 2014 – stunting rates for children under five reduced from 48% to 39%, resulting in less stunted and wasted children	Through the public-private model, the Akshaya Patra Foundation started running the world's largest Mid-Day Meal. Program which helped provide nutritious and hygienic food to thousands of school-going children.
2014-2015: National Immunization Program crosses two milestones – eradication of	NGOs like CRY helped address and reduce vaccine hesitancy within communities, and NGOs like Sahyog, ARMMAN, Committed Communities Development Trust, and SNEHA



Polio and maternal and neonatal Tetanus respectively	helped improve medical conditions for at-risk pregnant women.
2020 onwards: responding to COVID-19	When the second wave of COVID-19 hit India, and its population was met with a failing healthcare system, NGOs across the country—Save The Children, SaveLIFE Foundation and Goonj, amongst several others—played a significant role in reinforcing the health infrastructure.

The table below reviews unique and impactful CSO interventions in public health and highlights good practices within the sector.

TABLE 2: CSO MODELS, INTERVENTIONS, AND GOOD PRACTICES

CSO's area of work	Intervention	Best practices
Service delivery	Setting up Village Societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publishing vernacular journals • Convening regular community meetings • Networking with professionals in the field • Involving men and women equitably
	Communication for behavior change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using folk art to communicate modern concepts • Production and distribution of pamphlets and digital messages for public health best practices
	Community-based health insurance scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting with primary health care support to a catchment community and then move to providing coverage for them • Running run in-house health insurance services without external partnership with insurance companies
	Free service to needy populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free food and return transportation for under resourced patients • Distinct facilities and differential pricing



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Travelling to the community and doing house visits instead of hosting surgical camps
Behavior change	Training patient counsellors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Volunteers with good communications skills and high empathy were trained for this ● Creating opportunities for more interpersonal conversation and counselling
	Outreach to the non-customer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spreading the message through word of mouth ● Meeting people where they live, work, and spend time, instead of placing the onus on them to visit ● Monthly meet ups, where stakeholders are encouraged to break biases and air concerns
Innovation	Scalable human-centric interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Human milk banks for premature babies ● Kangaroo method for keeping newborns warm
	mHealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Free mobile health service voice calls ● Timed and targeted preventive care information weekly/bi-weekly directly to peoples' phone ● Available in local dialects
	Open-source software	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Designing digital platforms for monitoring and evaluation ● Digital platforms for quality assessment and quality assessment and reporting for government hospitals and health centers





WAY FORWARD

Our reports have provided evidence that as testimony to the countless models, legislations, and innovations that CSOs have contributed to India's development. As we build back from the pandemic, the path ahead for India is rife with multidimensional challenges. To address these challenges, CSOs can provide tailored and localized responses in embedded, layered, and dynamic systems.

The Government can work with CSOs to provision for the last mile by:

- Engaging civil society in implementing community-based programs, with a focus on reaching and engaging with underserved, vulnerable and marginalized communities
- Strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems to identify opportunities and priority areas for government interventions in public delivery systems
- Undertaking consultative processes that rely on evidence-based policymaking, leveraging insights from stakeholders, data, and innovation to meet specific development targets and goals
- Seeking technical and specialized support on sub-areas of work within larger themes (for example: legal awareness building for women in social justice, teacher training in education, and last mile delivery of vaccinations in health)

Apart from channelizing resources, Funders can collaborate with CSOs to catalyze impact by:

- Fostering innovations and experiments that aim to create interventions that are geared towards systemic-level changes, instead of providing stopgap project-based funding
- Approaching giving with a diversity and equity lens, in a manner that prioritizes highly vulnerable stakeholders and the need for inclusive developmental programs
- Increasing engagement with non-profits and civil society actors who interact with local communities and ecosystems through their work, to help identify opportunities and funding strategies that maximize grassroots impact



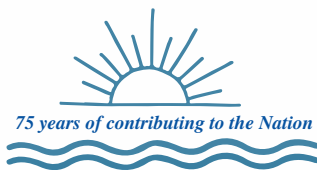


WAY FORWARD

CSOs can enhance their role in the sectors of social justice, health, and education sectors by:

- Strengthening collaborations with other stakeholders in public delivery systems, including government institutions, like-minded organizations, private players, and communities
- Improving mechanisms for fundraising, outcome measurement, and technical capacity-building by creating successful interventions that can be replicated and scaled
- Leveraging technology and digital tools to increase reach for advocacy, sensitization, and awareness programs, and develop new interventions





IMPACT OF NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TOWARDS MENTAL HEALTHCARE IN INDIA

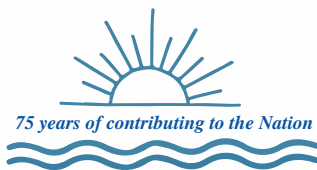
Authored by Mrinalini Ravi, Deepika Easwaran, Sanjeev Jain, Alok Sarin, Thara Srinivasan, Chellamuthu Ramasubramaniam, Sunil Kumar Vijayan, Aspy, Tanya Dutt, Amrit Bakhshy, Dr KV Kishore Kumar

It is estimated that 150 million Indians suffer from one or more mental health conditions (National Mental Health Survey, 2015–2016). The current treatment gap in mental health in India ranges between 83–87%, where lack of access to care is highest in rural and tribal areas. Mental health conditions are impacted by multiple predisposing and precipitating factors. Systemic barriers including class, gender and caste-based discrimination and variegated other social determinants influence both the onset of illness, and one's recovery and life trajectory. The overall burden of disease is assessed using the disability-adjusted life year (DALY), a time-based measure that combines years of life lost due to premature mortality (YLLs) and years of life lost due to time lived in states of less than full health, or years of healthy life lost due to disability (YLDs). Mental disorders including depressive disorders, bipolar disorders, schizophrenia, anxiety disorders, autism and Asperger syndrome, childhood behavioural disorders, and other mental conditions are major causes of years lived with disability. The global disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) attributed to mental disorders have increased from 3.1% in 1990 to 4.9% in 2019. (Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study, 2019).

Mental health issues have been debated much more in public spaces than oncology or cardiology and have been relatively more engaged with both humanities and the natural sciences than most other fields of medicine. From the times of the asylum and related segregation of persons with mental illness that resulted in a sense of othering and discrimination, to the times that marked the advent of biomedicine and neuroscience-related discoveries, much has changed, and yet gains are somewhat marginal. In this lies both the challenge and paradox around mental health.

The 1960s ushered in an era of progressive reforms in hospital-based care that moved beyond restraints, bloodletting and strait jackets. Care in the community, supported by families, support circles and enabling collaborations largely became the norm globally, as it did in India, especially with the initiation of the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) that ensured coverage.





While human rights and justice-based frameworks have largely taken centre stage in the global discourse, owing to the introduction of international declarations and progressive mental health legislations and policies, that promoted community inclusion and participation; translation of the same in practice is somewhat lacking. Convergence between the health and social sectors while mandated and essential in addressing social determinants remain less than satisfactory. Focus on the whole person across one's life span is considered essential to responsive care approaches and protocols that inspire the pursuit of capabilities and the attainment of valued social roles.

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS AND MENTAL HEALTH

The inextricable link between mental ill health and poverty has been well-established in literature. Impact of income insecurity on cognition on the one hand, and lack of access to affordable and appropriate care that recognizes deprivation, marginalization and intergenerational trauma (especially for historically oppressed communities) of persons from marginalized communities and Below Poverty Line Families with mental health issues perpetuates a cycle of distress and exclusion.

What is now established is that the needs of persons living with mental illness (PLMI) are divergent and non-linear, and address conditions ranging from depression and anxiety to severe mental illnesses, organic conditions, and age-related mental health conditions including dementia. While mental health may now receive the sort of attention that it deserves, the legacy of stigma is determined and only concerted efforts to promote community inclusion can break the shackles of stigma. This combination of lack of nuance in care plans that lend themselves to person centered responses and inaccurate societal perceptions resulted in limited social and cultural participation and further perpetuating of alienation, exclusion – and loneliness. While investments grew, they were still found lacking and were largely focused on sustaining exclusionary biomedical responses.

Research meanwhile had gradually expanded from a mental illness focus to include public health, social sciences, humanities and the neurosciences. While a few significant outcomes have been realized that have influenced the development of care approaches, the essentiality of demonstrating efficacy and more importantly effectiveness in the real world remains underwhelming





Furthermore, Mental health remained a topic of discussion relegated to academic quarters, predominantly amongst service providers, with minimal inputs from persons with lived experience and caregivers and those engaged in implementation.

Mental health, as we know is much larger than inpatient and biomedical care, and requires psychological, social, occupational, educational, economic, religious/theological, philosophical political and ecological inputs and interactions to facilitate well-being and promotion of individual capabilities. Some of the domains mentioned above have only recently begun to feature in the research and service discourse for persons with mental illness. However, a focus on public mental health and social care, with the initiation of diverse models and innovations that influence multifactorial facets of mental illness and that are culturally resonant have been tested by various civil society groups, ranging from mental health professionals and researchers to lived experience experts – all of whom have fostered collaborations to support the mental health sector. From deinstitutionalisation to community care to social care innovations and civil society participation, the mental health sector today perhaps uses lived experience and caregiver advocates largely, many of them, leaders in the civil society space.

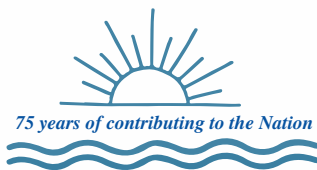
REHABILITATION OPTIONS

NGOs have played a crucial role in all of the areas mentioned above. Initiated in 1964, Medico Pastoral Association (MPA), the first mental health NGO in the country led the way in community-based care through the establishment of half-way homes, responding to a growing need in the country. Basic Needs India, Richmond Fellowship Society, Paripurnata and Parivartan amongst others have made significant contributions to the creation of halfway homes and community-based rehabilitation options in India.

TRANSFORMING MENTAL HOSPITALS

Pioneers including Dr Vidya Sagar and Dr Sarada Menon were amongst the first in the country to begin changing the face of institutions in the country. Dr Vidya Sagar, in the 1950s, was instrumental in setting up open wards and facilitating family-based treatment at the mental hospital in Amritsar.





And Dr Sarada Menon's efforts were crucial in bringing about greater transparency, adherence to human rights tenets, and integration of comprehensive rehabilitation packages at the Institute of Mental Health, Chennai. Dr Menon subsequently went on to establish the Schizophrenia Awareness and Research Foundation (SCARF) in 1984, an institution that has since played a key role in offering institutional care (among several other contributions towards mental healthcare).

