

Ngos involvement in development of health and family welfare in Nagaland, India

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Abstract: Nagaland is the sixteenth state of India and is located in the North Eastern region. A large number of NGOs are involved in various development activities in the state including health sector. Six districts out of total eleven districts of Nagaland, India were considered. A total of 45 NGOs were purposely selected for this study and 45 higher levels of employees were involved as respondents. The study investigated the extent of development by NGOs in the health sector and also assessed the mostly preferred supportive activities in the development of health sector. 71 percent of NGOs of Nagaland were dedicated and working for the development of Health and family welfare sector and 82 per cent of NGOs adopted 'Awareness' as the most preferred support activity in development of health sector. It was concluded that Health sector was the most important and most preferred development sector while "Awareness" was identified as the most preferred supportive activity in the development of Health sector by the NGOs of Nagaland.

Key words: Awareness, Development, Health, NGO, Welfare.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Nagaland is a State in India and was formally inaugurated on December 1, 1963. It is a part of North-Eastern Hill region of the country. "The State consists of eleven Administrative District viz., Kohima, Dimapur, Kiphri, Longleng, Mokochung, Mon, Peren, Phek, Tuensang, Wokha and Zunheboto. Nagaland is a land of 16 major tribes along with many sub-tribes whereby, each tribe has its own custom, language and dress. Nagaland is also known as the 'Land of Festivals' owing to the vibrant festivals celebrated throughout the year by different tribal communities. Till the dawn of independence it remained isolated and neglected. Before independence Nagaland was ruled by the Britishers with administration limited to maintenance of law and order only thus, even if there were little technological development in other parts of the country, it had no impact on the life of the people in this area which resulted in further isolation both economically and socially from rest of the country and therefore resulted in underdevelopment. Only after India attained its independence, the Government of India adopted various policies to involve the tribals so as to bring them to the national mainstream and explored ways and means for their development. Many centrally sponsored rural development schemes in the form of employment generation, self-employment, training for rural youths, women and child development and integrated development packages were introduced to develop these areas economically, taking utmost care for a minimum disturbance of the existing social structure and sustained efforts to make the norms and social values responsive to the changes. Over the past, in the North eastern region, the Health sector has been neglected to the bare minimum. The facilities available in the state are generally below standard with minimal modern diagnostic and therapeutic aids and therefore, for most major cases related to health, the clients are being referred elsewhere. For a long period of time the civil hospitals are characteristically overcrowded and even the basic amenities are not sufficiently available or nonexistent. "The Northeastern states and especially Nagaland have grim health status. A large portion of the Naga populace suffers from communicable diseases such as vector borne diseases, respiratory and gastrointestinal infection and infestations (www.nhmnagaland.in)".

The Non-Government and Voluntary Organizations have been a major part of development all over the world. They supplement the Government to reach out to the people especially located in the rural areas. They are the development organizations who are outside the control of public sector and work selflessly with full dedication for the betterment of society. Developmental roles such as, socio-economic improvement of small and marginal farmers in rural area, safe guarding national food grain production, development of eco-friendly sustainable agriculture, resource conservation, empowerment of farm women and training of farmers, human resource development, health service and awareness, disease control, eradication of drug addiction, conflict management and etc. is quite impossible to tackle only by government development machinery. Rather proper utilization and involvement of all voluntary and Non-government organization is urgently needed to cope up with such types of problems. Grassroots development organization, the NGOs have the virtues of human touch and dedication and are very much closer to the community and act quickly without waiting for any bureaucratic order or directive at the time of need. NGOs are valuable facilitators to enhance people participation in development planning and implementation. Thus, it is important to identify the extent

of involvement and contribution of NGOs in the development of Health and Family Welfare sector in Nagaland and also the various supportive activities through which they carry of developmental works in the concern sector.

