

History of Non-Governmental Organisation in Thoothukudi District

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Abstract

The NGOs perform various functions for the benefit of society. The range of NGO activities is vast and is spread in all fields: environment concern, age care, rural development, health, culture and heritage, women empowerment, child care and upliftment, primary education to all children, animal welfare, disaster management and many more. India, being a mostly populated country, it is not easy to meet all social and human needs by the government without the help of NGOs. NGO takes efforts to satisfy the requirements of an ordinary man and development of the nation by undertaking various projects and thus helps the Government to fulfil its objectives. The government has identified, considering the social pattern of living and needs of citizens, schemes in which NGOs and voluntary organisations can participate. In this paper, energy is made to pursue the history of 15 selected NGOs, their mission, vision, aims and objectives, beneficiaries, significant activities and achievements, management, funds mobilisation and welfare programmes

implemented in Thoothukudi district. In this paper, an exertion is made to pursue the history of 15 selected NGOs, their mission, vision, aims and objectives, beneficiaries, significant activities and achievements, management, funds mobilisation and welfare programmes implemented in Thoothukudi district. Recognising the diverse accomplishments, the scope of their tasks and unities in their welfare programmes 15 major NGOs selected for the study are Scientific Educational Development of Community Organisation, Sathankulam, Gramodhaya Social Service Society, Seidunganallur, Development Education and Welfare Institute (DEWI), Kovilpatti, Ymca Rural Community Development Project And St.Martin's Model Farm, Kayathar, Abdulkalam Rathathana Kazhagam Trust, Kovilpatti, Agriculture Water and Action for Rural Development Trust, Kovilpatti, Association for Rural Reconstruction Society, Kovilpatti, Friends Foundation Trust, Kovilpatti, John Educational and Rural Development Trust, Kovilpatti, Kammavar Ilaignarsangam Society,

Kovilpatti, Annai Trust, Tiruchendur, V Able Trust, Tiruchendur, Women's Education for Development Trust, Tiruchendur, Vyas Bharath Voluntary Youth Association for Social Service Bharath, Tiruchendur and Keela Eral Don Bosco Society, Keela Eral NGOs are successfully functioning in Thoothukudi district.

Keywords: NGO, voluntary organisations, mission, vision, activities, achievements.

INTRODUCTION

Non-Government Organisation (NGOs) has become significant players in development policy over the last two decades. Therefore, NGOs at present plays a vital role in the rapid economic development of the society. With the declining part of the state in social happiness and social services, NGOs are progressively gaining attention and looked upon as another agency in promoting awareness, change and development in the society (Pawar, 2004).

They are lengthily involved in alleviating the poverty and endorsing sustainable and equitable expansion. They are in a situation to provide social services to different sections of the society whereas the state fails to provide such services. NGOs are essential connections between the people at the grassroots level, civil

society and the state. They have involved in creating awareness and applying development programmes in agriculture, crunch development, women's empowerment, education, health and family welfare.

They are the councils of the alternative modes of development (Punalekar, 2004). In this paper, an effort is made to pursue the history of 15 selected NGOs, their mission, vision, aims and objectives, beneficiaries, significant activities and achievements, management, funds mobilisation and welfare programmes implemented in Thoothukudi district. In this paper, a determination is made to pursue the history of 15 selected NGOs, their mission, vision, aims and objectives, beneficiaries, significant activities and achievements, management, funds mobilisation and welfare programmes implemented in Thoothukudi district.

HISTORY OF NGOS

The concept of 'philanthropy', defined as the ethical notions of giving and serving to those beyond one's immediate family, has occurred in different forms across most cultures throughout history, often driven by religious tradition (David Lewis, 2009). Philanthropy, charity, voluntary work existed in various religions

and cultures from long back. NGOs origin goes back to a nineteenth century or even earlier than that, but the term “NGO” came into use in 1945, when the United Nations (UN) created.

