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# NGOs in India Only

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POOJA SURESH JAISWAL<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

*NGOs are non-profit organizations that are established with a vision by a group of like-minded people committed to the upliftment of the poor, marginalized, underprivileged, impoverished, downtrodden and needy and are closer and accessible to the target groups. An NGO is a non-profit organization that works on a non-profit basis, so it is also known and identified as a non-profit organization (NPO). The mission, vision, goals and objectives of NGOs is to improve human life and civilization.*

*Human rights NGOs are essential to the defense of human rights because they work to stop specific cases of abuse, provide assistance, advocate for changes in legislation, contribute to its development and disseminate information.*

*Human rights NGOs in India play a vital role in promoting and protecting the rights of individuals and communities. These organizations rely on a variety of means to sustain their operations, with donations and fundraising initiatives being critical components.*

**Keywords:** *Non- Profit Organization, Human Rights, Development, Donations.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Human rights are essential for the survival of humanity. These rights protect our right to liberty, right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, etc. These are universally recognized principles governed by international law. However, a gap seems to remain between the actual adoption of these rights and the laws that mention them. The weaker sections of society often cannot cope with the existing legal structure of human rights. This is where non-governmental organizations (NGOs) intervene.

### (A) What are NGO's

The NGO sector is developing rapidly around the world. What began today as a remedy to combat poverty, illiteracy and other social ills has spread to global trade, finance, the environment and building international relations. So what are NGOs? NGOs are simply organizations that think for money or financial gain and try to help people grow. The very well-defined meaning of the term NGO is given by the World Bank as private organizations that run activities to support the interests of the poor, provide social services and engage in community development. Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee, also known as (BRAC), an

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<sup>1</sup> Author is a student at Thakur Ramnarayan College of Law, Dahisar East, Mumbai, India.

NGO based in Dhaka, Bangladesh has been voted the best NGO in the world, according to NGO Advisor Statistics 2021. Among the much-appreciated work BRAC has done is providing aid to the Rohingya at a time when the world is struggling to solve a humanitarian crisis. This was just one example of the tremendous work these NGOs are doing, and the number of NGOs around the world is also growing. As more NGOs entered the framework, their scope, as noted above, also expanded.

### **(B) Helping in Environmental Protection**

The NGO sector is developing rapidly around the world. What began today as a remedy to combat poverty, illiteracy and other social ills has spread to global trade, finance, the environment and building international relations. So what are NGOs? NGOs are simply organizations that think about money or financial gain and try to help people grow. The very precisely defined meaning of the term NGO is given by the World Bank as private organizations that run activities to support the interests of the poor, provide social services and engage in community development. Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee, also known as (BRAC), an NGO based in Dhaka, Bangladesh has been voted the best NGO in the world by NGO Advisors Statistics 2021. Among the highly commended work that BRAC has done is providing assistance to the Rohingya during the when the world is struggling to solve a humanitarian crisis. This was just one example of the tremendous work these NGOs are doing, and the number of NGOs around the world is also growing. As more NGOs entered the framework, so did their scope, as noted above.

### **(C) How are NGO s Financed**

NGOs work for the betterment of society and not for monetary demands. However, for the operation of the organization, funding is quite obvious. Most NGOs depend on conventional sources of funding such as subscriptions, donations, membership fees, etc. Other sources include assistance from international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and sometimes government grants.

### **(D) Legal Status**

However, as NGOs are widespread in many countries, national laws regulate NGOs as legal entities. For example, in India, NGOs are covered by various legislations such as Income Tax Act 1961, Companies Registration Act 1860, Companies Act 2013 and State Public Trust Acts. Universal legal recognition of NGOs under international law is necessary as this will ensure the participation of more NGOs in governance and decision-making, which in turn will help the country's political leadership. People will also start to trust these organizations more and accept

help from them.

## **II. HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM**

Although there are documents enshrining individual rights such as the Magna Carta (1215), the English Bill of Rights (1689), the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789), and the US Constitution Bill of Rights (1791), it took two devastating world wars for people to truly believe that human rights should be raised as an issue on the world stage.

