



ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND NGO LEADER'S DURING COVID-19 CRISIS

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Abstract: -

In the pandemic situation the civil society and NGO's helps a lot. The Nation. Present economic shocks, refugee flows, or pandemics. Civil society refers to a community of citizens linked by common interests and collective activity. The core definition of civil society is that it is the society to engage in as active citizens on the basis of own priority to serve to the Nation, which is neither part of the market nor part of the state or Nation. Institutions and organizations that make up civil society can include non-profit organizations (NGOs), religious organizations, labour unions and other agencies that serve society. civil society organizations' role in a pandemic situation in India must also not be forgotten. while it might be tempting to exclude their expertise and representative voices when urgent decisions are being made, the incorporation of more voices will give policymakers ideas, information, and useful critique quickly and often in useful form. In India, representatives of civil society are involved in the development and implementation of the national transition strategy, alongside researchers and members of the private sector. Civil society acts as the democratic watchdog. This is a crucial function in times of a pandemic when governments adopt emergency powers to act efficiently to combat it. Nationwide lockdowns and restrictions can be justified by the severity of COVID-19 but must be proportional and time-bound.

KEY WORDS: - Civil Society Organisations. Pandemic situation. Policy makers.

Introduction: -

The COVID-19 pandemic which has pushed the world to the brink of collapse by causing a significant burnout among the medical care laborers and making the world economies more vulnerable than any time in recent memory, is lamentably still a long way from being done. In spite of having probably the strictest lockdown, India represents the second most elevated number of absolute cases on the planet after the US. In spite of the fact that we have seen a precarious decrease in the general inspiration rate, with merriments around the bend and facilitating limitations, we need to proceed mindfully in the event that we are stopped this difficulty. We have seen the demonstrated consequences of relentless forceful

testing, following and secluding across India and it is protected to state that it is quite possibly the most productive and conceivably the lone path through which the infection can be captured and contained.

Dealing with a pandemic of this nature and scale has been a significant tough assignment for governments across the world, including India, where the spotlight has not exclusively been on alleviating the spread of the infection however to likewise limit the financial harm caused as a repercussion. With restricted wellbeing framework and flooding cases debilitatingly affecting medical services laborers, there is a need to adopt a collective strategy in Coronavirus the board, including more prominent inclusion of the common society associations to help the endeavours of the public authority to deal with the pandemic. South Korea has gathered praise for dealing with the pandemic quickly. The nation's polite society associations assumed an essential job by observing the circumstance intently, helping the public authority, and arriving at the weakest social gatherings. In the past, community mobilization with the support of CSOs have assisted the governments in management and eradication of diseases like polio, measles-rubella and smallpox, and helped fill in the gaps where the governments were unable to reach.

The Main Role of Civil Society And Ngo's

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has shown us something that most of us haven't seen in our lifetimes: large numbers of people unable to have two meals a day. The tragedy is that the government has enough and more food grains to feed people during this time; the real issue is of distribution both in terms of broken supply chains, as well as the insistence of the government to limit distribution to beneficiaries under the [National Food Security Act \(NFSA\)](#), ie, priority ration card holders. This approach is flawed because the NFSA has many exclusions, with some of the poorest of the poor, nomadic or Adivasi communities, and the urban poor being left out. Moreover, ration cards are of no use to migrant workers stuck outside their home state. There are similar issues of exclusion in other services as well, such as livelihoods and healthcare. This is where civil society must step in-to put pressure on the government to universalise these services.

The public position structure is working under government authority in specific regions and not working in others. In a part of those spots, the public authority is itself mentioning our help. Given the giganticness of the intervention required, the public authority can't do it in isolation, and normal society can't supersede the colossal occupation of the public expert in facing this crisis. While common society affiliations can accept risk for a one area and

totally ensure the flourishing of the people there, we ought to similarly work with nearby governments, help people access easing evaluates down to every country and metropolitan ward, and fill the openings in the public power's response. Panchayats and nearby self-governments furthermore have a significant assignment to work out in this effort.

