

The Role of NGO's in Welfare of Physically Handicapped

Dr. Appayya V. Melavanki

Lecturer in Sociology
Govt P U College Waderahatti
Tq: Gokak Dt: Belagavi

Abstract:

NGOs have played a significant role in the development of rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities worldwide. This has been done regularly in the absence of Government involvement and initially took an institutional, charity-based approach. Present day developments, however, favour a participatory, community-based approach, complementing and liaising with Government plans and services, and working with all the stakeholders' groups.

Introduction:

India is the largest democratic country in the world and is on its way to become a key player in the global scenario. It is our responsibility to ensure that this developmental cycle touches all the citizens of this country that is able and, especially, the physically handicapped, who are often referred to as the invisible minority. But before we stamp them as minority, let us consider the recent census reports. According to the 2011 census the government figure for the physically handicapped was 2.7% of the entire population.

A reserved guess would place that figure between seven to ten crores. The National Policy identifies the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) as necessary and valuable assets of this country and the basic goal is to create an atmosphere for them in conjunction with the basic constitutional rights i.e. equality, freedom, justice and dignity. This will also guarantee equal opportunities for the PWD thereby ensuring the protection of their rights and enabling their full participation in the society.

Physically handicapped are those things that prevent people with impairment from functioning properly in the society. Many studies argue that disabilities can occur at birth but in some cases, disability is acquired later in life. Common disabilities include physical deformities that affect the upper and lower limbs, manual dexterity problems, inability to coordinate body organs and others. The cause of the disability may be due to old age, a viral infection such as polio, a hereditary condition and paralysis or amputation. Other

disabilities include speech and hearing impairment. This category includes individuals suffering hearing impairment; some partially while others totally, a condition also known as deafness. There are a number of individuals who have problems with speech, where others cannot speak and are said to be mute. Sufferers of speech impairment may stutter and stammer while speaking while others may have voice disorders.

However, People suffering from disabilities face a lot of challenges every day. Simple tasks that ordinary people perform on a daily basis as routine are extremely delicate and difficult to those suffering from disabilities.

Thus accomplishing simple tasks such as taking a shower, dressing up, brushing teeth or even having a meal are tasks that may take much longer than normal and in many cases, may require the assistance of others. Individuals with disabilities are faced with stigma and discrimination from the society where they live. Most people look down on them and treat them as special. Disabled people may find it hard to socialize with members of the society. With above back drop the study assumed great significance to study the problems and prospects of physically handicapped.

Definitions of Physically Handicapped

According to the medical model, disability lies in the individuals, as it is equated with those restrictions of activity. Faced with the line of thinking, individuals would feel pressured to work on 'their' restrictions, bearing the burden of adjusting to their environment through cures, treatment or rehabilitation. According to World trade organization disabilities are an umbrella term, covering

impairments, activity limitations, and participation restrictions.

According to Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation Act, 1995, "Person with disability" means a person suffering from not less than forty per cent of any disability as certified by a medical authority (any hospital or institution, specified for the purposes of this Act by notification by the appropriate Government). As per the act "Disability" means Blindness, Low vision, Leprosy-cured; Hearing impairment; Loco motor disability, Mental retardation; and Mental illness.

Research Methodology

The size of physically handicapped population is very large in Belgaum district like other district. In view of the said reasons the study of all handicapped in Belgaum district is very difficult and it is time consuming and it is not manageable by the researcher to complete the study on time hence, the study has adopted cluster sampling method and has been divided into different stratum like ten taluka and each taluka has taken 30 sample physically handicapped respondents by adopting simple random sampling techniques.

Role of NGOs in Physically Handicapped Welfare:

The NGOs usually set up by ordinary citizens, NGOs may be funded by governments, foundations, businesses, or private persons. Some avoid formal funding altogether and are run primarily by volunteers. NGOs are highly diverse groups of organizations engaged in a wide range of activities, and take different forms in different parts of the world. Some may have charitable status, while others may be registered for tax exemption based on recognition of social purposes. Others may be fronts for political, religious, or other interests. In other words Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are institutions, recognized by governments as non-profit or welfare oriented, which play a key role as advocates, service providers, activists and researchers on a range of issues pertaining to human and social development.

ADAPT - It is an action group that provides a common platform to highlight the problems faced by persons with disability, share personal experiences and provide practical solutions. Also believes that both disabled and non disabled can and should work together.

All India Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AIIPMR) - Established in 1955, It is a government sponsored institute under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which operates as a treatment, training, research centre in the field of rehabilitation of the physically handicapped. Provides medical rehabilitation, physiotherapy, electrotherapy, occupational therapy, in patients and out patient facilities includes orthopedic appliances, vocational training and guidance.

Apang Maitree - Established 1977, by and for disabled, working for hearing, mentally, visually, multiple orthopaedically handicapped, covering medical, education, economic, resources sectors. Also holds camps.

Asha- Established in 2002. Aim is to install and develop self confidence among the disabled and to remove doubt in their own capabilities so that they can become self employed, self dependent, self respected, and live a normal life. Mr. Diwan Shah is 60% disabled.

Astitva Prahladrai Kagzi Institute For Handicapped- Established in 1983, 73 students (47 boys and 26 girls) age 4 -18 yrs. Working for physical, mentally handicapped children and hearing impaired. Teaching and training through modern aids, rehabilitation.