In the decades that followed, organisations such as Anjali Mental Health Rights, and Tata Trusts stationed themselves out of Pavlov Hospital in Kolkata and Nagpur Mental Hospital to facilitate exit pathways for patients stuck in institutional care through family reunification programmes, an integration into community-based living options. These efforts gained increased momentum in 2016, when a Supreme Court of India ruling mandated exit plans for clients from hospital-based settings into community-based living options, in case of period of stay over a year. The court ruling was in response to a petition filed by Adv Gaurav Bansal to promote community living for persons with mental health issues, in line with Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

India is home to 43 mental hospitals, and while many of them are not in the finest of conditions, much has improved thanks to the efforts of volunteers, individuals from within the Government system, the health departments and with support from organisations such as SCARF, The Banyan, Chellamuthu Trust, Saumanasya, Sanjeevani, etc.

DISTRICT MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE OPTIONS IN PRIMARY CARE

DMHP is a decentralized community-based mental health program conceptualized and field tested between 1985 and 1990 in the district of Bellary. Evaluation of this approach revealed very encouraging results, as close to 42% of the expected neuropsychiatric morbidity in 1.2 million population received continuous care through the work of primary health care institutions. Currently, there are 723 DMHPs out of 766 districts and the funds are released through the National Health Mission. However, the DMHP, although largely a medically robust model, faces several implementation challenges, and is currently augmented by organisations across India, each using unique ways to promote early identification of distress and ill health, and facilitation of appropriate referral pathways to mental health and social care service access points.





Several public-private-partnerships (PPPs) have been initiated to support the DMHP. Karuna Trust based in Karnataka extended its services across 70 Primary Health Centres in 7 states servicing a population of 1.5 million persons. Altruist Foundation, an organization based in Gujarat pioneered a model that integrated faith healing and medical support in collaboration with the Hazrat Saiyed Ali Mira Data Dargah in Unnava, and has reached out to over 2 lakh individuals since its inception. Chellamuthu Trust also worked with faith-based organizations to integrate the Dava-Dua model of care, which places equal emphasis on religious and biopsychosocial modalities of care in Madurai and Ramanathapuram districts, Tamil Nadu. By demonstrating transformation in individuals who sought mental health care, these organizations were then able to forge important partnerships with the government to augment the district mental health programme through expansive rehabilitation packages that facilitated community inclusion.

Similarly in Madhya Pradesh, the Gramin Adivasi Samaj Vikas Sanstha (GASVS) works in 80 villages in Sausar block along with the Hanuman Mandir to conduct outpatient clinics and community mental health programmes, servicing a population of over 1.3 lakh individuals. GASVS have also federated 11 client and caregiver groups that advocate for access to employment options and social entitlements.

The Arulmigu Prasanna Venkatachalapathy Temple in Gunaseelam has, for over 50 years offered faith-based mental health treatments, in collaboration with mainstream psychiatric facilities in rural Tamil Nadu.

The Schizophrenia Awareness and Research Foundation (SCARF) runs telepsychiatry facilities in rural Tamil Nadu to promote access to care, covering 7 districts and 5.2 lakh individuals in coordination with local DMHP programmes. In a noteworthy move, Panchayats in Kerala have played an important role in the disability and palliative care sectors through which they have integrated mental health services in the community through Public Private Partnerships. MEHAC Foundation, MHAT, Thanal and other organisations have adopted this approach covering almost all of the State of Kerala

In the context of community mental health care, indigenous communities form a highly vulnerable group, linked to historical marginalisation, and a complex process of adaptation to rapid cultural shifts. Ashwini, Tribal Health Initiative, Ekjut, Keystone Foundation, Nilgiris Adivasi Welfare Association amongst a few others have carried out pathbreaking work in bringing mental healthcare access to tribal communities and a few have integrated indigenous healing practices into mainstream treatment paradigms.





Ashadeep society is amongst the first organisations in the northeast to develop comprehensive community mental health programmes in Assam. Models developed at Chandigarh, Ballabgarh, Sakalvara, Bellary by PGI/AIIMS/NIMHANS and the ideas of Satyanand, Masani, Kapur, Wig, RSMurthy, Issac, CRC, Chakravarthy etc which allowed the idea of working with local traditions (using anthropology/Kapur); NHS like (Wig); bureaucratic policy making (Issac/Murthy)

A challenge in the Indian context is that demand and supply chains are skewed, with demand surpassing supply. India has only 0.80 psychiatric nurses, 0.29 Psychiatrists, 0.07 clinical psychologists, and 0.06 psychiatric social workers for every 1 lakh population, (WHO, 2017). Given the large treatment gap in the country and the lack of available human resources to bridge this gap, it is important to take on a task-shifting approach, which involves training primary care and community health workers to take on some health care responsibilities that specialists typically deliver. The Atmiyata model by the Centre for Mental Health Law and Policy (CMHLP), the MANAS trial by Sangath and the NALAM approach by The Banyan have been crucial in promoting and strengthening task-shifting approaches and addressing the care gap.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Linked to various psycho-social concerns, alarmingly high suicide rates are being observed globally and nationally. Over 7,00,00 people globally die by suicide every year. (World Health Organisation, 2021). Data published by the National Crime Records Bureau (August, 2022) indicated that a total of 1,64,033 suicides were reported in the country in 2021, and that this number had increased by 7.2% in comparison to the previous year. Suicides are observed to be most common among men experiencing challenges linked to unemployment and loss of income, daily wage earners, women experiencing dowry-related family problems, and young adults experiencing academic failures and relationship problems. The Global Burden of Disease Study (GBD) 1990 - 2017 has also pointed out that suicide was the leading cause of death in India for those in the age groups of 15-29 years. Hence, deaths by suicide contribute to a serious public health challenge and require urgent, comprehensive interventions. In this context, organisations such as SNEHA and the Centre for Mental Health, Law and Policy (CMHLP) have been instrumental in driving a suicide-prevention strategy, also contributing to policy and legislation (through the decriminalisation of suicide and developing a nationwide suicide prevention policy).





ACCESS TO CARE FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

Increased use of and dependence on substances over the years, has become a pressing challenge in India. The prevalence of opioid use in India is three times the global average. (Ray R, 2004). A study conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 2019 suggests that at least 2.9 crore individuals require support for dependence on alcohol, and at least 4.6 lakh children, for dependence on inhalants. This is a critical concern, considering the bidirectional link between heightened substance use and several physical and mental health concerns. To respond to these challenges, NGOs have played a central role in creating rehabilitation facilities for persons in distress owing to substance use disorders. In addition, many NGOs also offer support towards managing co-morbid challenges such as HIV-AIDS and hepatitis. Some of the key players in this domain are TTK Foundation, Chennai, Mind Plus, Punjab, Kripa Foundation, Mumbai, Sambandh Foundation, New Delhi and Gunjan Organisation for Community Development.

CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH

Responses to the mental health needs of children began through day care centres for children with physical and intellectual disabilities, and have since grown to cater to childhood traumas, abuse, and specific behavioral concerns including, substance abuse, self-harm and suicide. Organisations such as Spastic Society of India, Salaam Baalak, Tulir, Chetna, Aangan Trust, Arpan, Sangath, Rainbow Homes, Nalandaway have forged the path for comprehensive mental health services for children and young adults, including but not limited to day care centres, awareness and school mental health programmes, mentorship initiatives and emergency care. Children with parental mental health issues, are cared for as an extension of community-based services in several organizations, however, specialized focus is needed to respond to the unique mental health concerns of this cohort.





GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Women and sexual minorities have confronted structural barriers and oppression for generations. Mental illness as a label and subsequent incarceration was the lot of this group as a response to any form of rebellion against established patriarchal norms for at least 2 centuries.

Paradoxically, any help seeking behavior for standalone mental health concerns and/or those emerging from abuse and violence continue to be actively discouraged by families and members from the community. Organisations such as Anjali Mental Health Rights, Sri Mukti Sangathana, SNEHA Mumbai, PCVC, Perna have contributed significantly to bridge this care gap and respond to the specific mental health needs of women.

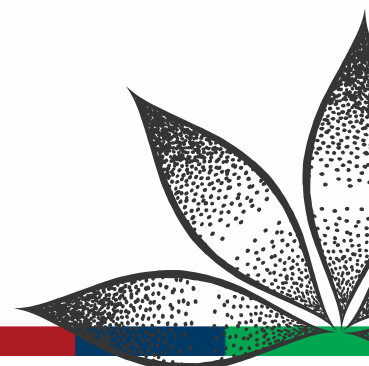
Homosexuality was featured as a disorder in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders until 1973. In India, Article 377, that criminalised homosexuality was abrogated only in 2018.

LGBTQIA+ communities continue to be stigmatized, marginalized and subjected to several forms of abuse.

Moreover, mental health interventions largely existed in the form of 'conversion therapies' causing unimaginable distress to individuals and the community as a whole. The Mariwala Health Initiative and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Nirangal, The Queer Muslim Project, Queerabad, Queergarh, Y'all, the Resistive Alliance of Queer Solidarity, have carried out pioneering work in creating Queer Affirmative Counseling Practices that aim to alleviate the distress, ambiguity and shame to which these communities were subjected.

CARE FOR HOMELESS PERSONS WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Missionaries of Charity has been one of forerunners in caring for the most marginalised, even amongst those who are mentally ill, the homeless. With establishments across the country, MoC has reached out to over 10 lakh individuals from the streets, offering humanitarian services for the homeless mentally ill. Others include Ishwar Sankalp, The Banyan, Ashadeep Society, Green Dot Trust, Maria, Sadanam, Brothers of Charity to name a few. Apna Ghar in Bharatpur has created a community to cater to the needs of 4000 homeless persons with mental health issues, other disabilities, children and the elderly, offering a range of medical and social support service.





There are approximately 600,000 homeless persons with mental health issues sleeping rough in India, and an additional 3000 in state mental hospitals in the country. Most studies of 'beggars homes'; night-shelters etc also uniformly talk of 30-50% SMI, so one can estimate that at least a 2-3 lakh represent those with SMI. Ensuring that they get the proper treatment should be a focus, especially for the elderly and those with multiple disabilities.

The Banyan has further partnered with the Government of Tamil Nadu and a local Panchayat in Kerala to service the most marginalised in addressing their acute care needs by offering them crisis support, in patient care, social needs care and community reentry and livelihood options besides their self-operated units through partnerships with the National Health Mission, the Govt of TN, local CSOs and IMH, Chennai. This has the capacity to service close to a thousand persons annually.