The many organizations have been mentioning of the public authority power to fitting food grains to everyone, and we need to apply such a squeezing factor at a greater degree. We've seen this work already, by virtue of activities, for instance, NFSA (that concentration around food security) and the Mahatma Gandhi Public Provincial Business Act (NREGA)- both these were a delayed consequence of consultative cycles between the public power and basic culture. Without a doubt, these rights-based institutions are giving us the framework for public assistance movement during this crisis, and they ought to be enough redesigned.

THE NGO's

The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF) has served over 4.9 million meals to people from vulnerable communities. As a part of the relief initiative, the foundation has been distributing freshly cooked meals and food relief kits to migrant laborers, industrial workers, and homeless people in various locations across the country. There is still much more to do as the domino effect from the novel Coronavirus continues. The pandemic has triggered mental health issues. The healthcare industry is reeling from the lack of personal protective equipment (PPE). Despite the PM's repeated appeals, mass gatherings continue. In this situation, NGO's can play a big role in reigning in the pandemic. NGOs have deep penetration in society. They have access to areas where healthcare organizations are absent. They are known and trusted by the communities where they work, and they can spread the awareness.

Anshu Gupta, Founder Director, Goonj agree. "A grassroots institution can successfully motivate people because there is a connect, a relationship," he says. Goonj has been making and distributing cloth masks to relief workers and in family kits. "Since we have stopped taking materials, we are making do with the material we have at the moment," he says. Bulk production is not possible at the moment, adds Gupta.

The social and economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic continues as governments around the world grapple with the crisis. When the first COVID-19 case was reported in India in January, WHO and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued a list of

basic protective measures against the disease. Wash hands frequently. Refrain from touching your face. Maintain distance from people exhibiting cough and cold-like symptoms.

The guidelines were simple to follow but with increasing cases of infected people in India, the preventive measures needed to be amplified many times over to contain the spread of the disease and fend off mass hysteria. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a 21-day lockdown in India on March 25, to slow down the spread of the virus. The hasty decision has adversely affected many sections of the society especially the poor. Daily wage laborers lost their incomes and had no way to feed themselves. Many NGOs stepped up and provided relief to the poor by feeding them and distributing hygiene kits.

Support To Migrant Workers:

The migrant workers were perhaps the most affected segment of the population, and the challenges they faced were many. Left with no savings and facing the threat of being evicted, coupled with the fear of permanently losing their jobs, they painted a grim picture. The foremost concern was their accessibility to government support, which could only be availed if they were registered with the state government, or are not part of labour or trade unions. Most of the migrant workers were not registered workers, thus keeping them out of the 'safety net' of the state. The challenges of the rural and urban migrant population varied according to the context. While the urban poor were forced to abandon their settlements after the loss of their jobs and faced uncertain futures, the rural poor seemed to be occupied with concerns of the infection reaching the rural areas, due to their kith and kin from urban areas heading home to the village. Similarly, their livelihoods were also at stake due to unavailability of jobs under the MNREGA schemes. Around thirty five percent of CSOs worked with the district administration to secure employment for migrant workers who returned to their home states. Through facilitating quick registration and identifying potential beneficiaries, the CSOs bridged the gap between the migrant workers and their need for employment.

Ground Challenges

Goonj had to scale back its operations. They have stopped accepting materials at their collection centers and also terminated their field activities. They were amidst the relief work for the Delhi riots victims when the Coronavirus pandemic hit India. Gupta says the relief work for the victims of the riots now includes relief from Corona as well. The

logistics have been a challenge but fortunately for Goonj, the networks they built in cities, villages, with community workers and local institutions across the country for the past 15 years have helped. “For the first time we have been transferring money to organizations to buy locally. Says Gupta.

The staff of The Akshaya Patra Foundation is working 12 hours a day at times for the preparation and distribution of meals, says Dasa. With the increase in the number of meals being cooked and distributed, there is an increase in our manpower requirements. Says Dasa.

Youth Feed India Program Under Safa Organisation

The Hyderabad-based not-revenue driven association works for the metropolitan poor by presenting manageable jobs through a territory based local area model. This additionally incorporates building up expertise preparing places for the young. With Coronavirus having antagonistically influenced the traveller populace, Safa and different NGOs including Cry, BGIF, and 15 others are assisting us with disseminating Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Gurgaon, Delhi, Mumbai and North Karnataka.

