

Voluntary Organizations as the 4th Sector of India's Growth & Governance

NGOs have traditionally been wary for the Government in power, not only in India but also across the world for historical reasons that need not to be elaborated here, and the feeling has been mutual. However, such mistrust has not benefited anyone. This mutual suspicion has mostly harmed the most vulnerable sections of society who find themselves stuck in a situation where they have landed for no fault of theirs, unless one calls it the result of their 'Karma' from the previous birth.

Recent years have seen a phenomenal growth of voluntary organisations in India. Over 3.2 million (CBI Report to Supreme Court) registered and a much larger number of unregistered voluntary organisations with a variety of objectives and mandates can be found all over the country.

The civil society or community-based organizations, often referred to as NGOs, which may include Societies, Trusts, Non-Profit Organizations, even Federations, Co-operatives and SHGs, have become the Fourth Sector (Mostly covering the Social Sectors) of the country's development and governance—apart from the Government & bureaucracy, Democratic Institutions and Corporate Sector/PSU's, i.e, the business and Market Economy. The activities can be accordingly categorised, none of them may obviously function in isolation, and the following Chart/Graph may further explain their relative positions and the need for their integration. NGOs/CBOs which are deep into social work and service delivery themselves, can act as catalysts in bridging all such disconnects by acting as representatives of the government between the people and the development goals by way of creating awareness and working alongside the govt. with regard to different aspects of the development process.

Democratic Institutions - National to Grassroots	Governments & Bureaucracy Prime Minister to Patwari	Market & Economy -Business & Agriculture, Goods & Services	Civil Society Organizations –CBOs, NGOs & Action Groups (3.2 million)
Parliament	Council of Ministers (Ministries & Deptts.)	Corporate & Business Houses including PSUs	Societies, Trusts & Non-profit Coys' into direct services
State Legislatures	State/UT Govts. & connected Agencies	Banks/Financial Institutions	Training, Awareness, Sensitization & consultancies
People's Representatives (Local self Bodies, Urban-PRI's)	District, Block, Village level functionaries	Federation/Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee	Cooperatives, SHGs, Right-based Groups

When one talks about the Social Sector-both in the Government and CSO parlance, it is important to arrive at accepted definition. The social sector includes the sub-sectors that also signify the human development indicators of Health, Education, Poverty Alleviation and Environment, and specific segments of society which need to be targeted, such as, women, children, disabled and elderly, the socially marginalized and deviant persons. In the government and in the Voluntary Sectors the areas of activities and the segments of population are broadly covered under this expression and they also generally connote the human development and sustainable development goals. This obviously needs the said 'fourth sector' (NGO/CSO) to bridge it and this is how we see civil society organizations today.

Strengthening NGO-CSO-Government partnership: 'Marginalized to Centre Stage':

In India, social and economic development programs and initiatives of the national and state governments aimed at welfare, development & empowerment tend to reduce common man into mere 'passive recipients or beneficiaries'. In such a context, the role of civil society organizations is crucial and needs to be redefined. This is particularly true when India's government systems, all pervasive and gigantic in size, stride over all other sectors including social sectors and civil society organizations. In such a scenario, voluntary sector's role cannot be confined to limited 'supplementary activities' or only to criticize, scrutinize and oppose the government.



India, despite having a functionally largest parliamentary democracy in the world, our democratic institutions do not always represent the intensely felt-needs of the marginalized, deprived and poor population, which often results in the Government 'of' the people becoming a Government 'off' the people. The intrusion of the business economy into the social realm and the progressive influence of market forces into the traditional government functions have further widened this gap. There is also a distinct gap between the not-so-efficient public administration and the profit-oriented private sector from the national to the local level development systems, processes and governance. Their integrated functioning and setting up systems and mechanism at each level holds the key to truly accountable service delivery mechanisms reaching out to the targeted beneficiaries with best results.

Lamentably, the tradition of Gandhian institutions of constructive social work and self-less service is increasingly being substituted by NGOs articulating rhetoric change, instead of actually creating socio-economic transformation and development on the ground. Such change and development in terms of service delivery may connote socio-economic upliftment through hardcore, Government funded Schemes and Programs for the marginalized segments like children, women, elders, disabled, besides in the areas of health, education, women's empowerment, environment, self- helps and micro credit. Whatever be the form, shape and ideological content of a civil society organization, there can't be a dispute about its main justification being the support to the poor, helpless and the marginalized.

Role of CSOs in India's Development Process

The history of India's development sector shows that the civil society organizations have always been the medium for major changes and progress. On the flip side, wherever public pressure, large scale or in segments, is against the change, the development has been often obstructed of becoming a challenge. It is thus clear that the present government's vision for the year 2030 coinciding with the Sustainable Development Goal's (SDGs) must galvanize the CSOs into a major player in this huge endeavour. However, in the present fast changing scenario the glaring disconnects between the civil societies and the government, the ambitious and far-reaching policies and their know-how to the people, all need to be bridged effectively and at a faster pace. There should be no gap between conceptualization of service delivery and their actual implementation. Though government machinery is almost omnipresent and is characterized by overlapping functions-

myriad legal and other factors; whereas, the creditable NGOs have well-trained personnel with missionary zeal to serve the society, if facilitated by the government and carved out space for them in the policy and programs implementation. They may start showing the expected results without loss of any further time, if synergized and working together with the government machinery at all levels, Union and State governments may utilise this huge force on a wider spectrum as real-time partners to the government in implementing the policies and achieving development goals.

Prayas as a Model for Service Delivery CSO in Social Sector:

In the context of governance and voluntary sector, Prayas figures as an example of cooperation and collaboration, partnership and participation, representing some crucial sectors and basic values of governance. A registered national level voluntary organization (NGO) which started functioning in 1988/89 in collaboration with the Delhi Police, Delhi School of Social Work (University of Delhi), and Jan Shikshan Sansthan, MHRD (now MSDE), Gol erstwhile Shramik Vidyapeeth and later joined by various Governmental, Bilateral, Corporate and Non-Governmental Organizations, Prayas is deeply committed to the cause of marginalized children, youth and women from underprivileged communities in slums / rural areas. It operates in nine States/UTs of Delhi, Gujarat, Bihar, Assam, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Haryana. It runs over 246 community-based Centres/Units, including 47 Homes/Shelters for Children, Women & Homeless, 56 Vocational Training Centers, Health, Sanitation and multiple programs with an outreach of 50,000 marginalized children, youth and women.

India today is classic example of 'prosperity amidst poverty' and huge inequalities amongst the people with nearly 30% of the population being below poverty line. Needless to mention, the growth that has catapulted India as the 4th largest economy and the gigantic bureaucratic machinery has not helped us overcome these problems. Amongst the known national level NGOs, during the past 30 years, Prayas has been addressing multiple issues and running direct programs relating to child protection and juvenile justice, education, urban homelessness, human-trafficking and migration, disaster management and crises, vocational and life skills program for domestic workers, water & sanitation, health and hygiene, empowerment of women through SHG-Microfin /IGP/Entrepreneurships, facilitating credit through bank linkages. The organization pursues a holistic, participative and partnership approach to contribute to socio-economic transformation of these marginalized groups.



Prayas is an experiment of the role played by the voluntary sector, particularly with the children and associated youth and women. It essentially operates at the grassroot levels and adopts the participatory rural approach (PRA) in the urban setting. It has succeeded to act as a catalyst in the society by making effective contributions in creating some difference in the lives of the underprivileged and the neglected street and working children.

An important and crucial operational area of Prayas is the impact it has been able to create at the macro level while deeply attached to the ground situation. This involves some policy changes in terms of re-enactment of a child friendly Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and various other policy interventions pertaining to the children., such as, towards the national policy relating to the children in need of care of protection and in conflict with law, Adolescents, etc. Prayas has also been able to influence the budgeting processes through pre-budget interventions besides operating through various experts groups constituted for the tenth five years plan.

Prayas has undertaken some major experiments of partnerships with the government in the area of juvenile justice. Following a High Power Committee findings on the conditions of Remand Homes in Delhi, for the first time in northern India, Prayas took over the management of one such Home and, in a matter of four years time, a model child friendly Home without any security whatsoever was created at Feroz Shah Kotla. The organization also created two shelter homes-cum-drop in shelter for boys and girls under the Juvenile Justice (Care & protection of Children) Act, 2000.

Prayas has been instrumental in the sector in the larger framework social development since 1988. The services provided to the children include alternative education in the form of non-formal education (NFE), skill building through the vocational training component, shelter facilities, health care, food, clothing and nutrition. The underlying philosophy adopted by Prayas is that the rights of a child are synonymous with his/her needs. Hence, all the activities aim at fulfilling the basic needs of a child and thereby his/her rights.

The vocational training, continuing education and placement components of the organization constitute a unique experiment through the Ministry of HRD, Government of India. Prayas started running the Jan Shikshan Sansthan for the skill development of the underprivileged youth, thereby building their capacities for gainful earnings, which has recently been merged with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Three important contributions that only Voluntary Organizations can make:

Innovations

Voluntary organizations have been experimenting with new ways of promoting more sustainable, people centered development. Through flexible and risk taking experimentation, they have been able to develop methods, models and equipments that have been widely adopted by the state and national governments.

Empowerment

Another important contributing of voluntary organisations in India have been promoting is the empowerment of the socio-economically marginalised and exploited sections of our society. Most significant contributions can be seen on issues of minimum wages, bonded labour, child labour, access to government schemes, ration cards, housing rights etc.

Research and Advocacy

Many intermediary voluntary organisations in India have also undertaken significant public education and policy advocacy through their sustained research. This has brought many issues on the agenda of public discourse and national policy in India. For example, the issues of women, environment, education, human rights have gained visibility and policy response largely due to the work of voluntary organizations.

The participation of Voluntary Organisations (VOs) in sustainable social development and as partners in the nation building is critical, since being community-based, it is capable of delivering the services at lesser cost. More significantly, the VOs are able to develop innovative projects based on the local felt-needs and available resources as against the governmental stereotypes. There is a need to enhance the capacity of the community-based VOs, SHGs and women's groups through the mobilization of the existing resources.