Industrial Revolution (1700-1900) began in Great Britain and within a few decades had spread to Western Europe and the United States and ultimately in the whole world. There were significant changes in manufacturing process, technology, agriculture and transportation. The Industrial Revolution exaggerated the social, economic and cultural conditions of human life. There were substantial problems related to lower class masses like health and sanitation issues, child labour, and women suffrage.

The child labour existed even before Industrial Revolution, but it worsened due to increase in population. Labourers at factories, manufacturing units were working and living in the unhealthy and unsafe environment. In this period, most of the NGOs were active in child labour, women suffrage and the anti-slavery movement. By the finish of the twentieth century due to globalisation and advancements in transportation and telecommunications, there was a quick increase in the number of NGOs at local, national and international levels.

NGOs in India have their roots in ancient times: written in 1,500 BC, the Rig Veda, the old Aryan Scriptures, promoted the values of dharma (personal obligations), Jeev daya (humanitarian concern and concern for all living things) and voluntarism and philanthropy (Mishra, 2007). India has a long history of civil society based on the concepts of dana (giving) and seva (service) (<http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/pub/2009>). In ancient India, the idea of charity emerged from religious beliefs.

The noblemen or kings used to give dana to the needy people. Dana used to be the annadaana (offering food, grains, edibles). This daana and seva were done to receive blessings or good wishes from the people. In the medieval era, voluntary work focused on education, health, cultural promotion and natural calamities such as droughts, floods. Voluntary organisations proliferated and actively participated in various fields of social activities during the British rule. They betrothed in social welfare activities, literary and relief works (Manoranjan Mohanty, 2001).

The first half of the nineteenth century (1800 to 1850) was the era of social reform movements. Various social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Rabindranath Tagore, Dayananda

Saraswathy, Iswara Chandra Vidyasagar, Kesava Chandra Sen, Ram Krishna Paramhansa, Sayyed Ahmed Khan, Swami Vivekananda, Vinoba Bhave, Keshab Chandra Sen and Mahatma Phule had focused their work to eliminate practices like Sati (a recently widowed woman would immolate herself on her husband's funeral pyre), child marriage, caste discrimination, untouchability and promote practices like widow remarriage and inter-caste marriage.

During this period many organizations were formed, to name a few- Atmiya Sabha (1815), Brahmo Sabha (1828), Dharma Samaj (1830), Widows Remarriage Association (1850), Satya Shodhak Samaj (1873), Arya Samaj (1875), the National Council for Women in India (1875), Indian National Social Conference (1887), the Ram Krishna Mission (1898). This increased number of NGOs resulted in the Societies Registration Act of 1860.

This act gave the legal identity to the NGOs. During this period voluntary work was in the field of education, health services, relief and welfare. A firm foundation for secular voluntary action in India not laid until the Servants of India; a secular NGO established in 1905. The approach of the society was secular, and it

sought to solve the national and social problems on a rational basis (Asok Kumar Sarkar, 2005).

It engaged itself in improving the condition of women, problems of untouchability, establishing cooperative enterprises and rendering relief work (Ibid). The rise of Mahatma Gandhi into the Indian political ground during 1916-17 changed the complexion of the national movement and also that of voluntarism. The period marked the beginning of a more principled and value-based voluntary action in India (David Lewis, 2009).

According to Mahatma Gandhi, India's problem was poverty of rural masses. His constructive work aimed towards developing self-sufficient villages. He encouraged the masses to make use of charkha (spinning wheel), khadi (hand-woven cloth) and gramudoyog (village industries). Gandhiji's Constructive Work became part of the bulk national movement for political freedom, and he insisted that political freedom must go hand in hand with a sense of social responsibility (David Lewis, 2009).

Many organisations were formed at this time which based on Gandhiji's constructive work. After independence, the government recognised the importance of the voluntary sector and carried out

various welfare, relief and development programmes. In 1951, India's first five year's development plan (1951 to 1956) came into existence. In 1953, Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) established for the promotion of voluntary organisations. Then voluntary organisations started getting government funds through Grant-in-aid.