ELDERLY

India's elderly population is rising from 8.6% in the 2011 census to 12.5% by 2030, almost 20% by 2050, and a little more than 25% by 2061. Mental health care for the elderly, those with dementia, chronic schizophrenia and other disabilities is gaining increasing focus, through organisations such as HelpAge India and SCARF (through the DEMCARE project).

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Organisations such as SCARF, Sangath, Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health, CMHLP, Search, Ekjut, St Johns Institute, Krea University etc have been involved in initiating various trials that strengthen public mental health approaches, long-term inclusive care options, biomedical responses etc. SCARF was also responsible for developing IDEAS, a tool that is used to measure the extent of disability based on which disability certification was made possible. BALM's attempts at developing inclusive living options for persons with moderate to severe disabilities through Home Again, have now been validated by the World Health Organisation in 2021, as has the Atmiyata approach initiated by CMHLP that supports persons with mental health issues.

Pioneering research has been carried out by non-governmental organizations in India to transform the face of mental health and integrate evidence-based and person-centered services into mainstream care. Several organisations mentioned in this report engage in research and capacity building and have created important leadership programmes to create a cadre of mental health professionals in the country and bridge the glaring human service professional gap. There are currently 0.1 mental health professionals for every 100,000 individuals with diagnosable mental health conditions in the country.





NGOs have also made huge strides in the field of child mental health, through school and college mental health programmes, life skills training, early identification and treatment. Anubuthi Trust and Blue Dawn have made important strides in mental health education and advocacy, especially amongst Dalit, Bahujan and Adivasi (DBA) communities. Belongg is an online learning platform focusing on intersectionalities in mental health, amongst the first the country.

Schools of Social Work and Social Sciences: Various institutions that offer courses in social work and psychology have initiated programmes that build human resources in the mental health and social care sectors. These institutions also initiate field/ social action programmes that allow for engagement with persons with mental health concerns in rural, peri urban and urban areas through partnerships with the State or CSOs. Several programmes such as Tarasha, that facilitate exit options from mental hospitals into the community through half-way homes Koshish and Integrated Health and Rural Development Project (Pragati) initiated by the Tata Institute, and counselling centres and social action programmes for the homeless initiated by the Madras school of Social Work amongst others are exemplar contributions of educational institutions in fostering social justice and transformation.

PEER AND CAREGIVER LEADERSHIP

Peer and caregiver groups are central to transformative care in the mental health sector. Focus on co- production of knowledge that informs care plans, policy and advocacy efforts is now instrumental in driving change in the MH sector. Peer and caregiver-led programmes run rehabilitation services, engaged in stigma reduction efforts, and most importantly encourage persons with lived experience to share their perspectives and insights with a larger audience, shattering misconceptions and promoting social inclusion and participation.

Caregivers are the most important mental health service providers, and yet, do not receive any recognition or resources from the state, despite provisions in the Rights of Persons in Disability Act 2016. They, as a result, tend to focus on existing preoccupations and emergencies related to caregiving duties, leaving behind a huge vacuum in service provision, policy and advocacy. Similarly, persons with mental health issues are an important workforce in mental health care, including mental hospitals. Their compensation is minimal to nil, creating a roadblock in achieving financial independence and dissuading them from further participation in the workforce.





Organisations such as Action Care for Mental Illness, Schizophrenia Awareness Association, Sambandh Foundation and ASHA were founded by caregivers to create spaces for advocacy and social action programmes that respond to caregivers' greatest preoccupation – "What after me?". These include day care and long-term facilities offering graded levels of support for persons with mental health issues and intellectual disabilities.

LIVELIHOODS

Atma Nirbhar, an offshoot of Asha, has created a range of employment options for persons with mental health issues in Chennai. This includes employment placement, facilitation of self-employment through petty shops across the city, and by extension counselling services to prevent attrition and prolonged absence from the workforce.

One of the most important achievements of the non-profit sector in mental health was the integration of persons with mental health issues and other disabilities into the Mahatma Gandhi National Urban Livelihoods Mission in 2012, through a time and motion study conducted in Tamil Nadu by 4 NGOs in Tamil Nadu.

RIGHTS, POLICY AND LEGISLATION

The Disability Rights Alliance (DRA) and EQUALS, based out of Tamil Nadu have carried out pathbreaking work in recognizing the citizenship of persons with mental health issues in the country. Through their advocacy efforts, PWMI are now able to access Aadhar cards, voter's IDs and have begun voting in municipal, state and union elections from 2018 onwards.

Between 2012 and 2018 was an important period for mental health in India, when a new mental health policy and mental health legislation was introduced in India, led by the Govt in partnership with several important mental health stakeholders from the civil society including representatives from Sangath, CMHLP, The Banyan, St. Johns, ACMI, Sitaram Bhartia etc. The Indian MH Policy outlines mental health as a basic right to health and therefore holds the state accountable to provide for any person in need of mental health care. It also emphasizes the importance of improving workforce participation and overall Quality of life and thus mandates convergence between the health and social sectors and recognizes the importance of social entitlements in addressing social determinants.





ROLE OF PHILANTHROPIES IN MENTAL HEALTH

As mental health continues to be marginalized, contributions of philanthropies that recognized and responded to the resource gap must be acknowledged. Tata Trusts, Azim Premji Foundation, Mariwala Health Initiative, HCL Foundation, Bajaj Finserv, Sundram Fasteners Limited, Paul Hamlyn Foundation India, Rural India Supporting Trust, Ragoonwala Foundation of India Trust, Thakur Foundation, Sundram Fasteners Limited, IDFC First Bank, Cognisant Foundation, the HANS Foundation to name a few, have engaged with the mental health sector over a period of time, and across geographies.

CONCLUSION

Non-governmental organizations have been crucial to the growth of the mental health sector in India, in building a sense of community, facilitating culturally congruent, last mile service delivery and in centerstaging equity, social justice and participation as key values in care protocols. As indicated in the introduction, multimodal interventions to promote wellbeing are becoming accessible for persons with diagnosable mental health conditions, after ceaseless efforts by NGOs, private sector organizations and the state. There is, however, a long way to go in ensuring last mile access to underserved communities in psychosocial distress. This will only be possible by recognizing the contributions of each stakeholder, and in ensuring that resources are accessible without bureaucratic hurdles standing in the way of meaningful work. Unless the MH needs of vulnerable groups are addressed, the vision of the SDGs such as gender parity, poverty reduction, housing security etc. may not be advanced with the sense of urgency that it deserves.



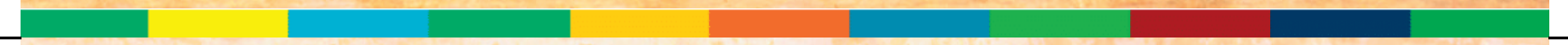


NGOs@75

CIVIL SOCIETY INITIATIVES FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITY



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Ramamoorthy, Member Disability Rights Alliance





IMPACT OF NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TOWARDS MENTAL HEALTHCARE IN INDIA

In India the state has always relegated persons with disabilities to the side-lines of neglect and charity, with the sole mention of disabled people in the Constitution of India being in Article 41 which stipulates that, 'The state shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement' (Advani 1997).

The policies of the state are paternalistic, expressed through providing welfare to persons with disabilities, in the form of residential institutions, hospitals and special schools for the rehabilitation of the physically disabled, primarily the blind, crippled and deaf people (Ghosh 2016). However, most of the programmes initiated for the welfare and rehabilitation of disabled people were implemented through voluntary organisations in different parts of the country, without any direct commitment towards bringing about changes at the social or political levels.

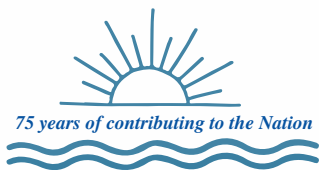
Colonial efforts in the pre-Independence period started with collecting census data on disability from the first census in India in 1872 to 1931, although the categories were limited. This must however keep in mind that knowledge about disability categories was still evolving at that time.

Colonial and missionary initiatives of this period concentrated mostly on the deaf and the blind with schools and skill training introduced for these groups of disabled people. The schools were primarily secondary schools which indicates the focus on higher education for disabled persons as a need in the colonial period. While most of these efforts are in west and south India, there are stray efforts across the country too, started by colonial missionaries but others were started by Indians, maybe trained in or exposed to western methods and ideas.

There are also instances of residential homes for persons with intellectual disability in Mumbai and a residential school for children with intellectual disability in Darjeeling. What is important is the emergence of a consciousness among these civil society organisations in raising questions of building self-confidence and a sense of purpose for disabled people.

In the post-independence decade till about 1960, the previous efforts were sustained and schools and training centres for the blind, deaf and the locomotor disabled cropped up across the country.





Along with education, rehabilitation became a major focus with a stress on medical treatment and aids and appliances in tandem with the global developments becoming an important part of the rehabilitation of the disabled. Most efforts were still concentrated in west and south India and an interest in addressing cross disability concerns emerges in many of the NGOs.

These efforts replicated the policy thrust of that period, with the state encouraging civil society organisations in local areas to take responsibility for different aspects of the rehabilitation of the locomotor disabled, blind and the deaf. However, the efforts for the blind and somewhat for the deaf dominated the scenario at that point of time, with multiple organisations being set up for education, rehabilitation, skill development and employment.

In the decade of 1960s, along with the existing efforts for education and rehabilitation, focus shifted to intellectual disabilities as parents started to raise questions of education and livelihoods. This period saw the emergence of the first day-care centres, in urban areas where parents needed to go out for work and the services responded to such needs. Many NGOs working with children and adults with intellectual disabilities focussed on building an atmosphere of harmony, learning and participation. Organisations led by doctors and social workers highlighted not just issues of education, training and rehabilitation, but also stressed awareness generation and prevention of disability.

This period witnessed the proliferation of special schools and some research wings to study the cause and prevention of mental disability and to find ways for their rehabilitation. Some of these organisations also started to provide residential facilities for children with intellectual disabilities. Efforts of civil society partners diversified into providing rehabilitation support, education and vocational training, employment with income generating options, physical restorative services, awareness campaigns and advocacy for the rural disabled.

Organisations led by doctors and social workers highlighted not just issues of education, training and rehabilitation, but also stressed awareness generation and prevention of disability. This period witnessed the proliferation of special schools and some research wings to study the cause and prevention of mental disability and to find ways for their rehabilitation.

Some of these organisations also started to provide residential facilities for children with intellectual disabilities. Efforts of civil society partners diversified into providing rehabilitation support, education and vocational training, employment with income generating options, physical restorative services, awareness campaigns and advocacy for the rural disabled.