- VOs/NGOs are much closer to the poorer and disadvantaged sections of the society.
- Staff of VOs is normally highly motivated and altruistic in their behaviour.
- VOs can easily stimulate and mobilize community resources and have access to volunteers.
- They are more effective in bringing people's participation.
- VOs are less rule-bound and are non-bureaucratic, non-formal and flexible in their structure and operations.
- Voluntary sector has greater potential for innovations.
- VOs prefer to work in a multi-sectoral framework.

Standing Committee of Civil Society Organizations at NITI Aayog



September 28, 2016 can be noted as a historic day for Civil Society Organizations/ voluntary organizations/ Community Based Organizations in the country and for Prayas JAC Society in particular as it was invited by the National Institute for Transforming India, (NITI Aayog) headed by none other than

the Prime Minister of India, to suggest ways and means of working together with the government to achieve the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. This meeting took place at NITI Aayog under the Chairmanship of Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO NITI Aayog.



Speaking at the meeting, Mr. Amod Kanth General Secretary Prayas acknowledged it as a rare privilege not only for Prayas but also for all voluntary organization in the country. He pointed out that the record of Prayas ever since it came into existence would show that it was deeply into the task of service delivery. He defined the contours of the government machinery, social sector and the voluntary sector in fields such as -Social Sector & Challenges in Health & Sanitation, Ecology & Environment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Education & Soft Skills, Children – Protection & Development, Elders – Care & Safety, Disabled, Care, Protection & Empowerment of Women, Economic Empowerment & Security Poverty Alleviation & Homelessness that were Inter-connected Sub-sectors. The



Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations formed an important part of the presentation, as a major part of NITI Aayog's agenda is the realization of the SDGs.

Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO of NITI Aayog, appreciated the role of Prayas as a service delivery organization, and said that the government wanted to engage with NGOs to improve the status of the people who were left out of the system. He asserted categorically that 'Transformation cannot take place without partnering with credible service delivery organizations.' Prayas was asked by NITI Aayog to give its inputs to the Chapter on Governance covering the 15-year vision, 07-year strategy and 03-year action document. Some tentative areas that could be covered under this chapter include the role and size of the Government, modalities of providing assistance, public service delivery, administrative reforms, rationalization of schemes, role of Parliamentarians, bottom up planning, e-governance, role of civil society, disaster management, combating corruption, black money, police reforms, etc.

A large section of the society is by-passed in the process of development. The models of 'development from above' with the basic assumption that the benefits of economic growth would trickle down to the poorer sections of the society did not succeed in achieving the targeted goals. The services are not reaching those marginalized & deprived sections of society for whom it is meant. The recognition of the dehumanizing, inequitable and environmentally unsustainable consequences of these conventional production-centered development models stimulated search for an alternative development paradigm and strategy. He highlighted the role of third sector i.e. voluntary sector, which assumes special significance as there was a greater need of synchronization and strengthening of civil society in achieving the objectives of SDGs.

The issue of corporate social responsibility also figured prominently in the discussion. This is particularly relevant, as CSR of 2% of profit has now been made mandatory. Mr Kanth wanted the corporate sector to play an active role in the development sector. "It is unfortunate that out of Rs 26,000 crore earmarked for CSR, only 5000-6000 crore have been spent on services," he remarked.

Mr Kanth pointed out that the programme was meant to protect children of the vulnerable sections of society. "At present, about 3.5 crore children are 'nowhere children,' he pointed out. At a broader level, Human Development Index (HDI) indicators of health, education and nutrition were raised in the presentation. He cited the China model (Skilling-Education-Industry synchronization model) of partnership

between the government and civil societies saying that in the neighbouring country 85 million trained youth were controlling the entire system of development in the social sector

On March 1 2017, Prayas held a first of its kind meeting in NITI Aayog, involving over 20 leading CSOs of the country, working hard in the grassroots to provide essential services to the people. The meeting was chaired by then Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, Mr Arvind Panagariya along with CEO, NITI Aayog, Mr. Amitabh Kant. The CEO and VC emphasized the need for an effective partnership between the Government and the service delivery organizations for implementation of government policies and programs at the grass roots level.

The CEO also declared that the registration of NGOs on Darpan Portal was yielding good results as it would help NITI Aayog to filter out the most credible organizations fulfilling all parameters of the government before seeking government grants. Secondly, it will also open opportunities to philanthropist and corporate bodies to select the most credible, constructive, transparent service delivery organizations. He requested Mr. Kanth to help NITI Aayog in carving out the structure and design for further actions. He further directed his colleagues to seek guidance and to communicate with the participating organizations to share their issues and challenges in implementation of the government programs. He also expressed his desire to create a consensus amongst all the Ministries on strengthening of the partnership between the Government and Voluntary Organizations so that a clear message should reach the common people that the Government is pro-people.

In a detailed presentation, Mr Kanth highlighted three major disconnects- 1. Disconnect between Government & People, 2. Disconnect between democratic institutions and development process and lastly 3. Between Industry/ Agriculture & Employable Youth) for the deplorable situation prevailing in the country's development and social sectors. Mr. Amod Kanth high-lighted the fact that despite all efforts by the government at various levels such as village, block, PRIs, district, state, and national level, through the adoption of their sound development policies, planning and programs aiming at alleviation of poverty, improving the quality of life, there had been little impact on the lives of people, particularly on the lives of the deprived, marginalized and underprivileged sections of the society.

As a result of constant engagement with NITI Aayog, Prayas' initiatives led to the constitution of Standing Committee on February 6 2018, to work as a Standing Forum for the

sustainable engagement with CSOs involved in various areas of development. The Committee consists of 23 leading Civil Society Service delivery organizations of the country apart from senior officials of NITI Aayog and chaired by none other than the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog.

First Meeting of the Standing Committee of CSOs was held on 16-03-2018 under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog and as per the decision taken in the Meeting, 5 Sub Groups were constituted to identify critical areas and bottlenecks in respective thematic areas, so that suitable steps can be taken to address the issues related to policy and operational difficulties, especially in the Aspirational Districts. Each Sub Group will also have representatives from the Line Ministries concerning the respective thematic areas. The Sub Groups are supposed to look in to the following:

- Existing Schemes and Programmes
- Organizational set up to implement the Schemes /programmes.
- Ways and means to improve the Service Delivery.
- Addressing the issues of Governance.
- The Standing Committee focuses on the following areas of Service Delivery:
 - Health, Nutrition and Sanitation
 - Child Rights/Juvenile Justice/Child Labour
 - Bonded Labour
 - Trafficking of Women and Children
 - Women Empowerment and Security
 - Disability and barrier free Movement
 - Elderly Care
 - Basic amenities and infrastructure
 - Inclusive and alternative Education
 - Skill Development/Vocational Training/Promotion of Entrepreneurship
 - Economic Empowerment through Microfinance
 - Disaster Relief/Environment issues

The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as follows:

- Identification of Areas, where engagement of CSOs is inevitable for better Service Delivery and efficient implementation of Schemes.
- Provide forum to deliberate on major issues/challenges faced by CSOs so as to promote active partnership between CSOs and the Government.
- Deliberate and make recommendations to address specific

issues as and when referred to by the Government.

- Suggest improvements in existing Laws and Policies.
- Suggest improvements in implementation of the Schemes/Programmes at Grass root level.
- To work as the medium of synergy amongst Service Delivery Organisations, people and the Government.
- In addition to the above, the Standing committee should also support the Government on various issues relating to Schemes/Programmes including the implementation in the 115 Aspirational Districts and also with respect to similar Schemes/Programmes for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

It was decided that the Standing Committee shall remain functional for a period of two years. The committee is required to meet quarterly with a requisite quorum of one third of members.

Observations made by Mr Amod K Kanth:



Mr. Amod K. Kanth urged everyone to evolve a strategy of bringing together the leading service delivery organizations and creating mechanism to play meaningful and effective role along with the NITI Aayog to achieve the SDGs within 2030 by emphasizing on 15 year Vision, 7 year Strategy and 3 year Action Plan. He appreciated the efforts of NITI Aayog in getting the details of the voluntary organizations registered under different law such as Society Registration Act, Indian Trust Act, Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 etc through its 'DARPAN Portal' which recorded 29,400 organizations of which 10,000 were active. Prayas offered its services in getting the credible service delivery organizations to work together with the government and communities.

The meeting ended on a positive note and the Chair advised the



concerned officials of the Aayog to hold consultations on each point with the help of Prayas & Mr. Amod K.Kanth to carry the task forward.

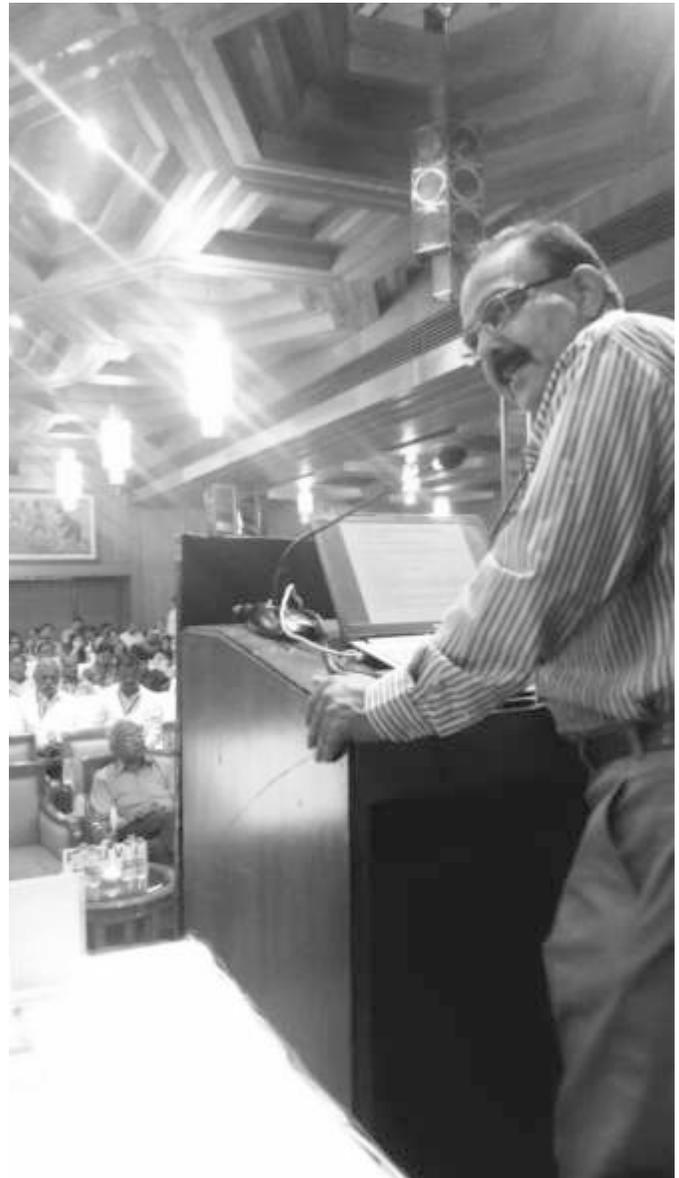
Initiatives in Kashmir:

