

# Prayas leads the national NGOs engagement at NITI Aayog meeting (01-03-2017)

The long awaited meeting of leading service delivery NGOs and CSOs of the country was held at the NITI Aayog yesterday under the chairmanship of Mr. Arvind Panagariya, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, and inspired by Mr Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.

Apart from these the Government of India was represented by 19 key Senior Officials/Secretaries of various Ministries with the objective to 'strengthen the partnership between the CSOs and the Government in service delivery'.

In his opening remarks Mr Amitabh Kant welcomed the participants and invited Mr.Amod Kanth, General Secretary, Prayas to make his presentation on the topic: "Partnership between Government and Civil Society Organizations- Vision for Effective Service Delivery".



High-lighting key issues facing the service delivery organisations, the challenges and the way forward the presentation was loaded with information about the various government schemes available and also the funding under various ministries and schemes.



Explaining the role of 3.2 Million voluntary organisations in the development process as the 4th sector, the three others being government, democratic institutions and business, Mr.Kanth emphasised the urgent need for national to local level participation.

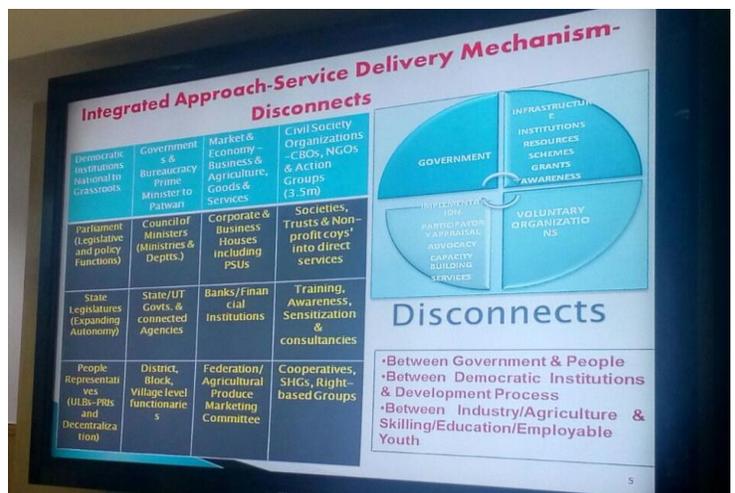


Subsequently, the floor was open for discussions amongst the participants. Notable comments were made by Mr Sanjit Bunker Roy (Barefoot College), Mr Ravi Narayan (Pradan), Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak (Sulabh International) .Issues regarding funding, difficult government compliance norms, outreach, and skilling were raised. Mr. Neichute Duolo, representing Entrepreneurs Associate, Nagaland, articulated well enough the need for a 'progressive credit regime' as against the usual 'subsidy culture', with his experiences from Nagaland and Manipur.



The Principal Advisor to NITI Aayog, Mr Ratan P Watal, also shared some valuable points with the participants. He pointed out that there are 'definitional issues' facing the voluntary sector and it needs to be resolved. The idea of 'National Accreditation System for CSOs', which had been also brought up earlier during the meeting, was also discussed.

The meeting concluded with the closing remarks of Mr Panagariya and Mr Kant. Mr Panagariya stressed on the need for organising the CSOs under one umbrella so as to achieve the maximum service delivery and expand the outreach.



Mr Kant proposed to continue this dialogue, probably once in every four months, to further strengthen this group and work in tandem to achieve the developmental goals we have set for ourselves. Among the important participants were Sulabh International, Pradan, Helpage India, Barefoot College, R K MISSION, Entrepreneurs Associate Nagaland, Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad, Akshay Patra Foundation and Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA).