

CHAPTER - 31

VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN RAJASTHAN

31.1 The presence and role of voluntary organizations in social development has become manifold large and multidimensional in last couple of decades. There has been a golden history of voluntary movement in the state. However, there are some historically backward areas in terms of presence and outreach of voluntary initiatives. Vidya Bhawan Society and Seva Mandir in Udaipur, Social Work Research Centre in Ajmer and Urmul in Bikaner are some good examples to understand the evolution and development of the sector in the state.

31.2 Efforts done by voluntary agencies are widely recognized, accepted and have been instrumental in bringing the disadvantaged into the development mainstream. Today the voluntary agencies are playing a major role in awareness building, organizing communities, trainings, service delivery, initiating innovations in development, research, planning, monitoring and policy reforms. These roles are being performed in key sectors like - Rural Development, Health and Family Welfare, Social Welfare, Micro-credit and Livelihoods, Natural Resource Management (Water, Forest, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry), Education, Women Development, Relief & Disaster Management, Social Security and Empowerment of disadvantaged people and so on.

31.3 GO-NGO collaboration and partnership has now become an established phenomenon in development sphere. Some of the projects where involvement of NGOs is being sought by various departments are DP1P, SGSY, Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, Innovative scheme for rural housing and habitat program, Day Care Center, Old and Destitute Home, Short Stay Homes, Balgrah Centers for destitute children, Swayam Siddha, ICDS, Balika Samridhi Yojana, National Aids Control Programme, Targeted Intervention, School Aids Education Vaccination camps, Reproductive and Child Health (RCH), Camps under Blindness Control Program, Pulse Polio Program, Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project, Rajasthan Forestry and Bio-diversity project, Apni Yojana, National Slum Development Program, Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana etc.

31.4 Presence of people movement in the state is well recognized. Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sanghathan (MKSS) who fought for the Right to Information Bill, Akal Sangarsh Samiti, Center for Health Equity, Dalit Human Rights Center, Ekal Nari Sanghathan are some of the organizations engaged in raising voices in favor of the disadvantaged. A variety of initiatives are being undertaken for environment protection particularly water.

31.5 The State Government has taken a number of initiatives to strengthen voluntary sector and to promote GO-NGO collaboration. Efforts are also being made by the state to build capacities of voluntary organizations. Specific actions taken in this regard are as under:-

Setting up of Association for Rural Advancement through Voluntary Action and Local Involvement (ARAVALI)

31.6 Association for Rural Advancement through Voluntary Action and Local Involvement (ARAVALI) is set up by the state for advancement of the voluntary movement in the state, as a state level resource support organization, ARAVALI puts in its efforts to build capacities of voluntary agencies in general and small and medium sized voluntary organizations in particular. It also advocates for a facilitative environment for GO-NGO collaboration. It also helps voluntary organizations to undertake innovations in development interventions.

Setting Up of NGO Cell

31.7 The Government has set up an NGO Cell as state level collaborative machinery to institutionalize GO-NGO collaboration. State Level joint machinery in the form of Standing Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Development Commissioner with equal representation from NGOs, VOs and PRIs so as to ensure better coordination between the Government Departments and VOs/NGOs.

District level GO-NGO-PRI forum

31.8 For effective collaboration, building mutual understanding, appreciation, acceptance, trust and shared learning between the Government, NGOs and PRIs is a necessity. To fulfill this objective district level forum has been initiated to facilitate regular interaction and dialogue between the Government, NGOs and PRIs for participatory development at the field level by harnessing strengths of all agencies. Efforts are being made by ARAVALI to make these forums operational in three districts namely Dholpur, Baran and Jhalawar on pilot basis.

NGO Directory

31.9 ARAVALI developed a comprehensive database of about 500 voluntary agencies working across the state. This provides a mapping of geographical and programmatic outreach of voluntary organizations working in the state. It has been instrumental in building collaboration across the sectors, departments and donors. The directory is being updated on a regular basis.

Capacity building of NGOs

31.10 ARAVALI runs a variety of programs aiming at building human and institutional capacity building of voluntary agencies. ARAVALI builds capacities of Voluntary Organisations in the areas of project formulation and report writing, accounting and financial management, account and,

transparency, human resource development and networking. All these initiatives are taken in a planned manner to provide a comprehensive support package.

Formulation of Procedures and Guidelines for involvement of VOs/NGOs

31.11 The Government has developed draft procedures and guidelines for involving NGOs/VOs in Government programmes. The criteria and procedures for involvement of VOs would facilitate meaningful public-private partnership. The guidelines focus on selection criteria, procedures, terms and condition of the partnership. The initiative has been taken up mainly by the Rural Development Department and the Irrigation Department.

31.12 Medical & Health Department has a NGO desk, to facilitate effective communication between the Government and NGOs. Some government departments have also appointed NGO advisors to deal with matters related to NGOs.

Strategy

31.13 In the Eleventh Five Year Plan, greater focus will be given on strengthening of voluntary sector especially in the remote tribal and desert districts, to achieve improved coverage in essential health care and nutrition.

31.14 Special focus will be given to improve service delivery system in implementation of various poverty alleviation programmes and other social welfare schemes through greater participation of voluntary sector in the Eleventh Five Year Plan.