One of the most significant outcomes of this engagement, which somehow went largely unnoticed, was that Mr. Kanth, in his capacity as Member Coordinator launched a program along with the Government of J&K and NITI Aayog to rehabilitate the youth of Kashmir and implement various Schemes/Programs of the Government with the help of CSOs. This was a result of a Statewide Consultation held in November 2017 at Srinagar with some very meaningful discussions in the Kashmir University. The program brought out a wide array of issues concerning children, adolescents and the youth of the state of Jammu & Kashmir to the forefront.

At Mr Kanth's initiative, the Chief Secretary of the state called a meeting of all concerned Departments/ Agencies to discuss the implementation of the Juvenile Justice System, different schemes for the children and the rehabilitation programmes for youth and besides the participation of various NGOs under the said Schemes in J&K. The meeting was held on 24/01/2018 at the Secretariat in Jammu under the chairmanship of Mr Sajjad Gani Lone, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Science and Technology and ARI & Trainings J&K, co-chaired by the Chief Secretary, J&K.

In the inaugural address, the Chief Secretary welcomed all the officers attending this first meeting of such a kind as well as Mr. Amod K Kanth for coming all the way from Delhi to make this presentation.

Following this, Mr Kanth gave a detailed presentation regarding the Juvenile Justice System and Intended Scheme Beneficiaries for targeted Intervention in Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted the services of different NGOs who were operating in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and proposed that their services could be utilized for the rehabilitation of the youth whose cases are



being withdrawn along with other youth of the affected areas, besides the Juveniles and the child/ bonded labour. The State could give these NGOs necessary financial assistance through various schemes like UDAAN, Himayat, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, the ICPS under proper supervision at the district level.

Some important issues were highlighted as hereunder: -

1. When the punishment in any crime is less than seven years, summary proceedings need to be conducted and the Police can proceed without lodging an FIR, rather the Special juvenile Police Unit or the designated Police Officer under the J&K JJ Act 2013 should take steps for counseling such children.

2. That there is a requirement of after-care programme also and those children who come to the juvenile homes are supposed to be looked after/supervised by the concerned department for their conduct/behaviour.
3. Police should prepare social background reports of such children who are lodged in the juvenile homes/shelter homes.
4. There is immediate requirement of specially trained/instructed Special Juvenile Police Units.
5. Every police station needs at least one designated Police Officer in absence of the SJPU (who is the Juvenile/Child Welfare Police Officer under the JJ Act 2015) with aptitude/appropriate training and orientation and every District of the State as per law is supposed to have Juvenile Justice Boards instead of Bal Ashrams/Yateem Khanas.
6. The attitude/functioning of the police must be in accordance with the spirit of the J&K JJ Act 2013 for implementation of schemes of Juvenile Justice Act as the said act is all-pervasive and its implementation eliminates the need for other acts as it has an over-riding application.
7. As per the address of Mr. Amod Kanth, the Yateem Khanas/Bal Ashrams/Shelter Homes without appropriate license/ registration are not supposed to be there in the State of J&K in view the provisions of J&K Juvenile Justice Act, 2013 which does not allow/functioning of any Bal Ashram/ Yateem Khana to run without being regulated under the said Act.
8. At present there are about 41 Ashrams/Shelter Homes operating in the J&K State without being registered while as there are only 04 children Homes, which are being run by the Govt.
9. At present 08 Juvenile Justice Boards have been set up in the State, but due to shortage of manpower these boards have not become operational as yet.
10. There are about 38 voluntary organizations operating in the State of J&K and as per these NGOs/organizations, various ICPS schemes in the State of J&K need better implementation by J&K Govt. As such, support of voluntary organizations to implement these schemes is the need of the hour. On this, the Chief Secretary suggested to him that Prayas should study various schemes of J&K State Government like UDAN, HIMAYAT for which a detailed note will be provided by Mission Director ICPS.
11. Mr. Amod K Kanth advocated that as per his analysis various

NGOs/organizations, Nehru Yuva Kendra which are operating in the State are willing to provide their support for making the schemes under ICPS implemented in full.

12. Residential programmes can be most effective way for those who were affected directly or involved in militancy.
13. Planned activities could be developed and the organizations which are ready to provide their support to the Govt. should be taken into confidence and allowed to participate.
14. Lastly, Mr. Amod K Kanth suggested that the body should meet again in coming month or in Srinagar and all the NGOs/organizations which are operating in the State be also invited to attend the said meeting.

After detailed presentation, the Chief Secretary, Mr Bharat Vyas informed the members that from the presentation put forth by PRAYAS broadly what emerged broadly was :-

- a) That we in the Govt. do recognize that there is a gap between the Govt. and various NGOs who are operating in the State.
- b) That we also recognize that these NGOs are contributing significantly and the idea of getting around everybody was to assess what the NGOs are doing and what could be done in the area of collaboration and convergence between the efforts of PRAYAS, NGOs and efforts of Government.
- c) We do also recognize that there is capacity deficit in the Government to address some of these so-called software issues relating to the implementation of Govt. schemes.
- d) With regard the schemes of J&K Govt. concerning ICPS, PRAYAS should proceed as per the four-page note prepared by CEO ICPS.
- e) Bringing key NGOs together on a single platform as joint stakeholders with the Govt. is an appreciable and welcome step for ownership and management of these schemes.
- f) Alienation of youth is the most pressing issue and one has to know how to get them back. Alienated youth are the major stakeholders.
- g) The third issue relating to skill development identified by PRAYAS is that there is an overlap/convergence between the skill mapping and skilling of youth who are first time offenders filling which will bring relief by engaging them in skilled activities.

After detailed presentation and discussions, Mr Sajjad Gani Lone, Hon'ble Minister addressed the meeting and briefed as

under:

1. That all the deficit in implementing the intended welfare schemes by the J&K Govt. is due to lack of development, so there is requirement of skill mapping of the alienated youth.
2. That J&K State has been a conflict zone and we at the Government level should look into re-integration of the youth for which there is immediate requirement of trained counselors.
3. We need to train the people for dealing with this psychological war which is running in the State and these NGOs/organizations which are in the State are capable of helping the Govt. However, in the year 2016 none of these organizations came forward to help the Govt.
4. The Bal Ashrams/Madrasas or Shelter homes are there in the State, but at the Govt. level we need to take preventive steps/ measures because as of now the Government is contemplating to close these Bal Ashrams/Shelter Homes.
5. Do not go for construction of buildings for JJBs rather operate them from rented buildings and various schemes should be integrated together so as to provide different schemes on one platform.
6. The challenges in the coming days with regard to implementation of various schemes under ICPS are going to increase and as such there is immediate requirement of counseling.
7. We urgently need skill development/skill mapping programmes and for the purpose we need to train the youth in such programmes at school level, higher secondary level and even at college level.
8. For the purpose of skill development/career counseling of the students, the School Education Department has also tied up with some NGOs and same is being provided to the students at Secondary level & Hr. Secondary level. It was desired by the body present in the meeting to re-shape these programmes by first educating/ training the teacher's community at first so that they could impart career counseling to the students in better way.
9. Regarding detaining first time offenders/stone pelters under preventive detention, the meeting body was informed that during the 2016 only one case of detention of a teenage was reported and that too was revoked.
10. The Hon'ble Minister stated that the social welfare work cannot be done alone by the government officials but it is a

joint work to be carried forward by the volunteers / voluntary organizations, but the Government has to exercise caution due to the involvement of juveniles.

11. The Hon'ble Minister desired that the alienated youth should be given chance to excel and the country should come forward and adopt such children in different boarding schools/technical institutions so that passive integration takes place.
12. When there is capacity deficit or where there is no proper understanding then there is a solid space between the Government agency implementing various schemes, and the NGOs who step in for implementing these schemes of the Govt.
13. The Hon'ble Minister stated that the food for the mid-day meals is also being brought under the supervision of NGOs. It will take some time for disappearance of un-regulated Bal Ashrams/Yateem Khanas/Shelter homes. Instructions have also been given to the authorities of the concerned departments to get the weekly expenditure details of all the shelter homes/ bal ashrams/ yateem khanas etc. and in case any one of them fail they will be dealt as per law for which DGP J&K assured the body present that necessary steps will be taken in this regard as per law.
14. The meeting ended with the assurances that the Government will try to work on the suggestions put forth by PRAYAS and officers of ICPS/Social Welfare Department were asked to convert the ideas shared into an action plan.
15. Prayas JAC Society, since its very inception in 1988 had recognised the advantage of working in close collaboration with the Government and it was set up in 1988 as a joint venture of Delhi Police, the Shramik Vidyapeeth and Delhi School of Social work.