The establishment of the United Nations in 1945 was a step towards recognizing human rights issues around the world. UN member states are committed to establishing and promoting human rights for all. Further, in 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by a majority vote of the 56 member countries. Her main interest was the recognition of human rights on the global stage. The preamble of the UDHR itself mentions that the recognition of equal rights to all members of the family is necessary for the preservation of freedom and peace in the world.

### **(A) Human Rights Covenants and Conventions**

Taking into account the principles of the UDHR, various treaties and conventions have been established. The UN further drafted the International Bill of Rights, which included two treaties, namely the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Both of these treaties focus on providing basic rights such as food, shelter, education, freedom of speech, religion. In addition, the UN has adopted other conventions for social evils such as child abuse, genocide, refugees, etc.

### **(B) Role of NGOs in Protection of human rights**

As mentioned above, the scope of NGOs has expanded. The Vienna Conference in 1993, led by the United Nations, attended by some 840 NGOs from around the world, committed to a common mission in the area of human rights. Human rights NGOs strive for the betterment of humanity and help in providing assistance to victims of human rights violations, collect information about human rights violators and report them to various agencies, spread awareness and educate about the importance of human rights. In 2007, the United Nations established the Human Rights Council to protect human rights around the world. NGOs played an important role by participating in various Council discussions. They have been instrumental in drawing the Council's attention to various human rights violations around the world, proposing various types of solutions and passing certain resolutions. They have been instrumental in exerting

pressure on their governments and also on UN bodies for the protection of human rights in particular.

### **(C) Impact in India**

International Human Rights Day is celebrated on December 10 all over the world to create awareness among people about these rights. However, the human rights scenario in India is tense. Various human rights issues such as extrajudicial killings, rape, domestic violence, custodial deaths, etc. are still prevalent. In 2019, the National Campaign Against Torture in India reported around 125 custodial deaths. The South Asian Terrorism Portal further reported the deaths of 63 civilians due to terrorism and insurgency in Kashmir and Maoist affected areas. As the COVID-19 pandemic ravages the country, the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative in India reports 15 deaths during a nationwide lockdown due to police clashes. Time and again, the political leadership has assured that it will address human rights issues at all levels of the country, but it does not seem to be helping. However, human rights NGOs have played an important role in providing assistance to those suffering from human rights violations. Below are some of the best human rights based NGOs doing phenomenal work in India:-

#### **1. Milaan Foundation**

Milaan Foundation is an NGO that basically works for the empowerment of little girls across the country. This organization ensures that underprivileged girls get all the basic requirements and proper training so that they can stand up for themselves in the future. So far, the organization has worked and helped approximately 40,000 children in the country.

#### **2. Child in need Institute**

Child in need Institute is a non-profit organization registered under the Companies Registration Act, 1860 in India. This organization works to improve the condition of poor children in the country. The main motive is to break the chain of social problems like poverty, illiteracy, unemployment among the disadvantaged in the country.

#### **3. Acid Survivors Sahaas Foundation**

It also provides employment and other assistance. Based in Mumbai, this NGO provides assistance to around 50 acid attack victims in four states of the country.

### **III. TOP 5 NGOS WORKING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA**

Human rights NGOs in India play a vital role in promoting and protecting the rights of individuals and communities. These organizations rely on a variety of means to sustain their operations, with donations and fundraising initiatives being critical components. In recent years,

crowdfunding has proven to be an effective method for raising funds and engaging a wider audience.

Online platforms provide NGOs with a convenient and affordable way to reach a wider network of potential donors. Crowdfunding campaigns allow NGOs to showcase their work, share compelling stories and communicate directly with supporters. It allows individuals to contribute, regardless of amount, and feel connected to the cause. By harnessing the power of social media and digital platforms, NGOs can strengthen their fundraising efforts and mobilize resources more effectively.

### **1. Snehalaya**

Based in Maharashtra, Snehalaya is a remarkable NGO dedicated to providing support and empowerment to vulnerable individuals, especially women and children. This organization relies on the generosity of donors and the success of fundraising initiatives to continue its impressive work.

Snehalaya's mission is to rescue and rehabilitate victims of human trafficking, sex workers and people affected by HIV/AIDS. They provide a safe haven where survivors receive comprehensive care, including counselling, medical support, education, training and legal assistance. By offering these basic services, Snehalaya strives to restore dignity, self-sufficiency and hope to those who have experienced immense hardship.

