

## STUDY OF THE NGOS COORDINATION WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER NGOS

**Vidya Avachat, Ph. D.**

*Associate Prof & Head, Dept of Sociology, S. P. College, Pune.*

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### Abstract

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*The term non-Governmental organization (NGO) is very broad. Any organization, which functions in a distinct manner from government, may be termed as a non-governmental organization, ranging from a global charity to a local self –help group. It may be a research institute, a Co-ordinating agency or a lobby group. The number of voluntary agencies actively involved in environmental issues in India. Finance, leadership, activities, and coordination with others are the key input for any NGO to function effectively. The effect of the coordination of NGOs with the state government and other NGOs on environmental conservation work has been studied in the following research paper.*

*The main aim of the study is to understand and analyze the coordination and relation of selected Organizations and their impact on environment conservation activities with special reference to Pune District.*

*This paper is divided in to three parts. First part is related to coordination profile of selected NGOs who work in the area of environment in Pune district. Second part is related to study of case study of selected NGO AFARM and the third part is initially summaries the major findings of the study and ends with the conclusions.*

**Keywords:** *Environment conservation, NGO, co-ordination, relationship, sustainable development.*



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### Introduction

The number of voluntary agencies actively involved in environmental issues in India. NGOs are initiated and governed by its members without any external control. It is also a very valuable channel for feedback. They have advantage of being in contact with the masses. NGOs have better rapport with the people. They are implementing various schemes /programmers launched by government. Though the tradition of voluntary action is very old in India, the interaction of voluntary of organizations with the government is purely a post –independence phenomenon where these voluntary agencies are considered as catalysts for bringing changes

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in the society; Mehta Committee (1957), Rural Urban relationship Committee (1966) and Panchayati Raj institutions (1978) underline the requirements of NGOs for the local development.

In Pune District, several NGOs are working in the field environment issues and environmental activities. There is a lot of diversity in the NGOs in Pune. They differ in terms of size, membership, structure, funding, and relationship with the political parties and the state, philosophy, goals and programs.

**Methodology** 10- NGOs were selected for the study in accordance with specified criteria. The important common factor is that they are engaged with the environment conservation activity. All selected NGOs were established after 1965.

The study relied on both primary as well as secondary data. The data were **collected** from NGOs personnel. The role of the personnel was only to provide information to the researcher for the study purpose. The Leaders or founder members of the sample non-Government organizations were formal interviewed regarding NGOs problems.

If non-governmental organizations have a good relationship with the government and other non-governmental organizations, how it can be useful for the society and that organization has been shown by the study of AFRM.

### Objectives of the Study

1. To understand coordination of the selected NGOs. With government and other non-government organization
2. To study of AFARM NGO for to examine the impact of coordination on NGO, Society and on environmental activities

### List of selected NGOs Table No One

Name of the NGO	Organization Type
AFARM	National NGO
ARTI	Grassroots -level National NGO
ARBUTUS	Grassroots -level
BAIF	National NGO
Ecological society	Grassroots -level
Gram Vardhini	Grassroots -level
Kalpavriksh	National NGO
Nisargsevak	Grassroots -level
Parisar	National NGO
Vanarai Trust	Grassroots -level National NGO

From above classification researcher selected total 10 NGOs for purpose of study. Out of ten NGOs 4 (40 percent) NGOs were national, 2 (20 percent) were grassroots and national and 4 (40 percent) were only grassroots. No one is international because the researcher contacted with the one international NGO, but it not interested to give the informat and other two were not available on phone.

**Nature of co-ordination with government and other NGOs**

During the recent decades, several specialized bodies have been established for the specific purpose of assisting the voluntary sector in the areas of finance, training, etc. Coordination with government and other NGOs is an important factor for the NGOs to carry out their activities smoothly. Hence, the nature and extent of coordination of the selected organizations in both these areas was also the subject of the present study. For the study of co-ordination researcher classified the study in the three areas i.e. first is support area from government, second relationship with government, coordination with other NGOs

The data regarding the type of support received by NGO from the government is presented in Table 2

**Type of support from government**

**Table no 2**

Type of support	Yes	No	NIL	Total
<b>Financial</b>	3(30)			10.(100)
		30 (30)	4(40)	
<b>Technical</b>	3 (30)	4(40)	3 (30)	10(100)
<b>Information</b>	8 (80)	2(20)	-	10(100)
<b>Material</b>	3 (30)	7(70)		10 100)
<b>Any other</b>	-	7(70)	3 (30)	10 100)

No means NGOs are not getting support from specific area.

Nil means NGO are not given the information particular area .