In the early fifties, with the overview of National Community Development Programme and National Extension Service, started the process of decentralisation of voluntary efforts in development. Further devolution took place with the introduction of a three-tier Panchayati Raj in 1958 (Ibid). Association for Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD) came into existence in 1958 to provide a national level common platform for voluntary agencies spread across the country (<http://www.avard.in/about1.aspx#Genesis>).

In the period (1970-1990), civil Society space started increasing from the 70s, NGOs began highlighting that why government programme is not yielding positive results for poor and marginalised, presented a new model for development with people's participation. With this new model NGOs covered substantial package

areas like education, main health care, drinking water, cleanliness, small irrigation, forest renewal, tribal growth, women's progress, child labour, pollution security etc. later on many of these models were comprised in govt programme and policies (Evolution of NGOs in India, 2005).

A fresh Report on Non Profit institutions in India (March 2012) by the National Accounts Division, Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics and Plan Operation, Government of India (MOSPI Report) create that there were solitary 1.44 lakh societies registered till the year 1970, trailed by 1.79 lakh registrations in the dated 1971 to 1980, 5.52 lakh registrations in the period 1981 to 1990, 11.22 lakh registrations in the period 1991 to 2000, and as many as 11.35 lakh societies were registered after 2000 (Report of the Expert Group on Societies Registration Act, 2012). This data shows there was rapid growth in the number of NGOs from the 1970s. From then till date, NGOs recognised as development partners of the state. There is an importance on the role of NGOs in every Five Year Plan of India.

**Non-Governmental Organisations
selected for the study in Thoothukudi
district**

In this paper, an effort is made to pursue the history of these NGOs, their mission, vision, aims and objectives, beneficiaries, significant activities and achievements, management, funds mobilisation and welfare programmes implemented. It is considered essential to understanding the role of these NGOs

towards the social, economic, political and educational development of people in Thoothukudi District. Recognising the diverse accomplishments, the scope of their tasks and unities in their welfare programmes 15 major NGOs selected for the study in Thoothukudi district as below table.

LIST OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS SELECTED FOR THE STUDY IN THOOTHUKUDI DISTRICT

Sl.No.	Name of the Organization	Place
1.	Scientific Educational Development of Community Organisation	Sathankulam
2.	Gramodhaya Social Service Society	Seidunganallur
3.	Development Education and Welfare Institute (DEWI)	Kovilpatti
4.	Ymca Rural Community Development Project And St.Martin's Model Farm	Kayathar
5.	Abdulkalam Rathathana Kazhagam Trust	Kovilpatti
6.	Agriculture Water and Action for Rural Development Trust	Kovilpatti
7.	Association for Rural Reconstruction Society	Kovilpatti
8.	Friends Foundation Trust	Kovilpatti
9.	John Educational and Rural Development Trust	Kovilpatti
10.	Kammavar Ilaignarsangam Society	Kovilpatti
11.	Annai Trust	Tiruchendur
12.	V Able Trust	Tiruchendur
13.	Women's Education for Development Trust	Tiruchendur
14.	Vyas Bharath Voluntary Youth Association for Social Service Bharath	Tiruchendur
15.	Keela Eral Don Bosco Society	Keela Eral

SCIENTIFIC EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION, SATHANKULAM

Scientific Educational Development for Community Organization - abbreviated as SEDCO started by a group of service-minded persons in the year

1986. The organisation began to work under the right platform of registration under the Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act. Scientific Educational Development for Community Organization involve in soil and water conservation, aforestation, AIDS prevention, control,

Care and support for PLHA, training of rural artisans and women, child development, watershed development, Livelihood promotion and Disaster Preparedness programs and working with 1,75,000 people ([www.http://sedco.in](http://sedco.in)). The total number of full-time staff is 32, and the total number of full-time volunteers is 28. Scientific Educational Development for Community Organization is working in five blocks of Thoothukudi District namely, Sattankulam, Alwarthirunagari, Udangudi, Tiruchendur and Ottapidaram.