Fundraising plays a key role in the sustainability of Snehalaya. The organization holds various fundraising events and campaigns throughout the year to raise funds and awareness for their cause. These events can include charity walks, benefit concerts, online auctions and social media campaigns.

Snehalaya's work in Maharashtra is a testament to the power of dedicated NGOs to transform lives. Through donations and fundraising, individuals and communities can support Snehalaya's initiatives and contribute to the betterment of society and ensure that vulnerable individuals receive the care and opportunities they deserve.

### **2. Rescue Foundation**

The Rescue Foundation is an inspiring NGO based in Maharashtra, India dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. This organization relies heavily on donations and successful fundraising initiatives to sustain and expand its critical work.

The Rescue Foundation works tirelessly to rescue, rehabilitate and reintegrate survivors,

especially women and children, who have become victims of human trafficking. They provide a safe and nurturing environment where survivors receive medical care, counselling, education, vocational training and legal support.

Donations play a key role in supporting the Rescue Foundation's operations. They enable the organization to provide basic services and resources to survivors, including food, shelter, health care and education. Donors can contribute directly to the organization to significantly impact the lives of survivors and ensure the continuation of the Rescue Foundation's mission.

The relentless efforts of the Rescue Foundation in Maharashtra help in rescuing and rehabilitating victims of human trafficking. Through donations and fundraising initiatives, individuals can actively contribute to the organization's cause and ensure that survivors receive the necessary support and opportunities for a better future.

Based in Haryana, Safe in India Foundation is an NGO with an impact on creating a safer environment for women and children. This organization relies heavily on donations and successful fundraising initiatives to continue its vital work.

### **3. Safe in India Foundation**

Safe in India Foundation focuses on various aspects including women safety, child protection and gender equality. They work to educate communities about the importance of gender equality, empower women through self-defense training, and create safe spaces for children. By solving these problems, the organization tries to support a society where women and children can live without violence and discrimination.

Donations play a vital role in supporting the operations of the Safe in India Foundation. They enable the organization to run awareness campaigns, provide training programs and set up safe havens for victims of abuse. By donating to the foundation, individuals can directly contribute to creating a safer environment and supporting those affected by violence and exploitation.

Fundraising initiatives are critical to sustaining and expanding the efforts of the Safe in India Foundation. The organization holds fundraising events such as charity runs, benefit concerts and community events to raise resources and awareness. These initiatives not only generate funds but also involve the community in actively supporting the cause of women and children's safety.

The work of Safe in India Foundation in Haryana is commendable in promoting the safety of women and children. Through donations and fundraising initiatives, individuals can contribute to the organization's cause and significantly impact the lives of vulnerable individuals. By

supporting the Safe in India Foundation, we can work together towards a society where women and children are protected, empowered and free of violence.

#### **4. Jabala Action Research Organisation**

Based in West Bengal, Jabala Action Research Organization is an impressive NGO dedicated to combating child trafficking and empowering vulnerable girls and women.

Jabala Action Research Organization focuses on rescuing and rehabilitating victims of child trafficking, especially girls who have been forced into sex trafficking. They provide a comprehensive range of services, including rescue operations, consultancy, education, training and legal support.

Donations are a vital aspect of supporting Jabala's operations. Financial contributions from individuals and organizations enable the organization to provide essential resources such as safe haven, health care, education and skill-building opportunities to survivors of human trafficking. By donating to Jabala, individuals can directly contribute to their mission to empower and protect vulnerable girls and women.

The work of Jabala Action Research Organization in West Bengal is commendable in addressing the pressing issue of child trafficking and empowering survivors. Donations and fundraising are essential to keep the organization running and to make a tangible difference in the lives of vulnerable girls and women. By supporting Jabala through donations or participation in their fundraising initiatives, individuals can contribute to eradicating child trafficking and building a safer and more inclusive society.

#### **5. Mudita Foundation**

Based in New Delhi, Mudita Foundation is an inspiring NGO committed to improving the lives of underprivileged children and empowering women. Donations and effective fundraising initiatives play a vital role in supporting the effective work of the Foundation.