The nascent disability movement became visible in the decade of the 1970s - associations of persons with disabilities emerged along with the continuing efforts of NGOs where questions of job reservations, empowerment and awareness become more important as goals of education are reached and educated disabled persons enter the job market. Attention also shifted to the more intensive interventions for persons with multiple disabilities like Cerebral Palsy and Deafblindness.

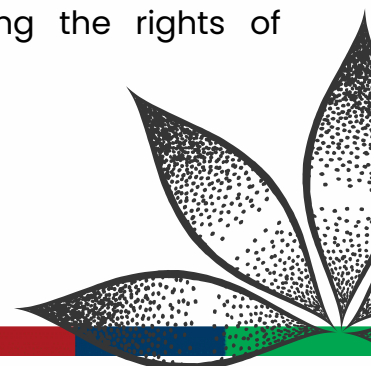
This period also saw the widespread promotion and use of Indian Sign Language as a medium of communication of the deaf in India. While many NGOs were working on issues of disability, parents' associations, DPOs and organisations started by persons with disabilities themselves started during this decade, to highlight the major concerns of the disabled people in India. Till this point of time, the state's efforts were limited only to setting up some of the National Institutes, allocating funds for disability rehabilitation programmes being implemented by NGOs and CSOs and half-hearted efforts at monitoring the work of these organisations.

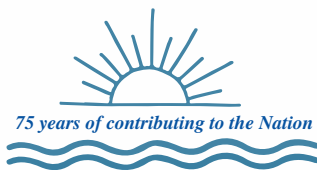
It was during the end of this decade that the first efforts to frame a law for persons with disabilities was taken up by many of the disability advocates. Such advocacy efforts also stimulated a demand for collection of disability data during Census enumeration, which led to the inclusion of disability as a category in the 1981 Census of India.

From the 1980s onwards, disability efforts spread to rural areas in India, with the concept of CBR coming in and the emerging evidence from Census 1981 demonstrating that persons with disability were primarily located in the rural areas. While the efforts to educate and promote employment for persons with blindness and deafness continued, NGO run centres for surgical interventions and aids and appliances for disabled people living in rural areas, started emerging in the outskirts of major cities.

There was also an increasing awareness and interventions for intellectual disabilities and persons living with autism (then referred to as mental retardation). These efforts were further stimulated in the 1990s by the passing of the Rehabilitation Council of India Act in 1993 and the Persons with Disabilities Act of 1995. The civil society efforts also included leisure activities like car rallies for the blind, social rehabilitation of all persons with disabilities, talking libraries etc.

From 1990s onwards the visibility of disabled people as self-advocates can be understood primarily as a result of the efforts of civil society organisations in the previous decades. The civil society organisations and the disability activists together unleashed a campaign to ensure the state in India passed a proper law for promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.





Responding to global developments and the influx of international agencies in India, the disability movement received a boost for demanding services and access to rights available to all other marginalised groups. Consequent to the passage of the Persons with Disabilities Act of 1995, civil society organisations, taking cognisance of the state apathy towards person with disabilities, took up the gargantuan task of spreading awareness about the law and ensuring that disabled people started accessing the legal provisions. Using the thrust of the law on education, training and employment for persons with disabilities, these NGOs/CSOs started market friendly skill development programmes so that disabled people across the country could access an income.

At the same time the law gave them a tool to press for counting persons with disabilities during Census operations and from 2001, there is all India level data on persons with disabilities available for intervention, research and advocacy purposes. The continuous engagement of parents' associations also created the space for dialogue with the state regarding care and protection for particular groups of persons with disabilities, that led to the passage of the National Trust Act of 1999.

At the core of the disability sector in India, therefore are the civil society organisations that have promoted the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of social living from health care, education, rehabilitation to employment and livelihoods.

In the 2000s these efforts extended to engaging with questions of rights of persons with disabilities beyond the social and economic rights to political rights and entitlements for leisure, recreation, community inclusion etc.

It has been the CSOs/NGOs/DPOs that have brought to the forefront and pushed the state to recognise the invisible or 'lesser' disabilities and bring in provisions for them, and to using the law to ensure that the provisions of the different policies and programmes are implemented at the ground level. For example, in 2004, Disability Rights Group, a cross disability advocacy group, filed a PIL that led to a landmark judgement by the Supreme Court making all polling booths accessible including equipping EVMs with Braille.

The disability sector in India, comprising of diverse organisations working with persons with disabilities, civil society initiatives, disabled people's organisations and disability advocates received a fillip in 2007 in the form of UNCRPD. This tool enabled them to take on the state in India to press for a law that enshrined the principles of inclusion and accommodation for persons with disabilities and directed the state to take responsibility for the same.





The reactive state in India was prodded and pushed to bring about fresh legislation for persons with disabilities in India, along the lines of the UNCRPD and to ensure that disabled people are treated as equals by state and society. As the state dragged its feet in passing the new law on rights of persons with disabilities, the disability sector, now extending beyond the urban to the rural grassroots levels, DPOs and CSOs highlighted their concerns and were able to ensure that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act was passed in 2016. However, the implementation of the law has been slow till date and the dream of inclusion, of access and of equal opportunity and participation are yet to be realised. Hence Disability in India @75 promises more action and advocacy to ensure that the state in India owns up to its responsibility and upholds the promises made to citizens with disabilities. The state in India will have to ensure accessibility of persons with disabilities to all public and private spaces. The civil society must work in collaboration with the state, to bring about changes in attitudes and norms of society so that the capacity of disabled people to participate fully and optimally in communities is ensured, while recognising that certain support systems must be put in place for those who require it.

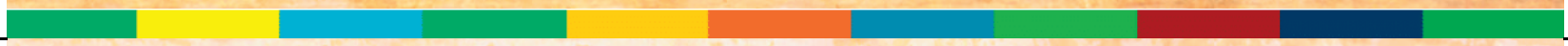




ALIGNING CSR AND BUSINESS RESPONSIBILITY



With contributions from the Business & Community
Foundation (BCF), Socio Research & Reform Foundation (SRRF)
and Praxis – Institute for Participatory Practices (Praxis)



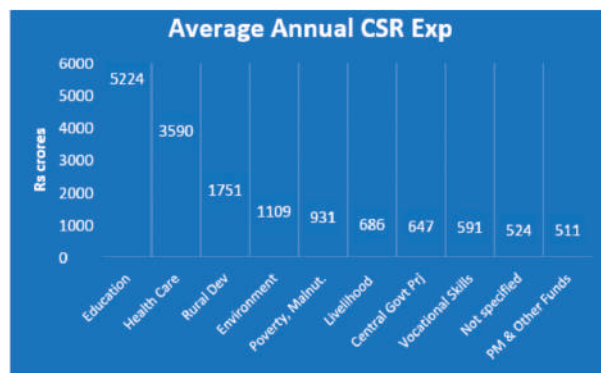


CSR IMPLEMENTATION, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

India is touted as the first country in the world to mandate Corporate Social Responsibility through the Companies Act of 2013. Coming from a tradition of religious giving and philanthropy, this seemed like a logical step forward in connecting the haves with the have-nots. India's million+ non-profits (NPOs) have, over the decades, worked at the grassroots to reach the unreached and fill the systemic gaps that exist in society.

The non-profit sector in India contributes to the GDP and provides employment, valuable goods and services in nation-building and holds a high trust value amongst communities. Non profits as part of civil society has also pioneered several movements and campaigns to ensure the basic rights of people are not violated. For the implementation of CSR projects, it is evident that NPOs remain one of the critical partners for corporates and an analysis by the High-Level Committee on CSR (2018) reveals that between 2014 to 2018 almost 66 % of the expenditure was done by companies through other entities. Though on one hand, it depicts the dependency on NPOs it is observed that often NPOs are limited to the role of being an implementer while the company retains the ownership. Another fact as reported in the same analysis has been about the prescribed versus actual expenditure, between the period 2014 to 2018 the compliance in terms of actual expenditure remained at an average of 68.25%.

With CSR funding focusing largely on education (almost 30% of annual average CSR expenses), health (20%) and rural development and environment (15.9%) work (see graph alongside), it is unlikely that these will be used for policy changes or bottom-up movements and rights-based campaigns which call for state as well as corporate accountability. When the CSR law was implemented in 2013, the officials concerned said it could lead to 50,000 crores of rupees in funding for development projects annually. After 7 years of implementation, the total annual spending rose from Rs 10,066 crores in FY 2014-15 but is still half the projected spend at Rs 25,715 crores in the financial year 2020-21, according to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (see graph below).





Similarly, CSR, it was hoped, would contribute to community development in regions which were struggling in meeting Human Development Indices such as Health and Nutrition, Education and Financial Inclusion. However, out of the total spending by companies in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, the amount spent on the 112 aspirational districts identified by the NITI AAYOG, was only Rs 232.8 crore, Rs 307.51 crore and Rs 104.04 crore respectively. The total spending for these years were Rs 17,098.18 crores, Rs 20,196.92 crore and Rs 24,954.78 crores. States that account for only 15 per cent of the aspirational districts or backward districts accounted for more than 60 per cent of the CSR expenditure.

On the other hand, states that account for more than 55 per cent of the aspirational districts, received 25 per cent CSR projects but only 13 per cent of the total expenditure towards CSR during 2017-18. In what could be a sign of change, CSR spending by companies in the most backward districts in the country rose in FY21, according to data from the ministry of corporate affairs. The ministry informed the Parliament that companies spent over ₹507 crore in 84 backward districts identified by the NITI Aayog in FY21, against nearly ₹332 crore spent in 82 aspirational districts in FY20. (Source: The Mint, 6 April, 2022).

Another challenge has been the funding of specific programmes such as PM- CARES. Post its establishment in March 2020, through information collected through RTI applications, it was found that 98 PSUs spent around Rs 2,422.87 crore from CSR funds in the year 2020. In a recent response in Parliament, it was revealed by the concerned Ministry that in the last seven years out of the total spend of Rs 1,25,000 crore around 4 to 5 % have been contributed to the PM-CARES with most of it being done for the two years of the pandemic. It is certain that when seen on annual basis this would be much higher for those two years. This is particularly concerning because much of the details regarding the usage of the fund is not in the public domain and it has been denied because of PM-CARES not being a public authority as defined under the RTI Act. The facility of getting uncapped corporate donations is not available to the PMNRF or the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in the states.