GRAMODHAYA SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY, SEIDUNGANALLUR

To facilitate the socially, economically and culturally marginalised sections of the society to enhance the quality of their lives through concentration, community organisation, direct interventions, linkage facilitation, capacity building to achieve their empowerment.

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTE (DEWI), KOVILPATTI

Development Education and Welfare Institute (DEWI) located in Kovilpatti Tamil Nadu. Crèche centres, awareness training, investor awareness program, vocational training, legal awareness, micro-enterprise for women

environment and rural sanitation are the critical achievements of Development Education and Welfare Institute (DEWI), Kovilpatti (<http://www.dewingo.org>).

YMCA RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AND ST.MARTIN'S MODEL FARM, KAYATHAR

The Rustic Community Development Project of the Madurai YMCA works on significant areas such as child rights, women's empowerment, local governance, human rights and promotion of sustainable agriculture. The project serves 212 villages in three blocks in Thoothukudi District, Tamilnadu. This project has initiated an intensive campaign to re-enrol 400 dropout children in schools and has formed children clubs. 871 women's self-help groups and 30 men's self-help groups have developed, and training on group functioning, capacity building, records maintenance and EDP given to the members. The model farm serves as a farmers centre for sharing and training for small and marginal farmers in sustainable agriculture, eco-farming, rainwater harvesting, biofertilizers and pesticides etc., in Kayathar and Ottapidaram blocks of Tamilnadu.

**ABDUL KALAM RATHATHANA
KAZHAGAM TRUST, KOVILPATTI**

Abdulkalam Rathathana Kazhagam located in Kovilpatti Tamil Nadu. Abdulkalam Rathathana Kazhagam is conducting many blood donation camps and provides financial support for needy students, to serve the disabled peoples and helping micro small and medium enterprises are significant activities and achievements
(<http://www.abdulkalamblooddonorsclub.org>).

**AGRICULTURE WATER AND
ACTION FOR RURAL
DEVELOPMENT TRUST,
KAYATHAR**

Agriculture water And Action for Rural Development located in Kovilpatti Tamil Nadu. Agriculture water And Action for Rural Development registered as a Trust at Kayathar of state Tamil Nadu. This Agriculture water And Action For Rural Development NGO charity is working on critical issues of agriculture, children, drinking water, education & literacy, environment & forests, health & family welfare, HIV/AIDS, housing, microfinance (SHGs), Panchayat Raj, rural development & poverty alleviation, urban development & poverty alleviation, vocational training, water resources,

women's development & empowerment and youth affairs.

**ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL
RECONSTRUCTION SOCIETY,
KOVILPATTI**

Association for Rural Reconstruction located in Kovilpatti Tamil Nadu. This Association for Rural Reconstruction NGO charity is working on critical issues of Agriculture, Art & Culture, Children, Differently Abled, Disaster Management, Dalit Upliftment, Drinking Water, Vocational Training, Women's Development & Empowerment. To form Agriculture development and to create SHG hindered, educational awareness, women development programme, vocational training programme and child labour programme are its activities and achievements.

**FRIENDS FOUNDATION TRUST,
KOVILPATTI**

Friends Foundation located in Kovilpatti Tamil Nadu. Principal activities and achievements are Health Awareness Programs, free screenings programs for renal care, rally programs, free distribution of aids and appliances for differently abled, distribution of free uniforms and books to needy students, cultural programs for community development, etc.,

JOHN EDUCATIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TRUST, KOVILPATTI

John Educational and Rural Development Trust located in Kovilpatti Tamil Nadu. This John Educational and Rural Development Trust NGO charity are working on critical issues of Rural Development & Poverty Alleviation. Principal activities and achievements are support for rural child education & medical services, tree plantation, free medical camps; free technical training for unemployed youths and women's development.