Cheshire Home- The home provides permanent shelter and care for poor or low income men permanent physical disability. It was started after World War II for the disabled Ex-Service men. capacity for 850 persons. Services include caring & rehabilitation.

Fellowship of the Physically Handicapped (FPH) - FPH provides vocational training to 150 to 200 orthopedically handicapped 18 - 40 years in tailoring, printing, carpentry, machine shop and computers. Also provides free mid day meals. Also make products for sales.

Handicap Welfare Association- Handicap Welfare Association is a Non profitable organisation for the disabled by the disabled. It is fully committed for the development, upliftment and welfare of all disabled people in and around Navi Mumbai, Panvel & Raigad. It focus in providing finances for disabled persons to start small business, providing employment, giving guidance and imparting knowledge about various schemes of the State & Central governments for the disabled & physically

challenged persons. There are about 500 members in our association all from Navi Mumbai, Panvel & Raigad. Provide rehabilitation & development of all disabled, persons in Navi Mumbai.

Marathi Mission Nagpada Neighbourhood House

- Is a community welfare centre, provide health, education, social and economic welfare, recreational services and cultural activities. Also help the child in its total physical, mental and social, intellectual development, empowers women and the family in becoming self sufficient and independent in life, makes them aware of their rights in society, for child welfare, development, disability, education, food and nutrition, health, intellectual property, minorities, poverty, sanitation, urban development, water, women's issues.

Mouth and Foot Painting Artists Association (MFPA)

- Contact artists who have lost the use of their hands through accident or illness and who paint with the brush held in the mouth or in the toes; or people who, having been born or become disabled, wish to learn to paint and support themselves through the sale of their work. Makes greetings cards, calendars and other artworks.

Mutually Beneficial Activities Foundation-

Established in December 2001, provides life care for the disabled persons through employment. Activities like assessment, occupation, counseling for parents and beneficiaries, therapy - speech, physio, group, occupational, value adding, relaxation activities and care services; Day care & residential care - both personal & hygiene, for persons with different disabilities like cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, hyperactivity, dyslexia, multiple disabilities, visually impaired, mentally challenged.

Muscular Dystrophy Society- Founded in 1973 to give cheer to the afflicted as there is no treatment available. The society has concentrated on improving their life style, increase their ability to stand and walk for more number of years. Muscular dystrophy is an inherited disease. It is characterized by progressive weakness of the muscles which control movement. There are a variety of dystrophies and the inheritance pattern varies with each type. Most of the dystrophies affect young children. The major forms of muscular dystrophy include myotonic, Duchenne, Becker, limb-girdle, facioscapulohumeral, congenital, oculopharyngeal, distal and Emery-Dreifuss.

National Society for Equal Opportunities for the Handicapped (NASEOH)

- Organisation works for all categories of disabilities, providing intervention programmes, integrated education, vocational education and training, placement, advocacy and social awareness, serve disabilities like amputee, cp/spastic, hearing impaired, leprosy, mentally handicapped, multiply handicapped, orthopedically impaired, visually impaired. Services provided advocacy, aids & appliances community based rehabilitation, counseling services, early intervention, job placement, networking, outpatient diagnostic & awareness programs outreach programs in rural areas, parent support group, recreational activities, speech and physiotherapy, vocational training.

Paraplegic Foundation- For physically, orthopaedically handicapped. Manages sheltered workshop at Sion hospital and provides job placement, accommodation, special aids, recreational programmes, scholarship schemes to paraplegics and their children. Training centre, sheltered workshop, product sales counters; half-way home, also centre at Airoli.

Phonix Trust for Rehabilitation of Physically Handicapped-

Rehabilitation of disabled; development of rural and tribal also training for self-employment, focuses on environment conservation through forestation and watershed development.

E. C. Day School- Working in the area of: Physically / Orthopedically Handicapped, The school has educational programme upto Std. VII in Marathi and Hindi medium. It also provides with subsidised transport, rehabilitation services such as medical consultation, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, counseling services and nutritional programmes.

Conclusion:

NGOs and Governments vary in their capacity to change their working practices to achieve these aims. One factor which influences the capacity of disability related NGOs to make the necessary changes, appears to relate to their different forms, which range from small community based to national or international organizations. Here an attempt is made to provide some information relating to activities and role of Indian NGOs towards upliftment of Physically handicapped.

Referance Books:

1. A.V. Melavanki and Dr. D.R. Albal (2015) – “Vikalchetanara punarvasati sarakar hagu swayam seva sansthegal patra”. Shikshan Soudha A Quarterly Education and Research Journal, Gadag June-2015.
2. C.A. Ameresur – Welfare of the Physically, Handicapped ; A social work in India. (Article)
3. Hahn, Harlan (1982). “Disability and Rehabilitation Policy: Is paternalistic neglect really benign?” Public Administration Review, 42 (4) July-August, pp. 385-389.
4. Krishnamurthy. S. (1990) Role of Development in the Aid of the Handicapped Indian Journal of Social work.
5. Narayan Suma (1990) – Community Based Rehabilitation for the mentally Handicapped. Indian Journal of Social work.