In 2013, a Socio Research & Reform Foundation (SRRF) study of CSR spending of top 100 companies identified that companies spent around Rs 2650 crores just before the official CSR implementation. In 2020-21, as per the data available of the top 100 companies covered in the 2013 study, their CSR spending amounted to around Rs 8402 crores, pointing to the role of CSR legislation in improving spending by companies on social projects.





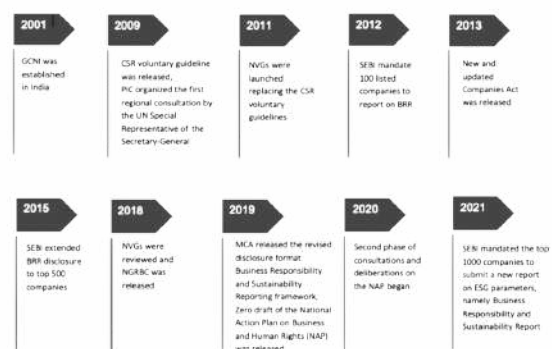
Another major change is the quality of disclosure about CSR. Before official CSR kicked in, generally there was no norm of CSR disclosure. The same survey observed that out of 100 top companies of India, only 73 companies disclosed their CSR spending. This has also improved over the period due to national reporting guidelines and requirements

Over the years, there have been amendments streamlining the CSR spends of companies, laying down guidelines and setting rules for mandatory disclosures. The Corporate Social Responsibility (rules in the Amendments to the Companies Act in 2019 and 2020, which mandated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) contributions for some companies, have helped the corporate sector transition from a voluntary and unsystematic approach to a structured way of contributing to societal welfare. As recently as in September 2022, the government of India amended the CSR law for the fifth time since 2013. These amendments made mandatory a CSR committee and widened the organisational ambit for implementation. Also, it fixed the responsibility of the Board to comply with the requirements of the legislative framework - approval of CSR policy, disclosing the policy in its report and on company website, ensuring that activities as included are actually undertaken by the company and ensuring that at least 2% of the 3-year average net profit is spent on CSR activities. Further strict provision on unspent amount and further penalties have also been introduced.

BROADENING THE DEFINITION OF CSR TO INCORPORATE RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT

These amendments in the quantum and quality of CSR spending and disclosures about the same would not have been possible without the role of npos/civil society. NPOs over the last decade have been instrumental in moving the corporate responsibility agenda beyond 2% expenditures of profits under the CSR law by their work on guidelines which seeks to align CSR and Responsible Business Reports (BRR) that can throw light on actual conduct of business and its practises.

In 2009, the first regional consultation by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights and transnational corporations, other business enterprises and CSOs led to the integration of the 'Protect-Respect-Remedy' framework into the National Voluntary Guidelines (NVGs). A number of key developments as summarised below have attempted to shape the responsible business discourse in India.



Timeline of Business and Human Rights-related developments in India





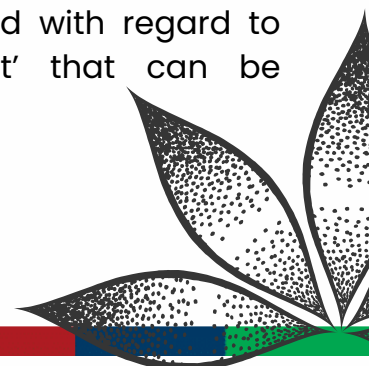
Findings from Status of Corporate Responsibility in India 2020 report :

- Out of top 100, only 30 companies disclosed that their supplier code explicitly prohibits child labour in the supply chain; only 17 explicitly mention creating disabled-friendly workspaces; and only 31 mention sexual minorities in their recruitment policies.
- Of the top 300 companies, 35 per cent did not have recognised unions or associations representing workers, while 11 per cent did not report this data.
- An analysis of sampled 200 top listed companies over the period of 3 years (2017-2020) depicted that there while was an increase in the total workforce, the contractual workforce (8.6 per cent) in the sample companies grew by a rate of three times that of the permanent workforce (2.6 per cent)
- It also showed that overall though the permanent workforce has increased by 26 per cent, there has been a decline in the permanent women workforce (- 5.7 per cent) and the permanent workforce with disability (- 29 per cent)

One of the key interventions done by the voluntary network named Corporate Responsibility Watch (CRW) with other NPOs has been to consistently monitor the disclosures made by the top listed companies. Since 2014, CRW has been continuously publishing disclosure analysis reports for the top 100 listed companies and expanded its research base to the top 300 companies. CRW contributed to creating an India Responsible Business Index along with other CSOs, which looks into the disclosures made by companies in terms of its policies, practices and performance from the lens of equity.

The annual analysis served the purpose of bringing in larger developmental narratives of diversity and inclusion around gender, ability, diversity and identity within the business spaces. Some of the insights provided through annual Corporate Responsibility reports in India and their alignment with Business Responsibility Reports have been significant in informing the quality of disclosures made by the companies in the public domain and separate societal obligations from the overpowering CSR 2 % narrative that tends to absolve companies of their responsibilities to adhere to National Guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC) framework.

The discourse on the intersection of business and human rights has expanded and grown to include ideas that were previously absent or barely discussed. The introduction of laws, rules and frameworks with essential components of business and human rights and with the rise of business and human rights-related conversation has attempted to build awareness among the companies and their stakeholders encouraging better disclosure and ultimately towards accountability to society. It is important that stakeholders recognize the reality of the collaboration between state and businesses with civil society and community demanding a model of CSR based on principles of equity, responsible business conduct that respects laws of the land with regard to 'People and the Planet' that can be emulated the world over.





CHILD RIGHTS

A DEVELOPMENT SECTOR REPORT



Innovation in Child Rights:

CHILDLINE (Helpline for children in distress): CHILDLINE was an initiative started by Prof Jeroo Billimoria from Department of Family and Child Welfare, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Mumbai. The helpline was initially set up for children in street situations in Mumbai which was later scaled up to different cities of India by the Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment. Later, in 2006-07, the Ministry for Women and Child Development (MWCD) granted the exclusive 'Nodal Mother NGO' status to CHILDLINE India Foundation and set up CHILDLINE services across the country.



INTRODUCTION

India entered into a new era with its independence on 15th August 1947 and adoption of the Constitution of India on January 1950, bringing about strong provisions for survival, development and protection of children. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) outlines basic children rights as being classified into four categories i.e., Survival, Protection, Participation and Development. India declared children as nation's most precious asset through National Policy for Children in 1974. Government of India adopted a National Plan of Action for Children in 1992 and in the same year, it ratified the CRC and took several measures for ensuring children's rights. Since independence, India's progress in assuring child rights has been commendable on several fronts, with greater attention required on others to meet the SDG 2030 agenda. In this journey of upholding the rights of children, along with the Government, the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have played a critical role, and will continue to do so.

CONTRIBUTION OF CSOS ON DEVELOPMENT OUTCOME

In the child rights ecosystem, Government provides the necessary infrastructure in form of legislative policies and programs with financial and physical outlay.

To support the successful implementation of these initiatives and ensuring inclusivity, CSOs have extended their valuable and critical support by:

Awareness generation and capacity building initiatives:

In the endeavor of reaching out to the community and children, especially the most vulnerable and marginalised. CSOs have always supplemented Government initiatives by creating large scale awareness on the public schemes and supporting the vulnerable communities in accessing the same. CSOs have also constantly engaged with frontline workers including Anganwadi worker, ASHA/USHA, ANM, teachers, local elected representatives (PRIs/ULBs) in building their capacities to effectively deliver the Government provisions to the eligible population.

Service Delivery: CSOs bridge the gap between community and Government, at times from the side of community demanding their rights, and at times from Government side by facilitating the Government services access to the community and children, especially most marginalised population sub-groups, so that no one is left behind.





Responding To Humanitarian Crisis:

CSOs have always provided their support in reaching out to the vulnerable families (including children) during natural disasters or any other humanitarian crisis. In the recent times, during the widespread distress owing to COVID-19, CSOs in India came forward in distribution of food and dignity kits to the marginalized population across the nation. There were also dedicated efforts to support the Government in increasing vaccination uptake across India.

CONTRIBUTION OF CSOS IN POLICY-MAKING

CSOs in India have contributed to advancing child rights through policy level changes, through their sustained policy influence, public engagement and network initiatives. Some critical contributions include:

Contribute to Progressive and Inclusive Legislations:

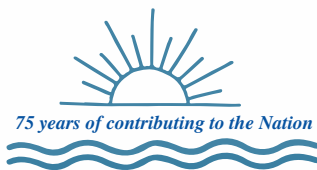
CSOs draw attention of the State and policymakers to most pressing needs of children and contribute to critical legislations like making education a fundamental right in the form of Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act (2009).

The journey of Juvenile Justice Act (2000) translated into Integrated Child Protection Scheme (2006) received substantial contributions from the CSOs, especially the component of 'preventive mechanism' and 'non-institutional care' which have been advocated by the CSO representatives in the committee providing technical inputs in drafting of the scheme.

Demonstrating success of community-based interventions which the State has adopted for scaling up:

An impressive example was the adoption of the home-based neonatal care (Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC)) - a low-cost approach developed and tested by SEARCH, an esteemed organisation working in rural Gadchiroli (Maharashtra) - as part of Government of India's National Rural Health Mission. Another example is the CHILDLINE, which was an initiative started by Prof Jeroo Billimoria from the Department of Family and Child Welfare, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Mumbai. The helpline was initially set up for children in street situations in Mumbai which was later scaled up to different cities of India by the Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment. Later, in 2006-07, the Ministry for Women and Child Development (MWCD) granted the exclusive 'Nodal Mother NGO' status to CHILDLINE India Foundation and set up CHILDLINE services across the country.





CHALLENGES FACED

Some key challenges faced by the CSOs in making significant contribution include: the inability of many CSOs to work at scale, demonstrate success and capture impact of their work effectively; limited resources (financial, human, institutional); limited efforts or facilitation for developing strong partnership and trust between Government and CSOs; and restricted opportunity to strengthen capacities of CSOs to adapt and respond to emerging realities, like shift to more cost effective, technologically enabled service delivery models .

WAY FORWARD

To ensure greater momentum on Child Rights in India, in keeping with the 2030 SDG agenda, it is critical that the role of CSOs is strengthened and acknowledged. This includes: the Government and non-government collaborations be strengthened with clear accountability and responsibilities sharing mechanism; build stronger platforms to engage with Government and create an enabling environment for civil society action; and CSOs forge partnership with other critical stakeholders, including private sector, media, citizen and children collectives, think tanks to leverage their unique strengths and deepen children agenda.