2. OBJECTIVES:

- To study the extent of involvement of NGOs in development of Health and Family Welfare.
- To identify the most preferred supportive activities in the development of health and family welfare sector

3. METHODOLOGY:

This research study was conducted in six districts of Nagaland viz., *Dimapur, Kohima, Mokokchung, Peren, Tuensang and Wokha* which was purposively selected out of the total eleven districts. A total of 45 NGOs were considered where a total of 45 respondents were considered, one higher level employee from all the 45 selected NGOs. Discriptive research design was followed.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

- Extent of involvement of NGOs in development of Health and Family Welfare

Table 1 Involvement of NGOs in health and Family welfare N=45

Sl. No.	Development work	Distribution of NGOs	% of total NGOs	Rank
		Frequency		
1.	Health and family welfare	32	71.11	I
2.	Education	25	55.55	II
3.	Rural infrastructural development	20	44.44	III
4.	Livestock	19	42.22	IV
5.	Agriculture	18	40	V
6.	Horticulture	14	31.11	VI

The above table (table 1) reveals the status of NGOs in their involvement of Health and Family Welfare sector. The table presents six different development works viz., Health and family welfare, Education, Rural infrastructural development, Livestock, Agriculture and Horticulture which are being presently undertaken by the selected NGOs. It was interesting to find that the ‘Health and Family Welfare’ tops the list in the different development sectors adopted by the NGOs whereby 71 percent of NGOs of Nagaland were dedicated and working for the development of this sector. The ‘health and family welfare’ sector is pathetic in the state. The civil hospitals are always overcrowded and one cannot even find the basic amenities in majority of the primary and community health centre. The private sectors are also in the development stage and the health facilities are minimal or ill-equipped which doesn’t suffice the need of the patients where in most cases the clients are referred in better hospitals elsewhere outside the state. Considering the deplorable conditions of most of the health centres, most NGOs are rendering their service free will and voluntarily for the welfare of mankind.

Education is the 2nd important development work adopted by the 56 per cent of selected NGOs. Development work in Education is carried out in terms of creating awareness about the importance of education in rural areas as well as providing basic school facilities in the rural areas. ‘Rural Infrastructural Development’ is the 3rd preferred development sector carried out by 45 per cent of the NGOs followed by development of ‘livestock’ sector by 42 per cent NGOs. Promotion of ‘Agriculture’ sector is the 5th development work followed by 40 per cent of NGOs while development of ‘Horticulture’ sector is the least adopted development activity.

- **Supportive activities under Health and Allied Issues by NGOs**

Table 2 Supportive activities under Health and Allied Issues by NGOs N=45

Activities	NGOs	
	Total	%
Awareness	37	82.22
Health camp	26	57.77
Training	35	77.77
Free Medicine	29	64.44
Post delivery	18	40
Family Planning	14	31.11
AIDS Control	29	64.44

Drug De-Addiction	27	60
Others	1	2.22

Table 2 contains the information about the different supportive activities and the most preferred supportive action adopted by the NGOs in the development of beneficiaries under health and allied development work. The table shows that ‘Awareness’ was the most preferred support activity while 82 percent of NGOs preferred it. 78 per cent considered ‘training’ as the 2nd preferred support activity in developing beneficiaries under health and family welfare sector. 64 percent of NGOs viewed ‘AIDS Control’ as the 3rd preferred support activity. Another 64 percent of NGOs viewed that ‘Free Medicine’ distribution to beneficiaries as an important support activity to tackle the problems related to health and allied issues. ‘Drug de-Addiction’ was a prominent problem in this State and 60 percent of NGOs viewed and emphasized on it. 58 percent of NGOs preferred ‘Health Camp’ as an important support activity in beneficiaries development. 40 percent of NGOs preferred the support activity of ‘Post Delivery care of mother and baby’ and 31 percent of NGOs emphasized on ‘Family Planning’.

5. CONCLUSION AND FINDINGS:

The study concluded that ‘Human health and family welfare’ sector was the most important and common development sector where large numbers of NGOs were involved which was followed by education and rural infrastructure development. It was also found that, in Nagaland, the state of health and family welfare is in a pitiable state with inadequate number of medical officers, lack of awareness on health and hygiene, absence of medical personnels in their posting place etc. NGOs in Nagaland are implementing various activities to reach and support their beneficiaries for development of Health and Family Welfare where, Awareness campaign was found to be the most preferred support activity to develop beneficiaries. Awareness, Training, AIDS control and providing free medicines by NGOs field staffs are the most important activity for development of Health and Family Welfare sector followed by Drug de-addiction and Health Camp, while Post-Delivery Care of both Mother and Baby and Family Planning were identified as the least important activities implemented by the NGOs for the development of Health and Family Welfare sector. NGOs supplement the Government to reach out to the people especially located in the rural areas.

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