KAMMAVAR ILAIGNARSANGAM SOCIETY, KOVILPATTI

Kammavar Ilaignarsangam located in Kovilpatti Tamilnadu. This Kammavar Ilaignarsangam NGO charity is working on critical issues of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Aged/Elderly, Agriculture, Art & Culture, Biotechnology, Children, Civic Issues, Differently Abled, Disaster Management, Dalit Upliftment, Drinking Water, Education & Literacy, Environment & Forests, Food Processing, Health & Family Welfare, HIV/AIDS, Housing, Human Rights, Information & Communication Technology, Legal Awareness & Aid, Labour & Employment,

Land Resources, Micro Finance (SHGs), Minority Issues, Micro Small & Medium Enterprises and so on (<http://klsangam.com>).

ANNAI TRUST, TIRUCHENDUR

Annai Trust located in Tiruchendur Tamil Nadu. This Annai Trust NGO charity is working on critical issues of Dalit Upliftment, Education & Literacy, Health & Family Welfare, HIV/AIDS, Micro Finance (SHGs), Women's Development & Empowerment. Principal activities and achievements are Blood Donation Camp, SHGs Group Formation, Awareness and Cultural Programme for Women's, HIV/AIDS Awareness Medical Camp, and welfare of persons with disabilities and income generation programme.

V ABLE TRUST, TIRUCHENDUR

V Able Trust located in Tiruchendur Tamil Nadu. This V Able Trust NGO charity is working on critical issues of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Aged/Elderly, Agriculture, Art & Culture, Biotechnology, Children, Civic Issues, Differently Abled, Disaster Management, Dalit Upliftment, Drinking Water, Education & Literacy, Environment & Forests, Food Processing, Health & Family Welfare, HIV/AIDS,

Housing, Human Rights, Information & Communication Technology, Legal Awareness & Aid, Labour & Employment, Land Resources, Micro Finance (SHGs), Minority Issues, Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (<http://www.vabletrust.org>).

WOMEN'S EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT TRUST, TIRUCHENDUR

Women's Education for Development Trust located in Tiruchendur Tamil Nadu. This Women's Education for Development Trust NGO charity is working on critical issues of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Agriculture, Art & Culture, Biotechnology, Children, Disaster Management, Dalit Upliftment, Drinking Water, Education & Literacy, Environment & Forests, Food Processing, Health & Family Welfare, Housing, Human Rights, Information & Communication Technology, Legal Awareness & Aid, Labour & Employment, Land Resources, Micro Finance (SHGs), New & Renewable Energy, Nutrition, Panchayati Raj, Prisoner's Issues, Right to Information & Advocacy, Rural Development & Poverty Alleviation (wed_trust@yahoo.co.in).

VYAS BHARATH VOLUNTARY YOUTH ASSOCIATION FOR

SOCIAL SERVICE BHARATH, TIRUCHENDUR

Vyas Bharath Voluntary Youth Association for Social Service Bharath is a non-governmental organisation established in 2011. Vyas Bharath Voluntary Youth Association For Social Service Bharath works in the area of Aged and elderly, Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Animal Welfare, Art & Culture, Biotechnology, Children, Civic Issues, Dalit Welfare, Disability, Disaster Management, Education & Literacy, Environment and natural resource management, Health & Nutrition, HIV/AIDS, Housing and shelter, Human Rights, Information & Communication Technology (ICT), Labour & Employment, Land Resources, Legal Awareness & Aid, Micro Finance (SHGs), Micro Small & Medium Enterprises, Panchayati Raj, etc. The NGO works near the elevation of sustainable development.

KEELA ERAL DON BOSCO SOCIETY, KEELA ERAL

Keela Eral Don Bosco Society located in Thoothukudi Tamil Nadu. This Keela Eral Don Bosco Society NGO charity is working on critical issues of children, joint problems, education & literacy, environment & forests, health & family welfare, labour & employment,

rural development & poverty alleviation, vocational training, women's development & empowerment and youth affairs. The principal activities and achievements are formal and non-formal education with food, shelter, clothing and medical help, child labour eradication, Self Help Groups, promotion sports and cultural activities etc.

CONCLUSION

In the present paper, an effort has been made to make the main activities and achievements of NGOs in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu, a foremost NGO making the growth involvements in Thoothukudi district, for the uplift of the socially and economically marginalised and weaker sections of the people in the region.

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