Greater attention, resources and partnerships need to be forged to ensure ongoing capacity building of CSOs, to respond to emerging realities and opportunities on child rights , including influencing enhanced public investment and expenditure on children.

Community based child protection institutions:

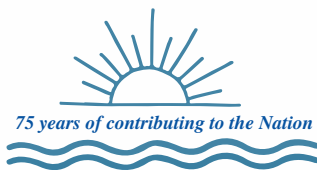
The journey of Juvenile Justice Act (2000) translated into Integrated Child Protection Scheme (2006) received substantial contributions from the CSOs. Specifically, the components of 'preventive mechanism' and 'non-institutional care' have been advocated by the CSO representatives in the committee providing technical inputs in drafting of the scheme. The decentralised community-based child protection mechanism at village level in the form of Village Level Child Protection Committees (VLCPC) have been strongly demonstrated by preventive initiatives of CSOs.





**NOT-FOR-PROFITS WORKING IN
LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION AND
MICRO-FINANCE**





NOT-FOR-PROFITS WORKING IN LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION AND MICRO-FINANCE

Authored by Dr. Sankar Datta, Ex-member of Faculty, IRMA

One of the significant areas of contribution by the Not-for-Profits, also referred as the Third Sector is to perform functions required by the society but not adequately catered to by the Market or the State. These include social innovations, which when developed are adopted by the State or the Market. Two such areas of contribution of the Not-for-Profits in the last few decades have been in the areas of livelihood promotion and micro-Finance. Both of these areas required use of profit making tools for addressing a public purpose. It was recognized that the poor to sustain their livelihoods needed to engage with the market, not only as the recipient but also as equal players. Hence, Not-for-Profits players took the initiatives to help the disadvantaged people engage effectively with the market, which popularly got to be known as Livelihood Promotion. It was also recognized that the poor, to enhance their economic outcome, needed to invest capital. As large majority of the poor were subsistence worker generating just about enough (sometimes not even that) to survive, there was no capital formation on their part, Not-for-Profit organisations had to innovate and develop models of making capital accessible to the poor, which popularly got to be known as Micro-Finance. As both of these social-innovations to support the disadvantaged involved engagement with the market, including the capital market, the organisational forms chosen by NPO were more often Hybrid forms.

And, the models developed by the Not-for-Profits, when demonstrated to work, were taken up for further replication by the For-Profit organisations on a large scale.

Let's first focus on understanding the livelihood challenge in India. Presently, as per The Annual Report - 2020-21 of Ministry of Agriculture approximately 58 percent of the Indian workforce was engaged in in the agriculture and allied sectors, contributing only about 18 percent to India's GDP. Though this had gone down to 49.26% in 2011, it has started climbing up in recent years, especially post-Covid-19 pandemic, when due to shortage of opportunities many people went back to their villages, to remain under-employed and were 'counted' as a part of agricultural labour force. This marginal change in contribution to GDP, with a large proportion of the workforce continuing to depend on agriculture and allied sectors, the per capita income from agriculture has been declining over the years.

One of the significant blows to the livelihood situation was dealt by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Slowing down of the economy led to job losses on a magnificent scale. However, the Pandemic also led to emergence

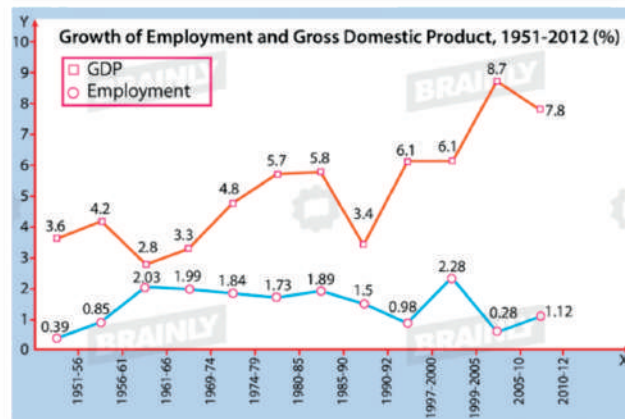




of many new livelihood opportunities in online marketing, and door-step-delivery of many goods and services. But, the available talent pool of jobseekers is nowhere close to the demand from such sectors as diverse as artificial intelligence, machine learning, augmented reality, virtual reality, e-commerce, e-healthcare services, EdTech, Fintech, AgriTech, to name a few that opened newer opportunities.

With the Covid-19 hitting the economy, the first quarter of the financial year 2020–2021 saw the steepest fall in GDP ever recorded in India at a negative 24.4 per cent. First quarter of the financial year 2021–2022 also saw the sharpest GDP growth of 20.1 per cent. A report from NABARD pointed out 'After two years and three waves of COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian economy started recovering from the second quarter of FY2022 even as a few sectors struggled to regain pre-pandemic momentum.' But it needs to be recognised that growth in GDP did not necessarily improve the employment situation of the poor, as most of the recovery of the economy was also driven by sectors mentioned earlier, where the current rural youth did not get employed.

Though current data was not available, the graph below shows that GDP growth did not lead to better livelihood opportunities for all.



As reported in the State of India's Livelihoods 2021 report by ACCESS, since 1980, India's annual GDP growth has mostly stayed in the range of 4 to 8%, but over the same period, the employment generated by this growth has been shrinking. Meanwhile, India's working-age population has continued to grow, with the delayed effect of fertility rates which remained at their peak of 2.3% until 1986. So, since the early 2000s, the crisis of 'jobless growth' has been further confounded by an acceleration in the young people coming of working age.

Though engagement as a worker is not same as livelihoods, distribution of workforce across different NIC Sectors give us a sense of number of livelihoods dependant on the sector.





	NIC Category	Estimated Number of Workers Engaged
1	Agriculture,	234.1
2	Animal Husbandry	20.5
3	Forestry & Fishing	33.1
4	Mining and Quarrying 1	0.7
5	Manufacturing	12.8
6	Electricity, Gas and Water	3.6
7	Construction	54.0
8	Wholesale and Retail Trade	152.4
9	Restaurants and Hotels	7.1
10	Storage and Transport,	1.3
11	Communications	7.7
12	Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services,	4.5
13	Community, Social and Personal Services	5.9
	Total Workforce	471.3

Table compiled by author based on reported figures of employment from different sources. These are indicative figures only. There are serious difficulties in estimating these numbers, arising from a large proportion being in unorganised sectors, and the people engaged in multiple activities.

The table above shows that though agriculture is the sector generating the largest number of livelihoods, wholesale and retail trade (which includes various forms of kirana shops, is the other sector supporting a large number of livelihoods, followed by the construction. The Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020-21 affect the construction industry very badly, leading to severe reverse migration, leading to their remaining 'job-less' for months, and were supported by the government initiative of providing free food, where many NPOs participated.

One of the serious challenges for livelihood promotion in India is the sheer number of people whose livelihoods need to be supported. Though initially adapted and tried by various NPOs like MYRADA, SEWA Bank, ASSEFA, the Self-Help Group methodology has been adopted by the Government. The Government launched a large National Rural Livelihoods Missions, under whose aegis a large number of community-based organisations (CBO) and their federal structures have come about.

The presence of Self-Help Groups, their Village-Level Federations called Village Organizations, and the Cluster Level Federations (CLF) are to be seen in every district. The unique feature of interests about them is that they represent the poor people in the organisations by design. This has created a new network of not-for-profit Not-for-Profits institutions across the country. These new forms of NPOs have been working on issues that impinge upon multidimensional poverty, and several of them have taken a significant interest in articulating the demand of the poor and hence created a pull force for improved governance. In effect, one form of Not-for-Profits seems to be yielding space to another form.

These new generation NPOs, owned and managed by the poor people, have played an important role in extending microfinance as well. Recognizing the poor to augment their economic life needed infusion of some capital, which the formal financial institutions, both Market and the State had failed to serve adequately, Not-for-Profits Organizations like Grameen Bank, Bangladesh, K-REP (Kenyan Rural Enterprise Programme) Bank, Kenya, PT Bank Rakyat Indonesia Tbk, started delivering financial services to the poor using alternate methods of serving them. These NPOs developed methodologies to reach the poorer segments, which over time came to be known as the Micro-Finance.





In India also, initially several NPOs started expanding micro-Finance services. But one thing that the leaders of the Micro-Finance movement in India was clear that there were several institutional forms, like banks and NBFCs which were mandated to mobilize and redistribute capital. So, though several NGOs started experimenting with Micro-Finance, over time they converted themselves into a more suitable form like an NBFC-MFI, or a Local Area Bank, or Small Finance Banks, which were mostly for-profit organizations, though mandated to serve the weaker sections.

Though Micro-Finance in India started with replication of the Grameen Bank model, where 6 to 8 groups of 5 members each, formed a centre, and loans were given to individual members of the group, as recommended by the Centre, though its weekly meeting; the model of Self-Help Group, where a group of 15 to 20 individual members formed a Group became more popular.

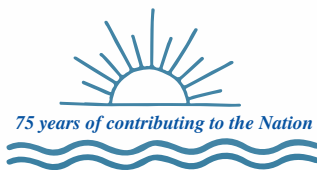
In this SHG Methodology loan was extended by the Bank to the Group, which in turn on-lent it to individual members. This SHG method of extending micro-Finance got a major fillip with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development launching the Self Help Group-Bank Linkage Programme (SHG-BLP) as a pilot programme aimed at linking just 500 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with 6 Not-for-Profits with branches of six banks in the year 1992.

Further the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India launched the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) by restructuring Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY). NRLM was renamed as DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission) w.e.f. March 29, 2016. SHGs were designated as the primary unit of the large institutional network. All SHGs in a village federated into a Village Organization, which further came together to form Cluster Level Federation/Block Level Federation, and so on.

The Not-for-Profit organisations played the role of SHG Promotion Institutions (SHPI). By March 2022, there were 14.2 crore BPL households organised into 119 lakh SHGs, with savings deposit of Rs. 47, 240 crores, with loan outstanding of Rs. 1,51,051 crore to these poor women, with loan repayment rate by SHGs to Banks is 97.71 percent. (Status of Microfinance in India 2021-22, NABARD)

Apart from the SHG-BLP program, the Not-for-Profits also got engaged in delivering microFinance services using other models, including Grameen Bank Model, Joint Liability Group model and direct lending model among others. As reported in the Sa-Dhan's Bharat Microfinance Report 2021, Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) even a year back, by March 2021, operated in 28 States and 5 Union Territories in India.