Four selected Non -Governmental Organizations (40%) are reluctant to give information about the financial support. These NGO’s are kind of small scale NGOs having their setup in Maharashtra. On the other hand NGOs having huge work area are open towards giving information regarding financial support. 30% NGOs are getting finance from the government. Apart from government some are benefiting from charity too. According to the table no. (2) Three NGOs are not getting support from government.

Out of Ten four (40.00%) NGOs do not have technical support of government, whereas three NGOs are technically supported by government. Eight selected (80 %)NGOs are getting informational, and three (30) NGOs material support from the government.

Form the conversation with the NGO head it is came out that they are also looking for the supports which are deficient. During the of data collection, the NGOs which were in receipt of different types of support expressed the view that. They also felt that they required more support in each of these areas and emphasized that support should be timely. One NGO stated that it needed little more acceptances from government.

The researcher also observed one more important thing during the data collation that National NGOs, state level NGOs were successful in taking grants, support from government and other funding agencies because of their well-known personality of their leader.

The data were also collected regarding the ways in which these bodies affected the working of NGOs. 5(50 per cent) NGOs reported that when they were implementing the schemes of the government, they were affected as the schemes had to be implemented as per the laid down specifications. These 50 percent NGOs further felt that there was an indirect effect of government, sponsors bodies on their policy formulation and programme selection. This was because the NGOs were heavily dependent on these agencies and had to shape their policies in tune with the requirements of these bodies to qualify for grants. Otherwise, these bodies did not affect their working directly. The remaining (40 per cent) NGOs felt that these bodies had no effect on their working.

The data regarding the views of the organizations regarding their relationship with government were collected and the same are presented in Table.3 For the study of the relationship with government researcher classified data in four criteria i.e. very good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory, no relation

**Table 3**  
**NGOs relationship with government:**

<b>Relationship with government</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Very good</b>	2	20
<b>Satisfactory</b>	5	50
<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	1	10
<b>No relation</b>	2	-
<b>Total</b>	10	100

It may be seen that five organizations (50 per cent) reported that they are satisfied about cooperation from government authorities, while two NGOs stated it to be ‘very good.’ Only one NGO in the sample rated its relationship with government as unsatisfactory. Thus, the NGOs generally had a reasonably good relationship and understanding with these bodies.

Another facet of coordination was the association of the members of NGOs with some committees or bodies of the government. In the present study, three NGOs reported their members’ representation in such committees or bodies, mostly at the state level.

Thus, regarding cooperation with government NGOs want more funds and freedom for utilization of funds. They also want timely funds from government and national and state level NGOs were having good or very good relations with Government as compared to local NGOs.

**Coordination with other NGOs.**

It may be seen that the human as well as financial and other resources of NGOs are limited. During the data collection it was observed that to some extent there was also cooperation among the NGOs in some areas. Hence, for selected NGOs study of cooperation areas was listed i.e. areas of infrastructural facilities, personal, finance and planning the programme.

Data regarding the areas in which NGOs were coordinating with other NGOs are presented in table 4

**Areas of Coordination with other NGOs.**

**Table 4**

<b>Sharing infrastructural facilities</b>	7 (70%)	3 (30%)
<b>Sharing literature publication</b>	6 (60%)	4 (40%).
	8 (80%)	2 (20%)
<b>Planning the program</b>		
<b>Financing the program</b>	4 (40%)	6 (60%)
<b>Sharing technical personnel</b>	7 (70%)	3 (30%)
<b>Implementing the programme</b>	5 (50%)	5(50%)
<b>Arranging seminars, conferences, and camps</b>	8 (80%)	2 (20%)
<b>Research activities</b>	4 (40%)	6(60%)
<b>Other activities</b>	-	-

During data collection all organizations reported that they had coordination with other NGOs in several areas. The maximum coordination was reported in the areas of planning the programmers and arranging the seminars, conferences (80.00 percent), implementing them and sharing their infrastructural facilities with the other NGOs. Majority of the NGOs (70 percent) reported sharing of technical personnel and 40 percent were reported coordination in the area of financing the programmers. Sharing the research was reported by nearly half of the NGOs (40.00 per cent) and more than half (60 percent) mentioned sharing of literature with each other.

The data brings out that there was a good measure of coordination and sharing of facilities in majority of NGOs. During the data collection, the investigator came across some examples where NGOs working in an area were not only sharing their limited resources with one another but also offering help and guidance. The benefits of coordination were, however, limited as most NGOs were more or less at the same level in terms of technical knowledge and availability of expertise. Moreover, it was noticed that this coordination extended only to a very few nearby NGOs, and in some cases, only to a single other NGO. But still, it was an encouraging and healthy sign of their functioning.