Conference of CSOs, NITI, Union and J&K State Governments:

NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Government organized a daylong Conference in Srinagar on August 7 2018 with the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) of the State to strengthen partnership between the CSOs and the government in implementation of various service delivery Schemes and Programs. The workshop was attended by the Advisors to the Governor Shri Khurshid Ganai & Shri B.B. Vyas, Mr Yaduvendra Mathur, Special Secretary , NITI Aayog, Mr Amod K Kanth, Member Coordinator, NITI-CSO Standing Committee, Mr Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, Planning, Mr Rakesh Ranjan, Joint Secretary, NITI, along with 160 participants ranging from various officers of the State



Government, over 60 CSOs operating in the J&K region, to officers from the NITI Aayog and 14 Central Government ministries. This was an unprecedented Conference which has broken new paths and created a platform for collective participation of Government & CSOs in J&K.

The J&K State Government was represented by Secretaries and senior officials of Department of Health and Medical Education, Planning Development and Monitoring, Special DGP, J&K Police, Roads and Buildings, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Information Technology, Tourism and School Education, Social Welfare Board, Director General Health Kashmir, Government Medical College Srinagar, Commissioner for Persons for Disabilities, ICDS, Women Empowerment, School Education, Technical Education, Rehabilitation Council, JK Women's Development Corporation, SRLM, Himayat, ICPS and others. The Union Ministry was represented by senior officials from Ministries of Youth Affairs, Sports, Women and Child Development, Culture, Social Justice & Empowerment, Tribal



Affairs, Minority Affairs, Labour & Employment, Health, Financial Services, Education, and Persons with Disability.

The Conference was an initiative of Prayas JAC Society under Sub-group IV (Access to Justice) of the NITI-CSO Standing Committee of CSOs which is represented by 23 leading civil Society Organizations of the country along with senior officials of NITI Aayog. The Standing Committee is mandated to work towards participation & improvement in implementation of schemes/programmes at the grass-root levels; deliberate on major issues/ challenges faced by CSOs; implementation of Schemes/Programmes for the youths of Jammu and Kashmir; suggest improvements in existing laws and policies, among others.

Emerging Action Plan from the Conference:

As a follow up to the Conference, Mr Amod K. Kanth, Member Co-ordinator NITI Aayog - Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) Standing Committee and Mr Rakesh Ranjan, Joint Secretary, NITI Aayog, met Governor N.N. Vohra to apprise him about the successful meeting and discuss the way forward. Mr Kanth informed Governor about a number of issues relating to the implementation of various State and Central Government welfare schemes in J&K and how a larger role to be played by the CSOs could be beneficial not only in generating a widespread awareness of these schemes but also enable the targeted groups being able to avail full benefits available under the welfare schemes.

The Hon'ble Governor highlighted the special concerns of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the context of the very large resource gap in funding the annual plans and the need for long-term planning for securing balanced growth and development of the State. He lauded the role being played by NGOs in various sectors and hoped that, in the obtaining environment in the State, the CSOs in J&K would be able to play a truly significant role in development schemes and welfare programmes being implemented/ delivered with much higher success.

As directed by the Hon'ble Governor, a Joint Action Plan was prepared keeping in mind the following objectives:

- a) To identify and improve the efficiency of the Schemes implemented by State and Central Government through active involvement of Civil Society Organizations.
- b) Identification of CSOs, operational in various social sub-sectors, who could become Development Partners of the Government.
- c) To strengthen the narrative of economic development in

the State, especially in the social sectors which impact the quality of life as well as economic productivity of the people of the State.

- d) To constructively engage youth in the State of Jammu and Kashmir through suitable CSOs for channelizing their energy into socially useful tasks and betterment of lives of people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Draft Joint Action Plan:

I. Opportunity

- a) Government of India implements programme of broadly two categories:

- i) **Central Sector Schemes:** These schemes are implemented largely by the Centre Government or by its instrumentalities directly and are on general on subjects which are in the Union List.
- ii) **Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS):** These schemes of Government of India are implemented by the State Governments as the subject matter covered under these schemes are either in the State List or the concurrent lists. For instance National Health Mission, MGNREGA, Sarv Siksha Abhiyaan.

Needless to mention, the performance of these Schemes as well as the disbursement of funds to CSOs under such schemes have been found to be inadequate.

- b) In addition, State Governments implement large number of its own Schemes.

Of above, efficiency in Schemes which are beneficiary oriented or are in Social Sectors like Women Empowerment, Child Welfare & Health, Welfare of Differently Abled, Youth Engagement, Senior Citizens and Children in Conflict with Law health can greatly be enhanced by involvement of Civil Society Organizations. In general, these Schemes have provision for their engagement and opportunities exist to make such engagement constructive so that larger number of CSOs can channelize their energy.

In many Schemes characterized as Central Sector Scheme, there are provisions for engagement of CSOs directly by the Central Ministries or their instrumentalities. On the other hand, bulk of Schemes in Social Sectors are either CSS or Schemes of the State Government. Since States are the main entities that implement the Schemes including large CSS, they play key role in engaging CSOs.

- c) Youth in Jammu and Kashmir has the potential to play a decisive role in development of the State. It is imperative that Civil Society Organizations are encouraged to leverage their goodwill in society to constructively engage the youth in Jammu and Kashmir.

- d) To facilitate engagement of Civil Society Organizations, NITI Aayog has launched a web portal namely “NGO Darpan” where a NGO/Civil Society can register themselves easily. This registration is mandatory for receiving assistance from Central Government under any Scheme.

Major issues hindering participation of Civil Society Organizations:

- i) **Lack of awareness:** Many Civil Society Organizations are not fully aware of the programme in Social Sector being implemented in the area of their influence. Secondly, they do not have information pertaining to potential role that the Schemes envisage for them. Thirdly, they find it difficult to ascertain procedure/method for applying for the same.

- ii) **Difficulty in dealing with the State/Central Ministries:** It is often difficult for the Civil Society Organizations to ascertain as to which official or which division/office within a Central/State Ministry they should interact with if they want to engage themselves with these Ministries /Department for implementation of the Scheme.

- iii) **Lack of a suitable feedback mechanism:** A corollary to the point (ii) above, as expressed by many CSOs, has been that it is very difficult for them to ascertain status of their application or in case they are not accepted, the reason for their rejection/non processing of the case. Similarly, whenever there is any change in the Scheme or if the Scheme is discontinued, information in this regard is not readily available to the Civil Society Organizations.

- iv) **Difficulties in registration and process-heavy verification and extension:** Many CSOs perceive that the process of verification is delayed, too frequent, done by multiple agencies and hence are of the view that the process consumes much of their valuable time besides adding uncertainty to their entire operation. It was felt that requirement of annual registration in certain cases and verification by multiple agencies instead of one needs review. It was also brought forth in the workshop that CSOs face inordinate delays in receiving FCRA clearances from MHA, despite of all the requisite security clearances and verifications.

v) Sub-Optimal consultation with Civil Society Organizations before launching an intervention or drafting guidelines:

The workshop also brought out the desirability of regular consultation with CSOs, especially at the time of framing of guidelines of any intervention so that their impact is higher. Involvement of CSOs in policy making also helps in making people aware of any intervention and leads to much better utilization of funds in a Scheme.

Proposed Action Plan:

Central Government:

i) Realizing the potential of the Civil Society Organizations NITI Aayog has formed a Civil Society Organizations Standing Committee and different thematic sub groups. NITI Aayog would continue to strengthen this platform by inviting suitable CSOs and ensuring their interaction with concerned representatives of the Central /State Governments at frequent intervals. This platform should strive to enable the CSOs to engage with the Governments in specific Sectors.

(Action: NITI Aayog)

ii) As mentioned above, NITI Aayog has already launched the web portal of “NGO Darpan”. The portal has some information pertaining to the Schemes of Central Government in which participation of NGOs/CSOs is envisaged. However, this information is not complete. As a long term measure, NITI Aayog should further develop this portal to provide Sector Wise information on such Schemes (Central Sector and CSS) where participation of NGOs is envisaged, desired area of such participation, procedure for application and forms for application.

(Action: NITI Aayog)

iii) Central Government Ministries and Departments, implementing programmes of Social Sector which envisages participation of the Civil Society Organizations should nominate a nodal officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary for encouraging participation of Civil Society Organizations. The role of the nodal officer should be following:

a) To organize a Consultation with representative of suitable Civil Society Organizations working in a Sector to identify sector specific issues, if any, and to address them. Preferably, this meeting should be organized within next one month.

b) To liaise with NITI Aayog and provide necessary information

pertaining to their programme and scope of work envisaged for Civil Society Organizations, so that the same may be populated on the NGO Darpan referred in paragraph (ii) above.

c) To liaise effectively with Civil Society Organizations on need basis so that the interface of the Central Ministries with the CSO remains efficient.

d) To earmark a Scheme-wise minimum amount every year which could be channelized through CSOs for development/welfare Schemes/Programs.

(Action: Central Ministries Concerned)

(iv) The requirement of annual/three yearly renewal of license in case of Civil Society Organizations of Jammu and Kashmir and also in other States wherever applicable, may be reviewed and process should be streamlined to ensure that renewal, if deemed required takes place in a time bound manner. The issue of verification by multiple agencies, as raised by many Civil Society Organizations may be reviewed.

(v) The process of renewal or granting new FCRA licenses should be reviewed to avoid delays in receiving funds and hence implementation of programs.

(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs)

(vi) NITI Aayog, leveraging the newly created platform of CSO Standing Committee, should undertake suitable survey in J&K to ascertain the effectiveness of engaging Civil Society Organizations in managing the Social Sector Schemes, especially their role in selection of beneficiary and addressing any problem by encouraging behavioral change and to collate best practices in this regard.

(Action: NITI Aayog)

State Government of J&K

i) State Government may appoint a Nodal Department, preferably, Planning Division as a nodal agency for engaging Civil Society Organizations.

ii) The State Government should also design a portal which has information pertaining to all such Schemes in which engagement of Civil Society Organizations is envisaged along with the procedure for application, eligibility, etc. Needless to add, this portal should provide active link to the NGO Darpan portal of NITI Aayog which would have similar information pertaining to all relevant Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

iii) Through such portal, the State government should publicly

announce RFPs on all Central and J&K State Government Schemes and advertize them effectively to encourage timely and appropriate participation of CSOs.

