



Position of Non-Governmental Organizations in Management and Development

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Abstract: This study aims to investigate the position of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in management and development. The methodology of this study is historical. Data collected was done through desk study and the required data was collected using books, articles, and NGOs' statutes. The results obtained from this study indicated that NGOs, as organizations that are having their roots in the principle of democratic governance in the new regimes of governance, possess a high capacity in management and development of a country. These organizations use their power and influence and rely on people's support to play significant roles in management and development of a country.

Keywords: Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Development, Governance

INTRODUCTION

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Iran date back to several centuries ago. This indeed provides necessary grounds for expansion of NGOs in the country. Having such a perspective, it should be noted that not only these organizations are not imported into the country, but also enjoy a historical background and a cultural identity .

It is under the shadow of social activities that the duty of promoting virtue and preventing vice becomes possible and it is under the influence of the same participation that it is possible to guide the ignorant, which a duty is entrusted upon human beings. Jihad and immigration are also the fruits of the same type of participation. Therefore, one of the motivations for inviting people to a social life is to enhance their scientific, spiritual, and social identity as it is not possible or it is very difficult to achieve this position in the absence of a social life¹.

Iran has a history of ancient culture and civilization and has seen different instances of the cooperation between people in the form of different enterprises. When Islam entered Iran, the combination of Iranian and Islamic thoughts gave birth to a particular kind of culture that created different potentials. One of the most prominent examples of this change during the post-Islamic era in Iran is the

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change of human behavior, expansion of spirituality, and conducting charity without having an eye to materialistic benefits. In fact, it could be the first motivation of individuals and groups for doing charity, or as it is called today, for taking part in a non-governmental organization that has not for profit objectives².

Definition of NGOs

-a social development organization which aims to empower people in the society .

-An independent, democratic and non for profit organization that attempts to empower marginal groups .

-An organization that does not depend on any political party and is on the whole committed to service for development and social welfare .

-An organization that believes that it is necessary to have a deep understanding of problem in order to improve the lives of vulnerable people .

-An organization that is structurally flexible and democratic and aims to provide services to the society without having for profit goals .

Definitions of NGO from the perspective of governmental organizations:

United Nations: any type of international organization that has not been established without governmental agreement is considered a non-governmental organization. Then, the term NGO was used to refer to the different types of organizations that work within the borders of each country .

Interior Ministry: a non-governmental organization is a term that is applied to all institutions that are established by a group of real or legal individuals on a voluntary basis and follows non-governmental and non-political goals based on its statute .

Center for Women Participation Affairs: non-governmental organization that are a series of non-governmental and intermediary institutions in the civil society are consisted of a number of volunteers that share the same goals and work for no profits and for the good of the public without having any type of dependency on the government and in the form of an organized system that is in accordance with set goals .

National Youth Organization: a non-governmental and non-profit organization is one that works in line with goodwill goals, has an independent legal identity, is non-governmental and non-profit and performs voluntary activities with non-political tendencies and based on law with a set statute and through observing the framework of rules and regulations of the country as well as its own administrative regulations .

Different Types of non-governmental organizations of NGOs

a. Non-governmental (NGO)

b. Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs)

c. Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs)

PVOS are non-governmental (private) organizations that are tax exempted and non-profit that work beyond the borders of their country in order to contribute to development and provision of aid. An NPO is an official, private, and non-profit

organization whose ownership is limited to its members and its activities do not benefit its stockholders³.

Goals of NGOs

The main objectives of NGOs include:

1. Providing information and contributing to the public awareness (communication)
2. Attracting people's participation (mass mobilization (
3. Attracting the small investments and resources of people (Resource mobilization (
4. Creation, development and strengthening of coordination between the government and people
5. Creation, development and strengthening of agreement between different nations
6. Perseverance in production and consumption
7. Development of public supervision
8. Assessment of public activities and projects
9. Enhancement of efficiency in using resources

Each of the above 9 goals pertain to a type of management that these organizations have on the public resources of the country. Assessment of each of the conceptual statements here is indicative of this important issue that NGOs aim to create and to develop security in the process of social and economic development. Many practical and regional projects are in great need of capital or workforce so they are either left uncompleted or are not implemented at all, thus incurring huge costs on the public .

NGOs act as facilitators in this regard and attract people's participation and attract and direct their small investments to create social understanding and to speed up implementation of local and national projects. On the other hand, these organizations supervise and assess processes pertaining to implementation of activities and thus inform the public of the progress, issues and problems and the like. All these points are among the advantages of activities of NGOs around the world .

Among the nine goals mentioned above, the three goals of attracting people's participation, attracting small investment and supervision and assessment have higher and more significant positions in comparison to other goals² .

.5Participation and Role of NGOs in the Process of Sustainable Development

The tile of non-government organization is not used for a company. A company is a for profit institute in which stocks, stockholders and the dividend obtained from activities are divided between stockholders⁴ .

However, an NGO, along with companies and government, which is for profit, are non-commercial institutions. In other words, the income obtained from activities -if activities produce income- are spent on the goals of the institute. NGOs are non-political and are established because of humanitarian goals. The history

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of charity and non-governmental institutes in Iran dates to a long time ago both in terms of the nationality and in terms of Islam .