Give India:

PAN INDIA Give India is a non-profit organisation in India. It is an online donation platform and aims to channel and provide resources to credible non-governmental organisations across India. they are raising funds for two COVID19 programmes at the moments:

1. Donation for food parcels for daily wage earners
2. Hygiene kits for those in high-risk areas

SEEDS: -PAN INDIA The not-for-profit organisation is reaching out to vulnerable communities in the states of Bihar, Delhi, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha and Uttarakhand. In these regions, besides supporting the elderly and children, SEEDS is taking some burden off frontline health workers by supplementing public health systems, supplying hygiene kits and supporting the establishment of temporary quarantine facilities.

Uttishtha Foundation: -

Uttara Pradesh state this foundation has contributed in the field of education through dissemination of scholarships to the students of primary and junior school of the government schools. Every year we distribute approximately over 100 blankets in the month of January to the needy and poor. To bring harmony between the villagers we organize Bhagwat Katha and also distribute food to more than 1000 people. They are

trying to procure test kits for COVID19 and utilise them in hard to reach/ rural areas and providing meals to the migrated workers.

Uday Foundation:

-Delhi the Uday Foundation works on health, support and dignity to homeless and disaster relief. The current Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak continues to spread, making lakhs of homeless living on the streets with lack of ability to self- quarantine, access to medical care acutely vulnerable. Uday Foundation is providing all necessary help and services to this vulnerable section of the society in the time of crisis by accepting donation material such as soap for hand wash, sanitizers and one month's food supply to distribute.

Chikka Federation of India:

BIHAR Chikka Federation is a United Nations accredited NGO that is carrying out Covid-19 relief work through distribution of ration, masks and soaps amongst the resourceless communities of Muzaffarpur and providing meals to some daily wage workers and domestic help who have been rendered jobless in the current situation. The NGO is also carrying out awareness campaigns about the importance of maintaining social distance.

Impact of Non-profits:

Non-benefits saw another development stage during the 1960s when it was seen that administration programs alone would not get the job done for improvement. Grassroots level gatherings were expected to elevate the segregated and denied areas of Indian culture and embrace critical thinking at a speedier speed with better reach. Today, there are more than 3 million NGOs working in an assortment of fields going from fiasco help to support for minimized areas and assume a significant part in bringing social change. Since non-benefits are intentional in nature, they rely upon gifts by people, subsidizing by firms through CSR, help from government organizations, and so forth to fuel their missions. Their work is basic in assisting India with battling separation, destitution, lack of education, calamities, pandemics and the sky is the limit from there.

In the present situation where India is battling the Coronavirus pandemic, NGOs the nation over are working perseveringly to battle the circumstance. The lockdowns that followed the pandemic have made a monetary emergency on top of a general wellbeing crisis. It has removed the jobs of numerous and put them in desperate waterways unfit to bear the cost of food or fundamental Coronavirus-19 related to hygiene things likesoaps, masks, sanitizers and etc.

Conclusion: -

This article summarizes the vital discoveries of this study on the role of common civil society in forming the math of human relations in the covid-19 situations. It recommends that civil society and NGO's is an important and fundamentally challenged thought and that it's anything but an idea that respects simple arrangements, end or speculation. It portrays the change state of associational life and looks at whether civil society and NGO's can be supported pandemic situation. It contends that without contending dreams of the great society, open arenas in which they can be developed and solidified, and affiliations that make a framework for aggregate activity between the individual and the express, no just democratic process would be possible. While urban populations were swiftly informed of COVID-19 restrictions and prevention measures, in rural areas, information about the disease was limited. These not-for-profit organizations have been quick to fill this gap and created communication and distribution networks across the country's hinterlands. They have also been executing an important task of creating awareness about the virus to prevent its spread as well as educating people on social distancing and its importance. As NGOs are known and trusted by the communities where they work, they have been helping people to combat the stigma, while distributing water containers for hand-washing, providing shelter, and setting up community kitchens for those in need.

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