- iv) The above portal should also have the facility to track the application of the CSOs and in case of rejection or absence of requisite detail, the reasons may be shared in time.
- v) In view of the issue raised by Civil Society Organizations regarding verification by multiple agencies, State Government at appropriate levels may review the same and address the issue.
- vi) Different Departments of State Government implementing such Schemes which have interface with Civil Society Organizations may institute a mechanism for interacting with Civil Society Organizations and address their problems. It is suggested that the State Government may constitute a body or forum of Secretaries of all Departments and representative members of CSOs to hold such interaction, at least once in three months. Similarly, the nodal Department of the State Government, referred to in paragraph (i) above should hold a quarterly meeting in which the representatives of the Central Government and Standing Committee of the CSOs of NITI Aayog should also be invited. This forum, along with the Standing Committee should review the progress made in creating the institutional mechanism that facilitate the engagement of CSOs in implementing the Social Sector Schemes.
- vii) State Government should request the NGOs/ Civil Society Organizations of J&K to register on NITI Aayog NGO Darpan portal and to invariably quote the registration number for receiving any grant from the State Government.

To earmark a Scheme-wise minimum amount every year which could be channelized through CSOs for development/welfare Schemes/Programs.

Cooperation with the Government: Programs, Schemes & Policy

A fundamental shift in the relationship of the civil society and the Government has been there as it has facilitated the implementation or execution of various government Programmes and Schemes. Increasing resources on the Government's part and innovative solutions on the part of civil society organisations are prominent reasons for the interaction. Some of the biggest social sector programmes of India have been implemented through this approach. For example, the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, creation of

Self Help Groups (SHGs) with NABARD, and many more programmes exhibit the cooperation of civil society and the Government of India. The significant impact of such collective action is the financial push that civil society organisations receive from the Government to carry out the programmes as compared to earlier time when funding was borne by CSOs themselves.

Such engagements have also highlighted the urgency of the Government to increase the capacity to develop services to be delivered through CSOs. This is evident from the Right to Free and Compulsory Education to Children Act, and the flagship scheme Sarva Siksha Abhiyan wherein poor quality of Government schools had a negative effect on the success of the programme leading to disharmony between the local authorities and the NGOs. This leads us to the next impact in the civil society creating uncalled for adversarial relationships between the Government and some NGOs, which also negatively affects the development process and the tardy implementation of many well funded programs.

The Government of India's National Policy on the Voluntary Sector, 2006 envisaged encouraging an independent, creative and effective voluntary sector. The support for NGOs, however, cannot be merely based on subjective assessments and factors not relating to their commitment, integrity, capability and experience in the given field. The NITI Aayog through its portal 'DARPAN' have already started enlisting the NGOs, who have to be now categorized and rated for their likely contribution towards the development process and for integrated partnerships with the government. These CSOs/NGOs have to act as the 'million bridges' between the Union and State Governments in providing services and implementing Schemes and Policies responding to the real needs of the people and thereby ensure good governance

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his statement at the UN Summit for the adoption of Post-2015 Development Agenda had said that much of India's agenda is mirrored in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and as such a 'Vision 2030' is being formulated, wherein the role of these service delivery NGOs/CSOs becomes crucial. To meet the targets set out in the SDGs it is necessary to formulate specific policy initiatives and detailed action plans to implement them. These must reflect the urgency of the situation at hand in terms of the various national level Programs dove-tailed with the major Schemes in the Social Sector, the success or achievements under which will define the transformation.

Funding, Implementation and Rationalization of Schemes

In the post-independence period, delivery of government facilities in India has taken at the central government or state government level. Schemes formulated by the government are meant to serve the purpose and the targeted groups in the social sector. However, such Schemes have often not been successful in giving the desired results. While at the central levels some kind of reviews are carried-out, there is a need to examine and conduct multi-level impact analyses of these Schemes, connect with other Schemes and also rationalize them at the district, block and village levels for best results, wherein NGOs can become effective partners.

The following are some of the Central and State government sponsored Schemes, besides many other funding support and programmes in major areas of the Social Sector. Social and government audits strongly indicate the poor utilization of funds and tardy implementation. The challenge is more in the nature of actual services which may be created on the ground rather than the absence or dearth of Schemes supported by policies and laws.

ANALYSIS OF SOME MAJOR SCHEMES-

SCHEMES	GAPS AND ANALYSIS
<p>Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (Budget 2017-18—Rs 79, 685.95 crore, 9.9% increase in comparison to 2016-17-Rs 72, 394 cr)</p>	<p>As the principal vehicle to implement the RTE, 2009, SSA has overlooked the unreached and unreachable out of school children (8.5 crore?) who could be inducted through NGOs. School Management Committees need revamping to make them socially accountable.</p>
<p>Mid-Day Meals (Rs 10,000 crore in 2017-18 whereas in 2016-17, the amount was Rs 9700 crore & Integrated Child Development Scheme (Rs 15, 245 cr in 2017-18 whereas the amount allocated in 2016-17 was Rs 14,000 crore)</p>	<p>Together, they constitute the largest social sector nutrition Scheme in the world. It is primarily suffering due to non-implementation, poor services and absence of accountability.</p>
<p>Swachh Bharat Mission (Rs 13, 948.27 crore in 2017-18 (B.E) whereas R.E in 2016-17 was Rs 10,500 crore)</p>	<p>Prime Minister's most favourite project attracting huge attention which is yet to turn into a movement remains a government-driven programme. Participation of NGOs much needed. Budget in 2016-17 shows priority for sanitation, especially rural sanitation. SBM (U): the unit cost of constructing toilet Rs 4,000 most inadequate. Issue of water quality and sustainability still persists.</p>

ALLOCATION FOR IMPORTANT SCHEMES				
<i>(In Crores of Rupees)</i>				
Sl No.	Name of scheme	BE 2016-2017	RE 2016-2017	BE 2017-2018
1	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme	38500	47499	48000
2	Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna	20075	20936	29043
3	National Rural Drinking Water Mission	5000	6000	6050
4	National Social Assistance Programme	9500	9500	9500
5	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna	19000	19000	19000
6	National Education Mission including Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan	28330	28251	29556
7	National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools	9700	9700	10000
8	Integrated Child Development Services	16260	16580	20755
9	National Health Mission	20762	22598	27131
10	Swachh Bharat Mission	11300	12800	16248
11	National Livelihood Mission – Ajeevika	3325	3334	4849
12	Urban Rejuvenation Mission : AMRUT & Smart Cities Mission	7296	9559	9000
13	Green Revolution	12560	10360	13741
14	White Revolution	1138	1312	1634
15	Blue Revolution	247	392	401
16	Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) aggregated across three ministries	5767	5189	7377
17	Mission for Empowerment and Protection for Women	907	821	1089
18	Environment, Forestry and Wildlife	850	819	962
19	Employment Generation Programmes other than MGNREGS, including PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana, ATUFS, PM Mudra Yojana, PMEGP and ASPIRE	8133	10682	11640
20	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana	5500	13240	9000
21	Optical Fibre Cable based network for Defence Services	2710	3210	3000
22	Price Stabilisation Fund for pulses	900	3400	3500
23	Bharatnet	0	6000	10000
24	Metro Projects	10000	15700	18000
25	Recapitalization of Public Sector Banks according to the Indradhanush scheme	25000	25000	10000
26	Integrated Power Development Scheme and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojna	8500	7874	10635
27	Namami Gange- National Ganga Plan	2150	1441	2250
28	Sagarmala	450	406	600
29	LPG connection to poor households	2000	2500	2500

Source: Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability

Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)

Like the ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme) for children between the ages of 0 to 5 years, the ICPS (Integrated child Protection Scheme) covers the 'children in need of care and protection (CNCP)' and those in 'conflict with law' (CCL) from 6 to 18 years of age. It is estimated that about 20 to 30 million CNCP, CCL children, those who are homeless, destitute, working, abused, even missing or found under extremely difficult circumstances, most of them being out of school as well. These Children are targeted for various support and services under national level policies and laws like, Juvenile Justice (care & Protection of children) Act 2015, Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act 1986, POCSO 2012 etc coupled with the Schemes like, National Child Labour Project (NCLP), SSA etc which are not giving the desired results primarily on account of lack of proper participation by the beneficiaries, communities and the voluntary organizations.

Illustratively, the specific objectives of the flagship ICPS are:-

1. To institutionalize essential services and strengthen structures
2. To enhance capacities at all systems and persons involved in service delivery
3. To create database and knowledge base for child protection services
4. To strengthen child protection at family and community level
5. To coordinate and network with government institutions and non-government institutions to ensure effective implementation of the scheme
6. To raise public awareness about child rights, child vulnerability and child protection services.

Under the ICPS there is specific role assigned to NGOs and Prayas is one of the most important partners of the government for implementation of the provisions of the Scheme and the J.J.(Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000/2015. Prayas is perhaps the only NGO in India which is running an observation home situated at Ferozshah Kotla, Delhi Gate, Delhi. NGOs have to run the institutional and non-institutional services like Homes/Shelters and Childline (1098), etc. The services relating to child protection, restoration, development, welfare and rehabilitation are germane to the national development, which need to be dovetailed with the various services being rendered by the government machinery at all levels, PRIs, ULBs etc across the country.

Initiatives to Combat Trafficking of Women and Children

Human trafficking is directly linked to poverty and forced migration, forced and child labour, commercial and child sex abuse, organ trade, child and forced marriage, illegal adoptions and domestic abuse. It is a huge socio-economic issue and an organized crime. This can't be tackled by the police and the government without community and NGO participation activities.

1. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, MWCD Gol in an attempt to stop the trafficking of women and children has undertaken a number of initiatives. These include-
2. National Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children 1998, was formulated with the aim of mainstreaming and reintegrating victims of trafficking.
3. Central Advisory Committee (CAB) was constituted to advise on methods and tactic to address the problem.
4. Pre-rescue, Rescue and Post-rescue operations of child victims of trafficking for the purpose of Commercial Sexual Exploitation protocol was published as guidelines for all stakeholders.
5. The MWCD in collaboration with NIPCCD and UNICEF has developed manuals for 'Judicial Handbook on combating Trafficking of women and Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation'; 'Manual for Medical Officers for Dealing with Child Victims of Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation'; and 'Counseling services for Child survivors of trafficking'.