They believe in the transformative power of education and work tirelessly to ensure access to quality education for children who would otherwise be denied this basic right.

The work of Mudita Foundation in New Delhi is commendable in providing education and empowerment to vulnerable children and women. Donations and fundraising are critical to supporting their efforts and making a lasting impact on the lives of those in need. By donating or participating in Mudita Foundation's fundraising initiatives, individuals can actively contribute to building a better future for disadvantaged communities.

These approaches not only provide financial support, but also foster a sense of community



involvement and ownership. The joint efforts of individuals, organizations and communities are essential to ensure the continued work and influence of these NGOs in protecting human rights across the country.

#### **IV. CASE STUDY**

##### **Bachpan Bachao Andolan VS Union of India & Others**

**Case:** Bachpan Bachao Andolan v. Union of India & Others

**Petitioner:** Bachpan Bachao Andolan

**Respondent:** Union of India & Others,

**Date of Judgement:** [2011] 5 SCC 1

##### **Statute referred:**

- Indian Constitution
- Juvenile Justice Act

##### **(A) Facts**

- This Public Interest Petition (PIL) has been filed under Article 32 of the Constitution in view of grave violations and abuses of children who are in many cases forcibly kept in circuses without any access to their families under extremely inhumane conditions.
- Sexual abuse, physical abuse, and emotional abuse occur daily. Children are disadvantaged in the basic human needs of food and water.
- On April 26, 2013, a contempt of court action was filed, complaining about the manner in which a missing child complaint was handled at the relevant police station.
- In the same case, certain directions were passed which also included further directions for the implementation of the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, as amended by 2006.
- The court issued an interim direction that when any case of missing children is reported to the police station, the case should be reduced to a First Information Report (FIR) and appropriate steps should be taken to ensure immediate follow-up investigation.
- However, the State of Madhya Pradesh has raised doubts about the registration of a First Information Report (FIR) regarding a missing child in view of the provisions of Section 154 of the Penal Code, 1973, which relates to information in cognizable cases.

##### **(B) Issues Involved**

Whether a writ of mandamus or any other appropriate order, order or direction be entered to direct the respondents to make appropriate guidelines for persons involved in circuses?

### **(C) Contention by Petitioners**

- The petitioner submitted that since the I.C.F. does not have sufficient influence even on its own members, the agreement was not implemented, the petitioner continued to receive information and complaints from many parents through NGOs operating in Nepal.
- The petitioner further stated that the lives of these children begin at dawn with the shouting of instructors, merciless beatings and two biscuits and a cup of tea. After 3 to 5 shows and lots of insulting comments from the crowd. If a child is afraid of the rope while playing on the trapeze, he is scolded and mistreated by managers or employers and sometimes even beaten under one pretext.
- The petitioner stated that there are no labor or social laws to protect the rights of these children.

### **(D) Contention by Respondent**

- The Union of India reported that India is home to 19% of the world's children. More than one-third of the country's population of around 440 million is under 18 years of age. we must protect, educate and develop the child population to be productive citizens. Resources must be invested in children in proportion to their huge population.
- The Union of India has said that the Millennium Development Goals cannot be achieved unless the protection of children is an integral part of the programmes, strategies and plans to achieve them.
- The Union of India said that existing child protection mechanisms should be noted first.

### **(E) Judgement**

In order to exercise the fundamental right of children under Article 21A of the Constitution of India, it is imperative that the Central Government issues appropriate notifications banning the employment of children in spectacle within two months from today.

Opponents are ordered to conduct simultaneous raids in all circuses to free the children and check violations of children's fundamental rights. Children are to be kept in foster homes and protective facilities until they reach the age of 18.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

Nevertheless, NGOs around the world are doing great work in protecting the environment,

building international relations by helping various UN organizations, helping the economy prosper, and last but not least, protecting human rights. Human rights violations tend to increase at an alarming rate, and NGOs provide an important and effective defense mechanism against this.

With little or no bureaucratic structures, NGOs typically have much lower operating costs than government service delivery mechanisms. The effectiveness of NGO interventions in the development process depends to a large extent on whether the political environment is favorable or not.

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