However, in recent years and following the growth of NGOs in the world, which comes with more diverse and newer roles, these organizations came into existence in Iran too. In better words, they were developed and officialised. In particular, since 1997 and after such mottos as a civil society and the creation of the proper environment and atmosphere in the society, this process was quickened. NGOs form the third foundation of sustainable development along with the government and the private sector. Based on their interests and type of activities, NGOs work in different areas like environment, women, charity, fight against AIDS and drugs, youth, religion, peace and human rights, entrepreneurship and labor through different means such as providing aid to governmental projects, supervision of government measures, performing model activities or promotional activities to the interested groups⁵ .

Participation of people and societies in sustainable development is realized only when people take part in all stages of decision-making, implementation, and programming. It should be noted that the significance and features of the responsibilities of NGOs requires different amount of participation. The importance of participation for achieving development has always been reiterated by different governments, among them the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. NGOs play parts in formation and realization of participation-based democracy as one of the means through which participation is promoted within societies. These organizations always play constructive and responsible roles. The nature and role of NGOs within societies is indicative of the strong need for their presence. Therefore, independence and self-reliance is one of the most important features of NGOs and is the pre-requirement for actual participation⁶.

.6Meaning of Participation in NGOs

Indirect participation in resources follows a more prominent goal. These organizations usually work in social, political, and cultural areas and seek spiritual flourishing .

As the result of this type of participation, scientists consider transfer of technology from developed country the only way through which developing countries could become more developed. However, the negative consequences of technology transfer are usually ignored. These consequences are mainly because of cultural conflicts between the giver and the receiver of technology. NGOs thus have made cultural adaptation one of their main responsibilities so to narrow down the perceived gap and to facilitate sustainable and constant development .

Each NGO, based on predetermined objectives and capabilities of its members, interprets cultural adaptation in its own way and applies its own particular approach to implement it .

The work of NGOs pertains to the different aspects of their participation. Participation of NGOs on resources could be either direct or indirect. Their direct participation on resources is usually on a structure that has mainly some economic

objectives related to ownership of resources and gaining access to welfare and comfort⁷.

Participatory Position of NGOs is Economic and Industrial Development

NGOs have few economic and industrial activities in the area of manufacturing activities. In fact, in most policy-making, directing industrial policies aims to be in line with people's interests, to increase creativity and innovation, promoting environmental and non-destructive policies, and attempts to make the country's economy and industry beneficial for disadvantaged and vulnerable classes of the society.

In addition, responding to the economic sector and the industrial sector in the country and making economic and industrial activities transparent are among the missions of NGOs. NGO's are not old in Iran, in other words, as a number of modern institutions, the history of economic and industrial institutions and government is older than governmental institutions. In addition, there are many hurdles in the way of effectiveness of these organizations, a part of which pertains to these organizations themselves and a part pertains to the problems within the society⁸. Therefore, NGOs are not as effective as economy, industry, and government in solving the problems. Meanwhile, their growth and progress is significant and stunning⁹.

Since this type of institution is not qualitatively and quantitatively developed, we could not expect a lot from it. However, in their short lives, NGOs have left serious effects, thus making them able to progress and improve.

NGOs in developed countries (Northern countries). We know western countries underwent deep changes in the years ending to 2000. These changes had their roots in the 16th century to 19th century and could mainly be seen in Western Europe and in the US. This era of the history of the west includes a chain of events and changes that gave birth of capitalism and the different dimensions of an industrial society in recent years. Emergence of capitalism led to changes in the social and cultural system of societies. Human beings started to be regarded as workforce and as a consumer of the manufactured goods. Due to accumulation of capital, capitalism led to over-use of benefits and thus the expansion of undesirable human and environment consequences⁵.

Meanwhile, some individuals and groups are formed that are able to look beyond the current situation and are aware of the situation and try to organize human groups to remind to the societies what capitalism had caused to be forgotten.

They supervised the government sector and the capitalist system through formation of democratic organizations in order to follow up with such causes as social justice, sustainable development, environmental conservation, attention to fair distribution of wealth in the society, prevention of wasting the resources that developing countries possess, and directing financial resources to these countries and the like. In northern developed countries, the role of NGOs is now

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institutionalized. These organizations are intermediary between people and government and are always in the process of being formed or cancelled .

Governments usually act as links between these organizations. These NGOs supervise the acts of governments and directly control their performance. The mass media like TV and radio are the most important communication means possessed by these organizations .

The most important feature of NGOs is having a unique rationale that does not have anything to do with the market's logic. Therefore, while NGOs give priority to their social and organizational goals, they reject the rationale of the market .

The existence of competitive markets leads to reduction of group activities .

On this basis, the majority of NGOs, including cooperative companies and NPOs have not been really successful in assessing the economic and social needs that were the aim behind their establishment in the first place.

Conclusion

This study aims to investigate the position of NGOs in management and development of the country. Since these organizations are democratic and rely on people, they are linked to the democratic principles and thus could have influential orientation with regard to management and development of the country. These organization, as it was mentioned before, have democratic structures and their orientation could manage public thought and hence the country's management and development .

Management and development of a country is a process that requires attention to potential capabilities and merits. NGOs play significant roles in providing feedback and leave great influence on proper and purposeful management and development due to the understanding they have of people and their capabilities. These organizations could influence authorities in public institutions and thus form a process in the country that contributes to proper management and development based on democratic principles .

Since the principle of governance in our time is democratic governance, it is recommended that authorities and governments support and help to make NGOs expand and develop in order to realize the goal of having better democratic governance on the country's management and development.

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