Ministry of Home Affairs has set up of a dedicated nodal Cell in the MHA for prevention of trafficking. The cell is responsible for providing state governments with the necessary research, studies and information.

The Ministry organizes workshops for NGOs on issues relating to trafficking of children for commercial sexual exploitation. A special module for counselors of trafficked victims has been formulated. Presently, following the defined 'human trafficking' under the post-Nirbhaya case Criminal Law Amendment, the new law is being drafted. Needless to mention, the NGOs with police and the agencies will have to undertake a major share of the work.

It is important to point out that while dealing with the issue of trafficking by way advocacy and service delivery to victims of trafficking including trafficking for sexual abuse, NGOs have



been playing a major role in formulating new law relating to trafficking, coupled with the criminal laws like the legislation on child labour. Some of them working in several states including bordering states like Bihar are addressing the issue of cross border trafficking. They have been working at origin, transit and destination sources in terms of rescue, rehabilitation and repatriation. They have also played a pivotal role in framing of the MWCD Railways Standard operating Procedure (SOP) for the Railways to ensure care and protection of children in contact with Indian Railways.

Prime Minister's new 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities

Like the previous governments and leaders in power, the present leadership has evolved programs for the people in some of the areas of the social sector wherein the CSOs have a role to play in respective domains. Prior to the formation of the CSOs Standing Committee Prayas was able to rally the leading NGOs to participate in the formulation of the Prime Minister's 15 year Vision, & year Strategy and 3 year Action Plan through the NITI Aayog.

Prayas finds mention in the **Three Year Action Agenda 2017-18 to 2019-20 (NITI Aayog) as an Expert as well as leading the Civil Society Organizations** of the country in the formation of the Action Agenda. The following list is illustrative:

Civil Society Organizations:

Shri Amod Kanth, Prayas

- Shri Debashish Mukherjee, Ramakrishna Mission
- Shri Bunker Roy, Barefoot College, Rajasthan
- Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, Sulabh International
- Shri Manas Satpathy, PRADAN
- Shri Methew Cherian, Help Age India
- Shri Prashant Agarwal, Narayan Seva Sansthan
- Dr. Bhanuja Sharan , Manav Sansadhan Evam Mahila Vikas Sansthan
- Dr. J. Paul Baskar, Peace Trust
- Shri Shanti Narain, IC Centre For Governance
- Ms. Chetna Gala Sinha, Mann Deshi Foundation
- Shri Neichute Doulo, Entrepreneur Associates, Nagaland
- Shri Aloysius P. Fernandez, Myrada
- Ms. Anjlee Agarwal, Samarthyam

- Husk Power Systems
- Akshaya Patra Foundation
- Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad

[INDIA: THREE YEAR ACTION AGENDA- 2017-18 To 2018-19, 182-190. NITI Aayog, Government of India, New Delhi]

Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities

Enhancing opportunities for Education

- (1) Equitable availability of ICDS Services: The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme are aimed at holistic development of children and pregnant/lactating mothers from disadvantaged sections, by providing services through Anganwadi Centres, such as, supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school and non-formal education. A certain percentage of the ICDS projects and Anganwadi Centres will be located in blocks/villages with a substantial population of minority communities to ensure that the benefits of this scheme are equitably available to such communities also.
- (2) Improving access to School Education: Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme, and other similar Government Schemes, it will be ensured that a certain percentage of all such schools are located in villages/localities having a substantial population of minority communities.
- (3) Teaching Urdu and modernizing madrasa education: Central assistance is being provided for recruitment and posting of Urdu language teachers in primary and upper primary schools that serve a population in which at least one-fourth belong to that language group. The Central Plan Scheme of Area Intensive and Madarsa Modernization Programme provides basic educational infrastructure in areas of concentration of educationally backward minorities and resources for the modernization of Madarsa education. Keeping in view the importance of addressing this need, this programme is to be substantially strengthened and implemented effectively.

The provisions of this very important scheme need to be disseminated to the target group, where the NGOs can play an important role.

MGNREGA: The MGNREGA is the largest CSS (Budget 2015-16 allocation—Rs 34,699 crores) running across the country. Four major areas of concern are: delays in payment of wages,

average days of employment per household, fabrication of job cards and rate of work completion.

Following is a short, medium and long-term analysis of the Scheme and the role NGOs can play:

15-year Vision: According to a recent survey conducted by the Ministry of Statistics, unemployment in rural areas has increased from 1.5% in 2013 to 1.7% in 2016. Meanwhile, according to the 2011 Census, India's urban population has increased by a greater number than the rural population for the first time. These statistics read together indicate the existence of the phenomenon of distress migration from rural areas to cities. In 15 years, this trend of rural unemployment and distress migration has to be stopped. For this, the MGNREGA has to become a safety cushion for the rural populace in times of distress. **Thus, the long-term vision for the MGNREGA can be to reduce the unemployment levels in rural areas to less than 1%, also decrease hidden unemployment accordingly and raise average rural incomes by 50%.**

Role of NGOs: For the long term planning, NGOs can conduct surveys to find out which states/districts need special attention. Community-based organizations can also help to decentralize the Scheme by aligning the MGNREGA with the local needs of a particular region. Such organization can also work on skilling the youth in order to help them find gainful employment.

7-year Strategy: In order to achieve the vision mentioned above, there is a need to put systems of accountability in place. In 2013, a report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development noted that as many as 12.5 crore rural households had been issued job cards out of an estimated 13.8 crore rural households. However, the committee raised concerns about fake job cards, inclusion of fictitious names, missing entries and delays in making entries in job cards. **To combat this problem, the medium-term strategy can be to create a vigilance committee at the state level which can include both government and NGO representatives. The NITI Aayog may take up the task of assigning an NGO or a group of NGOs for each state among the organizations which are registered on its portal.**

Role of NGOs: For the medium term, NGOs can work on vigilance committees which can put a check on fictitious names on MGNREGA rolls, fake job cards, etc. Such organizations can also work on specific issues such as connecting MGNREGA to new technological needs. Another aspect on which NGOs can work is to conduct awareness campaigns with the community

and government officials with the objective of ensuring greater participation of women.

3-year Action Plan: The immediate course of action must be to work on the gaps which can be addressed within the existing framework. For instance, as per a review of the Rural Development Ministry, over 70 percent wages were not paid on time in 2015. It is seen that the average number of work days provided has consistently been less than 50, whereas the Act guarantees 100-150/100 days of work. If these parameters are improved, they will lead to demand creation which will propel the Scheme to success. **The short term vision for the MGNREGA can be to reduce delays in payment of wages to at least 25% and increase the average number of work days provided to at least 75.**

Role of NGOs: The district administration can entrust NGOs with the task of identifying cases of delays in payments of wages and works which have been left incomplete. Voluntary organizations can also set up a 'one-stop grievance redressal cell' in each block/gram panchayat so as to connect the government machinery with the problems at the ground level.

Digitization of the major Schemes: PM Narendra Modi's dream of a digital India has to reflect in the implementation mechanism of Schemes for proper and monitorable performance and projected outcome of services at all levels. Documentation of Schemes should not merely be in the form of files stacked in the offices which are inaccessible to most people. Information about Schemes should be present in an accessible and interactive form. Some Schemes are presently online (eg, GPS Enabled biometrics etc in Skilling Projects like DDU-GKY) which are struggling for result oriented operations, while majority others are still completely opaque and without any accountability regarding their implementation or the services being delivered through them.

15-year Vision: In the next decade and a half, **the government must come up with a plan to digitize all of its own Schemes.** A template of this is already available in the form of the Jalayukta Shivar Scheme of the Maharashtra state government. In this Scheme, data on completed canals, ponds, check dams etc is available on an online portal right down to the village level. To give an example, a similar system may be created for the Swachh Bharat Mission. At present, while the total number of toilets built is available online, this information is not available at a localized level.

Role of NGOs: The NITI Aayog can assign competent NGOs to train community leaders in computer and internet literacy.

Organizations can also collate information about the different Schemes operational in specific parts of the country. Specifically assigned NGOs can also be given charge of online portals for information/grievance redressal.

7-year strategy: The government must **identify the parameters on which the success or failure of a Scheme can be assessed. A plan can be prepared for placing these parameters in the public domain.** These parameters could be quantitative as well as qualitative. For instance, the parameters for the Kaushal Vikas Yojana can be quantitative and can have a high level of transparency. However, for a Scheme like the 'One Stop Crisis Intervention Centre for Women'(MWCD), the legally mandated level of confidentiality has to be maintained. In this case, parameters can be quantitative (e.g. number of cases in which legal aid provided, number of cases in which financial assistance given), while some can be qualitative (e.g. progress in counselling reports without disclosing identity).

Role of NGOs: Organizations working with the community can provide information about the impact of the identified Schemes to the government. NGOs can also design a framework for each Scheme in which parameters for evaluating Schemes can be provided.

3-year Action Plan: In the short term, the **basic infrastructure for the digitization of Schemes has to be provided.** On the one hand, government offices will have to be digitized and on the other hand, electrification and internet connectivity to remote areas will have to be completed. Local Self Government bodies and communities across the country will have to be made aware of the need for accountability under the Schemes through digitization.

Role of NGOs: Organizations working at the grassroots can make a need assessment to identify the services which are lacking in different areas. Meanwhile, NGOs can also work in a more systematic manner on existing avenues of transparency in order to create a culture of accountability.

Universal Health Care—National Health Mission/ Aayushman Bharat

As India marches towards the goal of universal health coverage, it faces huge challenge ahead to universalize its health care as a signatory to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). India accounts for 20 percent of the global burden of diseases, 27 percent of neonatal deaths and 21 percent of all child deaths (younger than 5 years)¹. National Health Policy 2015 endorsed the goal of universal health coverage on three objectives: equity, quality and the people being protected against financial

hardships. Achieving these targets is ambitious and requires strategic incremental approach. World Bank Data shows that in 2014, the government expenditure on health in India was only 1.4 percent of GDP, one of the lowest in the world. Instead of increasing allocation for healthcare, the new draft national health policy 2015 plans to involve and seek investment from the private sector, without realizing the trust and confidence that people have reposed in the public health system.