Almost all NGOs (90 per cent) of the present study felt that there was a need for a common forum at the state / national level for the NGOs where they could share their ideas and experiences and present a joint front to the government. It was noticed that one sample NGO designed the programme collaboration with some other organizations. The programmes designed by this NGO are of a participatory nature involving voluntary agencies and beneficiaries in it. In this joint effort NGO initiates and provides necessary training and support services to the organizations and its beneficiaries, on its own efforts completed some tasks which have resulted in long term impact in natural resources managements and community development.

### **Study of the AFARM**

Action For Agricultural Renewal in Maharashtra is an association of voluntary organization working in the field of Rural Development. It was formed for the collective benefit of the voluntary organizations, through their own collective actions. AFARM was born out of an acute need for an Apex Institution to co-ordinate efforts of Non Government Organizations (NGOs) in their tasks of providing drinking water and agricultural extension services to villages in drought affected Maharashtra. It was one of the first organizations to operate as an Apex institution, in the country. The association was informally started in 1967 with the joint efforts of seven missionary organizations

and was registered as Trust and Society in 1969. It is one of the first voluntary organizations to operate as a forum for other voluntary organizations. Presently 87 are the corporate members and 140 associate members.

AFARM has strong linkages with Govt. and Non-Govt agencies operating at grass root level to national and international level having stakes in Natural Resources Management and Community Development in rural areas. Being an Apex Organization, AFARM has a wide network spread all over the state. The majority of AFARM's members are having expertise and proficient in the field of agriculture development, Natural resource management, Women Empowerment, health, education etc. The pool of such expertise is always available with AFARM while executing the programs and while delivering the services of such kinds.

### **Linkage with State Government**

AFARM has strong linkage with Rural Development and Water Conservation Department of State Government. AFARM conducts meetings to bring implementing Voluntary Organizations and Government Officials on a common platform. AFARM also assists department like Social Forestry, Planning, Water Supply and Sanitation, Soil and Water Conservation, minor irrigation (LS), GSDA etc. It provides support to participating members to implement respective programs properly.

AFARM personnel regularly participate in various government trainings workshops, seminars as a resource faculty. AFARM also functions as mediator in streamlining the project implementation. AFARM is entrusted with the responsibility of organizing meetings of VOs for interactions between the organizations and departments like Science and Technology GOI, Human Resource Development GOI, Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) and Rural Development and Water Conservation Dept., GOM.

The central as well as state govt invited AFARM to represent NGO sector on various Committees. AFARM through its Chairman represented the same. As a committee member AFARM contributed in designing program policies and frameworks and participated in monitoring of program implementation.

As a mother NGO, AFARM provides various capacity building services to both Governmental and Non- governmental project implementing agencies. These services mainly include training of various project functionaries, monitoring, community organization, community institution building and field services during implementation.

AFARM is playing a leadership role amongst the other Mother NGOs and provides moral support for their effective functioning.

Mostly AFARM is giving training to various NGOs and government department in the field of environment conservation. AFARM being Apex institution / association provides common platform for different stakeholders including government to share views, ideas, experiences and leanings with respect to development, promotes issue based networks, built the pressure groups and promotes the campaigns to advocate pro -poor policies and programs, disseminates the best practices in the sector, organize issue based workshops, seminars and consultations for the benefits of voluntary sector in general and its members in particulars.

### **Findings**

50 percent NGOs termed their relationship with the respective Government departments and statutory bodies as good or very good. The support being received is mainly related to finance, information and materials. The fact that about 30 percent NGOs reported their members, representation in government committees or bodies was another facet of their coordination. Thus it has been recognized that NGOs have a large role to play in support of Governments efforts.

It was observed that coordination among NGOs will also result in a meaningful exchange of ideas and help them in learning from one another's experiences. Coordination is an important facet of the functioning of NGOs which attracts attention of planners and researchers which ensures the success and effectiveness of the programmes. Hence, a constructive coordination between different NGOs operating in a particular geographical area can help in optimizing the utilization of their scarce resources. In this way Non-Governmental organizations nature of relationship with Government and other NGOs is satisfactory. The data shows that there was a good co-ordination and sharing of facilities in majority of NGOs of the present study. This relationship was initiated and nurtured by the chief functionaries depending upon their personal relationship and goodwill. The areas in which co-ordination was observed were mainly planning the programmes, implementing them, arranging seminars, conferences and camps and sharing infrastructural facilities as well as technical know- how. On the other hand, only one out of ten NGOs (10 percent) openly stated that they had some type of conflict with other NGOs.

Furthermore, majority of NGOs (90 percent) expressed the need for a common platform at the state, national level where they could share their ideas and experiences and present a joint front to the government.



## Conclusion

Support and coordination of NGOs with government is essential for sustainable development of nature and society.

Hence, a constructive coordination between different NGOs operating in a particular geographical area can help in optimizing the utilization of their scarce resources.

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