The reporting MFIs were 208 with a network of 20,065 branches and 1.61 lakh employees had reached out to over 4.2 crore clients with an outstanding loan portfolio of Rs.1,13,459 crores. This includes a managed portfolio of Rs. 35,310 crores. The loan outstanding per borrower stood at Rs. 18,894 and 90% of loans were used for income generation purposes. Of the total, For Profit MFIs (NBFCs/NBFC-MFIs) contribute to 87% of clients outreach and 82% of outstanding portfolio, while not-for-profit MFIs contribute to the remaining.

MFIs with portfolio size of more than Rs. 2,000 crore contribute significantly to the total outreach (69%) and loan outstanding (76%) of the sector. As on December 31, 2021, for-profit microfinance industry served 5.57 crore unique borrowers, through 10.58 crore loan accounts. The overall microfinance industry currently has a total Gross Loan Portfolio (GLP) of INR 2,56,058 crores.

A third set of financial institutions that extend Micro-Finance services to the rural people, are the network of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) set up by the commercial banks, with 56 RRBs in India. By March 2021, they had GLP of Rs. 3,34,171 crores. Though these RRBs also cater to the financial needs of the similar client group, as they are owned by the Government of India, they cannot be treated as a part of the Not-for-Profits. However, a major change in the Micro-Finance Sector in the country came with Revolutionary change in the Information Technology (IT), Opening of large number bank accounts as a part of Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY),

Introduction of the core banking system facilitating online payment systems and Development of the Business Correspondent model of delivery.

As most of these changes were happening concurrently it is difficult to lay down their specific sequence of introduction in micro-Finance. However, with introduction of the Core-Banking Systems in early 1990's most commercial banks got virtually connected, easing interbank transactions with large number of accounts. This with international recognition of micro-Finance methodology, with Prof. Yunus being awarded the Nobel Prize in 2006, and IPO of Banco Compartamos in Mexico getting highly over-subscribed in 2007 led many commercial banks to start looking at micro-Finance as a commercial opportunity. Even Online-Payment systems became a possibility with the development of the information technology (IT).

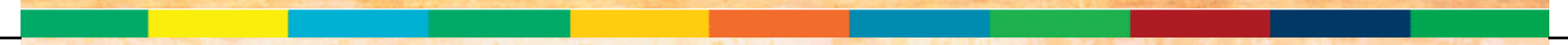
As per the Master Directions – Priority Sector Lending (PSL) issued by RBI, in September 2020, loans extended by regular commercial banks to both for-profit and not-for-profit MFIs for on-lending to other priority sector clients were also treated as PSL by the Commercial Bank. This opened a new channel of extending micro-finance to disadvantaged sections. All these efforts of the State-Market-Third Sector led to what can be treated as mainstreaming of micro-Finance, which was part of the original objective of the innovation.





UNDERSTANDING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE NPO SECTOR IN INDIA

ESTIMATION OF THE ECONOMIC VALUE





A SUMMARY OF THE REPORT BY SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

The NPO sector's activities are spread across several different economic sectors such as health, education, advocacy, environment, social services, creative activities, development, gender, etc. The sector provides a large and significant contribution to the improvement of life and livelihoods for large sections of society in India. The economic valuation of these contributions are however not easy to equate due to a number of factors.

1. The NPO sector is itself not defined as a sector in the system of national accounts
2. The NPO contribution has substantial contribution in intangibles and long term benefits present value of both of which are difficult to compute.
3. A vital aspect is the role and presence of a large number of volunteers within the sector who provide services on an honorary basis or for a token honorarium.
4. There are very few survey or field based attempts to estimate the economic value of the NPO sector at the National level in India (Casey 2016).

Given the challenges listed above, this report attempts to arrive at an economic value of the contributions of the NPO sector in India.

The report is based on an extensive review of literature that attempts to estimate the economic contribution of the NPO sector in India and in other countries.

Inputs for this report were also obtained from experts on national accounting, economists who work on issues related to activities of the unorganised and informal sector and macro economy in general. Data has been derived from national accounts statistics and from additional sources including the statistical tables provided by the Reserve Bank of India. This report is similar to other reports that attempt to estimate the economic contribution of 'non-conventional' sectors such as the creative sector, music industry and so on ("Taking the Temperature" 2022) (Kedia 2022).

The non-profit sector (NPO) or the non-governmental sector is not defined as a 'sector' in the system of national accounts of a country. The sector is at best a composite sector including parts of other sectors such as health, education, social service and so on. The first step therefore in arriving at an estimating the economic value of the contributions of the NPO sector is to identify different sectors in the national accounts framework in which the non-profit organisations are active and have a contribution.

The economic contribution of composite sectors such as the NPO are obtained through the creation of satellite accounts which are in turn based on surveys of establishments and institutions in the sector.





One such effort was made between 2009 and 2011 by the National Accounts Division of the Central Statistics Office in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The report of these satellite accounts forms the base for arriving at the estimates in this report.

A related difficulty of obtaining economic value of NPO activities is that most NPO activities are in what is called the services sector. In fact a study related to other countries found that the vast majority (nearly 75 percent) of non-profit gross value added (GVA) is generated through service activities as opposed to expressive activities (Salamon et al. 2013). The issues related to the economic measurement of the services sector has been known to governments and scholars for several years. There are three major problems with regard to measurement of value-added of the services sector (Pais 2020).

The first is the inability to measure the value of the output itself. In such instances the most accepted method of measuring value added is the value of wages given to workers in the sector. Further in the case of services such as health and education, it is argued that the demand for such services remains stable even when there are large fluctuations in income. The second problem relates to computing the rate of inflation for the value of services. The most popular method is the method of double deflation.

In the method of double deflation, the value of output and value of inputs are deflated separately by their appropriate price indices, and the value added for the service is then estimated as the difference between the output and inputs (CSO, 2007). The third set of issues is to do with the inability to actually make measurements on the ground and hence the use of indicators as proxies for the existence and growth of some services. As a consequence, in the case of a number of services, employment in the given service is used as an indicator to arrive at the size and growth of the service.

A substantial effort in the NPO sector is towards efforts that produce outputs that are intangible. For example, efforts towards nation building, creating awareness about human rights, empowerment of vulnerable sections of society such as women, dalits, adivasis and minorities, work towards improving enlightened citizenry and so on. An economic valuation of such outcomes is near impossible.

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The value of such contributions, while substantial, are not included in the current estimation. A related difficulty in obtaining accurate valuation is of activities that have tangible consequences but that are long term and often indirect. This is true for NPO activities working on issues related to health, education, environment and so on where there is known measurable positive contribution, a large part of which accrues in the future and the extent of which is unknown due to uncertainties related to other related factors.

For example, while an NPO activity may work towards substantially improving health in a particular area. But this positive outcome may disproportionately be undone by factors such as vehicular pollution or industrial activities that simultaneously grow in the target area.

Several studies on the NPO sector have highlighted the role of volunteers along with paid workers. It has been argued that not only are volunteers present and working in large numbers in the NPO sector, their contribution has to be taken into account while measuring economic value of the contribution of the NPO sector (Eliasoph 2020). In India study in Tamil Nadu estimated that the nearly two thirds of the workers in the NPO sector were volunteers (PRIA 2002). The estimates by the NAD satellite accounts show that there were nearly 8.4 million volunteers making up for about three fourths of the workers in the sector. This report attempts to estimate the value of contribution of volunteers to the economic valuation.

International efforts towards indention and classification of the NPO sector activities have led to the development of the International Classification of Non-profit Organisations (ICNPO). The ICNPO consists of 11 sub-sectors at the first level of disaggregation. These sub-sectors are (1) Culture and Recreation, (2) Development and Housing, (3) Education and Research (4) Environment (5) Health (6) International Activities, (7) Law, Advocacy and Politics, (8) Philanthropic Intermediaries and voluntarism promotion (9) Professional and Business Associations and Unions (10) Religion and (11) Social Services. Reconciling the conventional National Accounts statistics sub-sectors and the ICNPO subsectors is a challenge with regard to data from India. The estimation of economic value of the NPO contribution in this report is along the 11 ICNPO sub-sectors.

Estimates of share of the NPO sector in different 'national accounts sectors' such as health, education and so on can be estimated through what is called the creation of satellite accounts. Such satellite accounts have been developed for India by national agencies associated with the National Accounts division of the department of Statistics along with partner organisations who help in the conduct of surveys of households, individuals or enterprises as the case may be.





There have been several attempts at developing satellite accounts for the tourism sector in India, both at the national as well as state levels. Similarly, there is at least one recent attempt to develop satellite accounts for the NPO sector (2012). There are also attempts at developing satellite accounts in other countries in India's neighbourhood such as Bangladesh.

SOURCES OF DATA

Satellite accounts on the NPO sector from India (2012). Data from the surveys of unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises by the NSS (2010-11) and NSS (2015-16). Disaggregated data on GDP from that National Accounts Statistics (various years till 2019-20).

ESTIMATION METHODOLOGY

The method involves estimating value-added in different sub-sectors of the formal and registered NPO sector for the latest possible year. Methodology developed after discussions with experts and economists working on estimation of GDP, GVA and sectoral economic values. Imputed values are computed for each of these sub-sectors to account for the contribution of volunteers. Similarly, the value of contribution of the informal sector or unregistered NPO activities are computed using data from unincorporated enterprises survey of the NSS.

It is assumed that the average economic contribution of the formal sector volunteers is equal to the average economic contribution of formal paid workers in the respective sub-sector. In case of the informal sector, however, it is assumed that the economic contribution of the average worker is about two thirds that in the formal sector. For change over time and for obtaining estimates for the latest possible year, sub-sectoral growth rates of gross value added are computed from National accounts. These growth rates are then applied to sectoral estimates of value added for the NPO sector computed above. Since obtaining inflation estimates for the NPO sector is complex, all estimates are in current values. Normalising of the estimates is done by presenting ratios with respect to sectoral and National GDP.

It should be noted that formal registered NPO sector institutions covered in the satellite accounts used in this report only include organisations registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860, Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950 and companies registered under section 25 of Indian Companies Act, 1956. Other organisations registered under other acts, though engaged in not-for-profit activities are not covered. However, according to an estimate, a bulk of the NPO activities are by institutions registered under these three regulations.





Also, it should be noted that the attempt here is to provide an estimate of the value added in different sectors by activities of NPO institutions. The attempt is not to estimate total grants received by the NPO sector or funds or even credit disbursed by the NPO sector.