In this regard, we wish to refer to the deliberations of a National Consultation on Road to Sustainable Development Goals, organized by World Bank and National Institute of Transformation India, (NITI) on 09-10 February, 2016 New Delhi. Dr Henk Bekedam, WHO Representative to India, highlighted “Neither the economic benefits of good health nor the direct consequences of ill health were sufficiently understood by policy makers or captured by MDGs.”

An estimated, 50 – 60 million Indians slip into poverty every year in India as a result of paying their health bills, out-of-pocket expenditure being the single most cause for people going into poverty. The national Health Accounts for the year 2013-14 revealed high out of pocket expenditure (OOPE) (about 65 percent of total health expenditure) of the people. Almost over 35 percent of the current health care expenditure is spent on pharmacies and a large proportion of the amount is spent on curative care. The insurance Schemes launched by the union government recently may turn around the situation if the universal coverage is achieved.

NGO Participation in Healthcare

To ameliorate the prevailing situation of the health services in the country we need to have long term as well as a short term strategy. Long term strategy may take years in resolving the issue of health whereas the short term strategy may give immediate relief to the patients.

In the interim, there are some steps which can be taken. For example, government health centres can be opened during early morning hours and late evening, as large number of working population is totally dependent on them. Health Centres play a crucial role for diagnostic testing, pregnancies and for screening and prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases, and hence shall be immediately equipped with medicines and instruments. It is advised that at this point the NGOs working in the field of health may be roped in for maintenance of the medical stocks and maintenance of equipments.

Prayas, like several other NGOs, is already providing health

¹ Assuring Health Coverage for all in India, Lancet (2015)

services to people in Bihar and Arunachal Pradesh through Primary Health Centres and a Nutritional Resource Centre. This can be replicated at large scale in different parts of the country with the participation of NGOs.

1. NGOs can provide an effective 'medical helpline' services in case of serious medical requirements. It has been seen that ambulance being covered under NRHM (National Rural Health Mission) are not being provided when required.
2. NGOs can provide medical assistance to people by way of well-equipped medical mobile vans, although this service is supposed to be provided under NRHM but their presence is hardly to be felt. It would be relevant to mention that large number of NGOs, such as, 'Help-age India' and JOHAR Health in Jharkhand, are providing such services for needy people across the country
3. NGOs can assist the state government & local authorities in decentralising the quality health services in rural & remote areas, meaning thereby, the health services will reach to the poor and needy at their doorsteps.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao and Women-Centric Schemes

Recently, the Hon,ble Prime Minister announced a very important Scheme of the government of India which has already started showing its result especially in the states like Haryana and Rajasthan where gender ratio was precariously low. NGOs can play a decisive role in the implementation of this and all other schemes relating to girls and women since all of them are inextricably interwoven with the attitudes towards fairer sex, deeply entrenched prejudices and outdated traditions which can't be corrected without massive campaigns and awareness programs. They have to be integrated with the implementation of social legislations and the Schemes which, together, can be done only through the civil society organizations.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) was launched by Prime Minister on 22nd January, 2015 at Panipat, Haryana. BBBP addresses the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of women empowerment over a life-cycle continuum. It is a tri-ministerial effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development. The key elements of the Scheme include enforcement of PC&PNDT Act, nation-wide awareness and advocacy campaigns and multi-sectoral action envisaged in select 100 districts in the first phase. However, the low sex ratio at the pan-India level remains a major concern from where emanates the women-centric policy initiatives. Whereas, the

Sex-Ratio gaps strongly indicate millions of foeticides, in 2014 only 50 cases were registered under the IPC and 25 cases under the PNDT Act in 2015, the present sex ratio in the country reported to be 940 females per 1000 males. It is evident under this social legislation involving a serious crime, same as in much other similar social legislation, the will and machinery to implement them is extremely inadequate, which call for major participation of the civil society organisations.

Kishori shakti yojana

Illustratively, among the schemes for women, Kishori Shakti Yojana is one to empower the adolescent girls for their holistic development. The primary goal of the Scheme is to provide a supportive environment for the adolescent girls in breaking the inter-generational life cycle of nutrition and disadvantage. The major object of the Scheme is improving self-esteem of the adolescent girls and creating opportunities for realizing their full potential through Balika Mandals. In the continuum of women related services, some time back the Anganwadis (ICDS) were made the centres for the nutritional support to young girls along with the children which are required to be run under the supervision of PRIs and ULBs and connected to NHM programs for health care. Needless to mention, these schemes are not able to deliver services in the absence of civil society participation and the integrated systems to ensure holistic implementation.

One stop centre scheme

This Scheme was initiated in the light of the recommendations of the Justice Usha Mehra (Retd) Commission following the Nirbhaya case. This Scheme proposes to provide support and help to women who face violence, whether in the public or private domain. These include medical, police-related, legal and psychological assistance, among others. This Scheme was conceptualized to provide holistic care to the victims of sexual violence after the December 2012 gang rape of a paramedical student in Delhi. This has to be run in every district of the country jointly by the NGOs, Health and Social Welfare, legal and law enforcement Services aligned with the policies and legislative framework, such as, Domestic Violence Act, the Criminal Law Amendment Act 2013. POCSO 2012 etc., which are all awaiting implementation through the active and integrated participation of the civil society organisations

Saakshar bharat mission (mhrd)

This programme aims to promote and strengthen adult learning, reaching out to those who missed the opportunity to access or complete formal education/vocational training as

well as basic literacy/basic education/vocational training, it covers vocational education/vocational training and skill development, applied science and sports. Due to its approach, Saakshar Bharat is described as a 'people's programme', with the government acting as facilitator and resource provider, but working closely with local communities to tailor the programme to their needs.

Despite significant accomplishments of the Mission, illiteracy continues to be an area of national concern. 2011 Census had revealed that there were still 272.9 million illiterate adults (32 per cent of adult population) in the country. The women obviously constitute a much bigger chunk amongst them. Wide gender, social and regional disparities in literacy also continue to persist. Adult education/vocational training is therefore indispensable as it supplements the efforts to enhance and sustain literacy levels through formal education/vocational training.

Jan shikshan sansthan-jss (mhrd)

Operating in 171 districts covering nearly 6-lakh direct beneficiaries through vocational training and much bigger numbers through literacy and other national level programmes, each JSS runs on the lowest funded annual budget of Rs 30-lakhs. This is the most flexible, economic, transparent, accessible scheme of Ministry of Human Resource Development, GoI which is targeting unreached groups. This is a responsible and well-monitored scheme which has already been expanded to cover millions for Literacy, fiscal inclusion and Skill Development. The Scheme has linkages with multi-layered and multi-sectoral projects, programs and activities from remotest villages to metropolitan cities. This Scheme is proposed to be connected to National Skill Development Mission, National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), IGNOU, & National Literacy Mission. JSS has a very strong mechanism to promote literacy and skill development through Board of Management with Central & State Govt., departments and local bodies, social-workers, educationists, business representatives, bank representatives and the representatives of SC/ST forum.

JSSs are having the approach for a nodal and parallel initiative to promote literacy, conventional community areas, association of several versions of vocational training trades in a range of literacy insertions. Almost all of the JSSs are being run by reputed community based NGOs which serve most deprived slum/pavement dwellers, migrants, women & youth, urban/rural poor etc. It is unfortunate that such a well established scheme involving hundreds of community-based

organizations has not been given due attention and resources which are extremely inadequate when compared to other similar schemes. For instance, for 2000 vocational trainees under the other schemes, the funds could be nearly Rs 3 crores whereas for similar number of trainees under the JSS, it is just about Rs 30 lakhs. Since there is a huge challenge of community disconnect in majority of skilling programmes in the country, it is highly appropriate to integrate JSS and such other schemes with the Prime Minister's Skilling India Mission for giving it a quantum leap.

15-year vision:

Broadly speaking, these organisations may help in taking measures which are necessary for effective implementation of government programmes. Many of them entail a deep involvement with the civil society and they may readily render the services, like:-

1. Identification of needs
2. Identification of beneficiaries
3. Ensuring outreach of services
4. Implementation and monitoring
5. Impact analysis

This process is more or less similar to the one adopted by NGOs in implementing a project. A typical project proposal requires an organization to provide a rationale for the project, the expected direct and indirect outcomes, and the proposed manner of monitoring and evaluation. A similar strategy may be adopted for providing of basic amenities, such as, health services, food-grains, education, skilling, micro-finance, etc.

Govt.-CSO Integrated Model:

The enumerated 3.2 million NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) or CSOs (Civil Society Organizations)/ CBOs (Community Based Organizations) fall in different categories based on their services and activities or/and their relationships with the Government in power. From contractual to consultancy, missionary to profit making & international to local, these NGOs undertake the activities filling the gaps in services to almost taking over many activities of the Welfare State, the CSOs operate as agents of community or civil society. Prayas has evolved its own integrated institutional framework.

For a better understanding of this evolving concept of CSOs/NGOs civil society as an alternative, albeit as complementary forum to Govt. Integrated Partnerships need to be forged at three levels i.e. Local, State and Central. As true

partners in the service delivery from the local to national levels, the CSOs/NGOs could be identified and deployed at appropriate stages, who could join hands in the implementation of Social Sector Schemes and Programs with the government. Understanding the extent of NGOs-Government linkages can play a crucial role in identifying areas that need strengthening to increase collaborative and coordinated efforts. In UP, for instance, a study successfully demonstrated that NGO facilitation of the government's community based health program improved the equity of maternal and newborn health in rural areas (Baqui et al., 2008). The linkages are marked by frequent interaction and some level of reciprocity in terms of information and resource flow. In a relationship where the NGOs/CSOs can play vital role in implementing the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Govt for the welfare of the teeming mass population, strong partnership at all levels of the Government can become key factor for sustainability of the program.

