

Non Governmental Organisations

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A non-governmental organization (NGO) is a non-profit, citizen-based group that functions independently of the government. NGOs, sometimes called civil societies, are organized on community, national and international levels to **serve specific social or political purposes, and are cooperative, rather than commercial, in nature.**

Types of NGOs

▪ **Charitable Orientation**

- . Involves a top-down paternalistic effort with **little participation by the beneficiaries.**
- . It includes NGOs with **activities directed toward meeting the needs of the poor**-distribution of food, clothing or medicine; provision of housing, transport, schools etc.
- . Such NGOs may also undertake relief activities during a natural or man-made disaster.

▪ **Service Orientation**

- . NGOs with activities such as the **provision of health, family planning or education services** in which the programme is designed by the NGO and people are expected to participate in its implementation and in receiving the service.

▪ **Participatory Orientation**

- . Characterized by **self-help projects** where local people are involved particularly in the implementation of a project by contributing cash, tools, land, materials, labour etc.
- . In the classical community development project,

participation continues into the planning and implementation stages. Cooperatives often have a participatory orientation.

- **Empowering Orientation**

- . The aim is to **help poor people develop a clearer understanding** of the social, political and economic factors affecting their lives, and to strengthen their awareness of their own potential power to control their lives.

- . Sometimes, these groups develop spontaneously around a problem or an issue, at other times outside workers from NGOs play a facilitating role in their development.

- . In any case, there is **maximum involvement of the people** with NGOs acting as facilitators.

Funding of NGOs

As non-profit organisations, NGOs rely on a variety of sources for funding, including:

- . membership dues
- . private donations
- . the sale of goods and services
- . grants
- . despite their independence from the government, some NGOs rely significantly on government funding