More specifically

- Estimates for the 11 ICNPO subsectors for the year 2007-08 are computed
- The value of contribution of volunteers in each of the subsectors is added to this estimate.
- Further contribution of the informal sector is added using estimates of workers in the unincorporated establishments in 2011-12 and 2015-16.
- Reconciliation between 11 ICNPO subsectors and NAS sub-sectors done using appropriate concordance tables. Value added along the 11 ICNPO subsector estimated for the years 2007-8 to 2019-20 (latest possible)
- Sectoral growth rates for the value added for the 11 ICNPO sub-sectors computed.
- These growth rates applied to estimates of value added in the NPO sub-sectors to arrive at estimates for 2019-20.

The contribution of education was and Research was about INR 112 thousand crores followed by Culture and recreation at INR 108 thousand crore. The third most important sector was social services at about INR 10.5 thousand crore. Both education and cultural activities account together for about 62 per cent of all NPO activities in India.

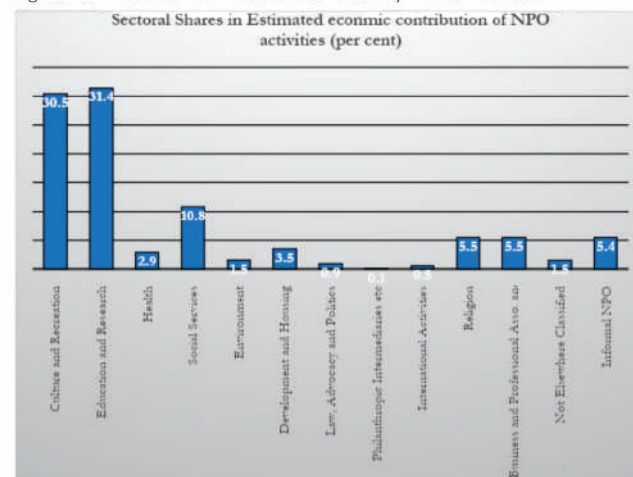
Table 1: Sectoral estimates of economic contribution of NPO Sector, India, 2019-20

NPO sectors	Estimated sectoral GVA (INR crore)	Sectoral share in total (per cent)
Education and Research	112166	31.4
Culture and Recreation	108626	30.5
Social Services	38534	10.8
Business and Professional Assoc. and Unions	19522	5.5
Religion	19460	5.5
Informal NPO activities	19391	5.4
Development and Housing	12571	3.5
Health	10490	2.9
Environment	5479	1.5
Not Elsewhere Classified	5213	1.5
Law, Advocacy and Politics	3066	0.9
International Activities	1857	0.5
Philanthropic Intermediaries etc	294	0.1
Total	356670	100

Note: All estimates at current value in 2019-20.

ESTIMATES OF THE ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE NPO SECTOR IN INDIA

Figure 1. Share of Economic activity across Sectoral Shares in Estimated economic contribution of NPO activities (per cent)



Education and related activities accounted for the largest share in the economic contribution of the NPO sector in India. The estimates across sectors for 2019-20 are given in Table 1.





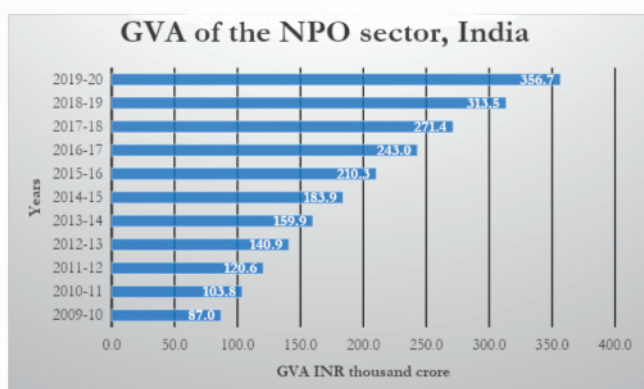
The NPO activities remain an important part of socio economic life in India. These activities are also growing over time. Estimates of the size and growth of the NPO sector over time is given in Table 2. It is estimated that the economic contribution of the NPO sector to the Indian economy increased from about INR 73 thousand crore in 2008-09 to about INR 356 thousand crore in 2019-20. As a share in gross domestic product the economic contribution of the NPO sector increased from about 1.41 per cent in 2008-09 to 1.94 per cent in 2019-20. Figure 2 shows the shares of NPO contribution to GDP over the years.

Table 2: Estimates of Economic Contribution of the NPO sector in India (2009-10 to 2019-20)

Year	Estimated GVA of the NPO sector (INR crore)	Share in GDP (per cent)
2008-09	73095	1.41
2009-10	87028	1.46
2010-11	103793	1.47
2011-12	120638	1.49
2012-13	140891	1.53
2013-14	159881	1.54
2014-15	183915	1.60
2015-16	210349	1.67
2016-17	242984	1.74
2017-18	271399	1.75
2018-19	313512	1.83
2019-20	356670	1.94

Note: All estimates in current prices

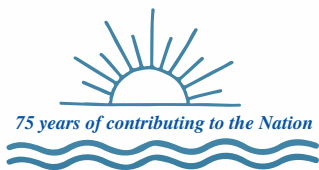
Figure 2 Estimated GVA of the NPO sector, India, 2009-10 to 2019-20



LIMITATION OF THE PRESENT ESTIMATES

This estimation in this report uses the satellite accounts as a starting point to make estimations of the economic contribution of the NPO sector in 2019-20. The base for the estimations is from the national level satellite accounts (2011-12) which provide sectoral values for reference year 2007-08. A more recent satellite accounts effort is likely to improve the quality of these estimates. Formal registered NPO sector estimates only include organisations registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860, Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950 and companies registered under section 25 and now 8 of Indian Companies Act, 1956. Other NPOs even though registered under other regulations are unfortunately not included.





An attempt is made to include contributions of the informal sector NPOs, however these are likely to be under estimates. Finally, the estimates suffer from usual limitations with respect to estimates of value added in the services sector (could be overestimates and underestimates depending on the sub-sector)

Key findings:

- The NPO sector contributes substantially to value added in several sectors in India especially in Cultural activities, education and in health.
- The share of the estimated value of the NPO's economic contribution to GDP is 1.94 per cent in 2019-20.
- Lack of data prevents the complete evaluation of the economic value added by the NPO sector.

- Since the nature of work and workers in the NPO sector is different from regular work, there is need to develop a framework and categorisation of workers associated with the NPO sectors- paid employees, volunteers - full time and part time (including interns), members of governing boards and so on.
- A substantial contribution of the NPO sector is in outcomes that cannot be measured in terms of money value and are intangible outcomes. The contributions due to intangibles can be brought out through descriptive and qualitative studies with a pan-India, multi-sectoral sample.

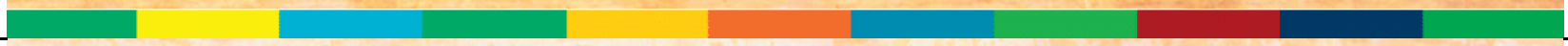
RECOMMENDATIONS

- India has a rich history when it comes to collection of statistical data; in line with this it is recommended that attention should be paid for independent collection of data on the activities and contributions of the NPO sector.
- Reliable estimates of the economic contribution of the NPO sector can only be obtained through satellite accounts. Government of India through the ministry of statistics should regularly conduct national level surveys as part of the building of these satellite accounts.





**RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR ENABLING THE
CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR**





RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENABLING THE CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR BY THE STAKEHOLDER

- Acknowledgement of the tremendous service to the nation by the million plus missions across India
- The recognition of its leaders, workers, volunteers, and boards pro bono in service to the nation
- An end to the excessive regulation sought to be implemented on the sector and laws of the land applied uniformly. Black sheep exist in all sections of society and cannot be used to tarnish those who have spend a lifetime in dedicated social work
- Recognition of the NPO partnership during pandemics, disasters and implementing Govt programs
- Ease of Doing Good index to be instituted on par with the ease of doing business
- A social security fund for the social sector, workers during emergencies, health needs, etc.
- A level playing field in recognition of the contribution to the nation @ 75





CONCLUSION





CONCLUSION

It is undeniable that civil society and nonprofits have contributed tremendously to the nation. It has literally been the 'fourth pillar, diverse and dynamic. However, as much of this report's findings demonstrate, these efforts are yet to be reflected in the context of regulatory pressure from government authorities. Across the world Indian Civil society is held in great regard as innovative, low cost and high impact work. India's innovations led by non-profits has been taken across to the developing world in Africa and South East Asia. Non Profit organisations are fully accountable with the laws of the land that regulate its working and to their communities.

Contribution to GDP of India

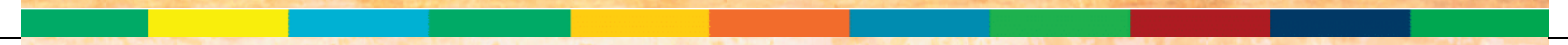
The contribution to the GDP exceeds; and is significant in terms of jobs, Volunteers, and involvement of millions of people across the country. In fact NPO/CSO contribution is half the contribution of the IT sector which has been the poster boy of the growth story and is offered concession after concession and 10 year tax holidays but the civil society has been at the receiving end of the regulatory stick with even the simple Income Tax concessions like 100 % tax concessions under Section 35 AC and 35 (i) (ii) being summarily removed. Every donor's contribution must be uploaded separately on the CBDT website. Excessive paperwork discourages voluntary action at the ground by volunteers and small NPOs.

A level playing field has to be enabled for the civil society sector on par with the private sector to create growth and further contribution to India's GDP.





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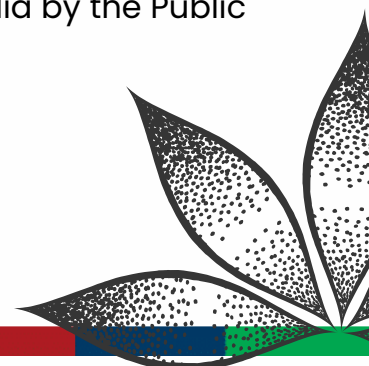


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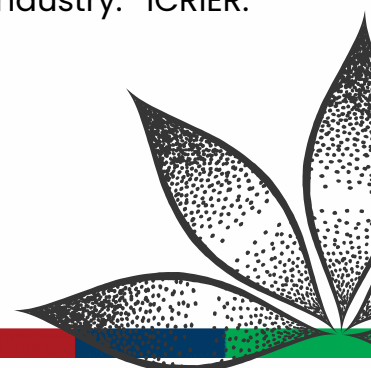




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- NGO Darpan
- FCRA Dashboard
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Please Note: This is the first version & preliminary synopsis of India's non profit sector report presented for public reference by all the collaborating partners and practitioners. More updated and iterated versions to come soon.

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