Both formal and non-formal fora are used for information sharing and participation in planning and review, between NGOs and public health system. Quoting time tested example of its own health services under a formal institutional mechanism, Prayas 'Janhit Swasthya Seva Kendra', which provide health services in remote area of Wakro (Lohit District-Arunachal Pradesh) annual plans are reviewed and vetted by the local state to national government. At the state level too annual work plans are jointly prepared, approved and reviewed every quarter which are participated by the district administration. This ensures aligning of Prayas 'Janhit Swasthya Seva Kendra', activities with government (National Health Mission) priorities and implementation in close consultation with the government.

At the State level, illustratively, Mission Directorate office of NHM, brings all partners working on public health to meet every quarter and share good practices, get feedback and participate in developing district specific plans. Members include District administration, Senior Health functionaries, NGOs, and other Government Departments like Women and Child Development, Education and Public works.

3-Levels (Local, State and Central) of Integrated Services and Joint Social Audits:

The Model is designed to be tiered along Local, State and Central levels to allow free-flow interaction to facilitate the implementation of programs. The reason such levels have been incorporated is to ensure effective interaction amongst participants and stakeholders to ensure action and service

delivery to the targeted groups and individuals. This also ensures that smooth vertical linkage between these levels from local to state to centre that efficiently transfer the engagements to ensure action backed with justified accountability. While the govt. schemes and programs may be implemented together by the state and non-state agencies, the impact assessments could be simultaneously done as Joint Social Audits.

Corporate Social Responsibility

The corporate, private and public businesses, demand creation, consumption and distribution of goods and services, have been the core of the liberalized and globalized economy. But, the real impact of this success story is yet to be felt on a sizeable part of the population. Hence, the Corporate Sector has now been given very important role in the development of India through initiatives like Make in India, Start up India, Skill Development, Atal incubation project, etc. It is imperative that these projects will bring sea changes in the life of end-users, and for which the deprived segments should be well informed and ready to reap their consequences. This aspect of continuous mobilisation and persuasion of masses can be effectively done by credible and capable NGOs.

An important aspect in the development strategy should be the effective use of the CSR funds through reputed and well established NGOs, law mandates investment of 2% of profits in 'corporate social responsibility. It is estimated that CSR as mandated legally under Section 138 of the Companies Act 2013 should annually generate Rs 26,000 crores which may go into the social sector through service delivery NGOs, but mostly this is either held back or is being diverted wrongly. Further, while private companies can mobilize these funds for social causes, they lack the grassroots knowledge and manpower to take those investments to their logical end. For instance, while toilet construction has taken place on a large scale under the Swachh Bharat Mission, the shortcoming lies in terms of maintaining the toilet blocks. Thus, while the private sector can provide investments towards sanitation, the voluntary sector can provide the manpower necessary for ensuring that the investment does not go waste.

Role of NITI Aayog: Prayas as Member, Planning Commission /NITI Aayog bodies and Coordinator CSOs Standing Committee

During the past 30 years of its existence while reviewing over 200 projects in 9 States/UTs in most of the social sector themes getting deep into services at the grassroots, Prayas had ample opportunities to become part of the national level planning and



policies. Earlier, as Member in the Planning Commission and NITI Aayog Standing Committee and Working Groups, now as the Coordinator of the Standing Committee of the CSOs, the organization is positioned to help the government and give a direction. Prayas, through its membership in NITI Aayog's Working Groups on Nutrition, Law & Judicial Reforms and Labour & Employment has been constantly engaging with the Government on major policy issues and has suggested changes to improve upon the existing conditions.

The NITI Aayog, as the premier think-tank and policy making body of the country, can provide a framework for a process for service delivery through all Social Sector Schemes, services and programs, whether implemented by the government functionaries directly or through its agencies, by PRIs and ULBs or through the private sector, non-profits or the NGOs. For instance, while identifying beneficiaries it is not sufficient to state that a particular section of society (e.g. youth, elderly, girls below the age of 14 years) is the intended target. The Schemes must state the details within states and districts and the number of such people it proposes to cover.

7-Year Strategy: Traditionally, voluntary organizations have been associated in limited sectors such as children in difficult circumstances, elderly care, education, health and nutrition, environment, etc. However, the government can encourage the community-based organizations to make forays into newer sectors like skill development, digital literacy, criminal justice, gender equality etc. These organizations have to go beyond mere facilitation and implementation, and lead the way for socio-economic transformation.

Further, it is important to introduce models of service delivery which are self-sustaining. The attempt must be made to empower local communities and allow them to take ownership of government services. In this respect, each level of the three-tier system of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)-Gram Panchayat, Block Administration and Zilla Parishads will have to

be involved to take responsibility for the programs and Schemes on ground. For instance, state governments can allocate productive assets to panchayats and allow them to generate revenue, but it remains a challenge to ensure the actual services reaching the needy. A mechanism has to be evolved to create real-time partnerships through the local level civil society organisations to work along with the PRIs and ULBs.

3-year Action Plan: In the context of public service delivery, accountability is of prime importance. The government machinery must not only connect with the masses, but also be seen as doing so. The traditional mode of placing a suggestion box in a distant corner of a government office is not sufficient in the light of RTI demands on transparency and need for participation. New and innovative methods of connecting with the people must be devised, with the focus on two-way communication which could be facilitated by the NGOs/CSOs at all levels.

In the immediate future, the government needs to devise a strategy to take into account the opinion of the people before finalizing important social legislations and Schemes. **A mechanism can be created to identify which legislations/ Schemes can be placed before the public for suggestions and concerns.** For example, a list of issues can be identified and a stipulation can be made that laws/Schemes which involve more than a certain amount of money must be put up for public consultation. This consultation can be in the form of inviting comments on government websites as well as holding public hearings or participatory community appraisals which all could be facilitated and set up by the NGOs/CSOs.

Vision 2030:

As already detailed above, it is clear that India has enormous challenges in terms of improving the quality of life for its citizens for which systematic and serious efforts are being made through multiple laws, Policies and Schemes. India's promise of fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 means little if it has no roadmap for dovetailing through the same. Voluntary organizations can play a significant role in engaging the communities and societies at large to help the government in case they are identified properly, developed, tracked and monitored to become partners in change.

As per the existing estimates, the number of voluntary organizations in the country stands at 3.5 million, which is now confirmed approximately through the CBI report to the Supreme Court in a PIL as being 3.2 million. Even if only a small proportion of these 3.5 million organizations are engaged in

genuine and constructive work, it still means a significant working hand for the government and becoming the channel for the government's community engagements at all levels.

The transition from a five-year plan to a 15-year vision document is not an easy one. The NITI Aayog and the Govt. will have to take into account changes in demographics, technological progress and newer aspirations in order to effectively create a roadmap for a decade and a half. Without the active and constructive participation of the civil society organizations, we can't achieve the goals which urgently require the engagements of the poor and the deserving at multiple levels, from village to the national level.

Community Participation to promote activities of NGOs

The process of decentralization has been an encouraging feature of our efforts to universalize elementary education. National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 visualized direct community involvement in the form of Village Education Committees for management of elementary education. The Programme of Action (POA), 1992 emphasized micro-planning a family-wise and child-wise plan of education by which every child regularly attends a school or a non-formal education (NFE) centre, continues his or her education at a place suitable to him \ her and complete at least 10 years of schooling or its equivalent at the NFE Centre.

In the common parlance, volunteerism and NGOs are talked about as being two facets of a similar kind of activities – the first being in the nature of a spirit and the second being organizational. Volunteerism is considered to be a doctrine in which a free will of an individual to act is a dominant factor. A volunteer is a person who offers his services spontaneously without any extra incentives. His work is conscious, automatic and instinctive different of such a desire translated into some gold oriented activity. A voluntary organization ma best be considered to be a conglomeration of volunteers joining hands with shared values of common concern for specific goals the raison d'être of a voluntary organization is based on the principle interests of a group constituting the organization.

Although, many in the voluntary sector and even outside, prefer to called voluntary Action Group (VOLAGS) or voluntary organization etc, the most common term even now happens to be non-governmental organisations. The emergence of such NGOs as presenting the participation of the civil society on common issues of concern is a global phenomenon. However, the significance of such non-governmental efforts to achieve the same goals as that of a welfare State through community or non-governmental efforts, finds a new meaning in the

developing countries of South-East Asia and Africa. The NGOs are in existence in American and European countries as well.

But the individualistic and the capitalistic societies, the private endeavors to achieve the similar goals are far more pervasive and institutionalized for both altruistic and personal gains. The voluntary organisations in this sector serve the limited purpose, particularly to look after the disadvantaged and disabled sections of society, more in the nature of specialized activities where the government does not take major responsibilities and the business and the profit making organisations operate more to express these social concerns. However, in the developing countries, the NGOs or the voluntary organizations are often seen as main driving force in the process of socio-economic mobilisation and change. For instance, in Bangladesh, the massive NGOs like Grameen Bank and Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) have almost taken the position of the Govt. in the areas of women empowerment and micro-credit and primary education, respectively, reaching out to several millions.

After five decades of educational programmes neither illiteracy nor the associated problems of social exclusion and gender discrimination have disappeared. Instead, people have become distrustful of the ability of public institutions and government agencies to deliver good governance. While the trend for greater privatization will help promote voluntary initiative, it is also likely to create a demand for a better balance between growth and quality education. On the positive side, today we appear to be in a developmental stage, volunteerism will again become important aspect for social change that also led to social justice.

Non-governmental Organisations or NGOs emerged as an important feature of the Indian social landscape, and the 21st century may be described as the decade of the NGO. This development is not specific to India. It is a worldwide phenomenon. In some of these countries, the NGOs are seen as the main driving force in social change and social mobilization. NGOs are now pivotal in the field of education and child development.

With the State contracting out more of its responsibilities to the voluntary sector, and many non-profit organizations undertaking entrepreneurial activities to subsidize their charitable operations, the line between the different sectors is getting blurred.