17.   ROLE OF NGOS IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

17.1   During the past two decades, relevance of the role of voluntary sector has been in focus in India. In fact, the initiatives taken by the United Nations and its agencies in involving the voluntary sector for capacity building and contributing towards the speedier and less expensive processes of development has gained worldwide acceptance. As a consequence, the developed countries in particular and those which are still developing or are less developed have taken the idea of involving the voluntary sector responding to the complex processes of development at various levels.   India has a large net work of voluntary organizations working in the fields of Health, Education, Rural and Urban spheres. A large number of such organizations are making significant contributions in this direction in the State of Punjab.

17.2   With the objective of associating voluntary organizations in development and social welfare activities in an appropriate manner, the State Government is providing sizeable monetary assistance to such organizations to enable them to play a notable role in the development process. The target sectors for voluntary organizations are elementary and adult education; vocational training of adolescent girls and women from poor and needy families, Reproductive and Child Health Programme, animal care, National Health Programme, development of women and children in the rural areas and environmental improvement of urban slums and welfare of SCs/BCs etc. The emphasis is on encouraging self employment through skill formation. Leading institutions in specific areas are suitably involved in providing gainful employment to the unemployed/under employed youth. While adopting the neglected segments of the society, the endeavor is to encourage community participation to the optimal extent both in planning and implementation with the help of mass-based self-reliant organizations and to take up projects to sustain the achievements already made. The aim of the Government is to reach the most needy in the society through innovation and experimentation of the NGOs.

17.3   In order to systematize the voluntary efforts in development, the State Government have issued policy guidelines in which special attention has been given to the idea of having a mother unit. The only mother NGO in Punjab at present is the 'Society for Service to Voluntary Agencies (SOSVA) (North)' for the Department of Health and Social Welfare. The funds are placed at the disposal of the concerned Administrative Departments which further release the same to the field NGOs through SOSVA(N). At present, the maximum Government support to an NGO in a single financial year for one project is Rs.10.00 lac per annum. The remaining amount, if required, is raised by the NGO concerned from its own sources and other local agencies. In no case, the grant to an NGO with more than one project should exceed Rs.15.00 lac in a single financial year. However, this condition does not apply to the projects under service sector, the nature of which is to create awareness among masses.

17.4   The State Government took a major initiative to involve voluntary organizations in the field of Reproductive and Child Health Programme(RCH) through SOSVA(N).

17.5   The programmes of these field NGOs include:

(1)   To develop network between Government Health Personnel and NGO's with a view to take maximum advantage of government Infrastructure.
(2)   Promotion of safe motherhood through ante-natal/pre-natal and post-natal care;
(3)   Child survival through immunization;
(4)   Prevention and treatment of RTIs and STDs;
(5)   Health sexuality and general information to adolescent boys and girls;
(6)   Effective referral system;
(7)   Nutritional services to vulnerable groups;
(8)   Women empowerment, skill development for poor girls through training in computer, cutting and tailoring etc.
(9)   Drug de-addiction projects.

17.6   The State Government has also constituted District Level Committees under the Chairmanship of respective Deputy Commissioners with officers of the concerned departments and representatives as members. These Committees will perform the following functions :

(1)   To serve as a platform to address the issues related to GO-NGO collaboration at district, mandal and gram panchayat level for strengthening the partnerships between NGOs and Government, among NGOs, etc.
(2)   To provide the required information to the Apex Committee for policy review and development.
(3)   To facilitate developing self regulations for assessment of performance of NGOs, GO-NGO collaboration, etc.
(4)   To maintain up-to-date documentation on
(i)   Data base of all NGOs of entire district with clear classification.
(ii)   Partnership mechanisms in various poverty alleviation and development programmes.
(iii) MOUs of different partnerships.
(iv)   Selection process and the list of NGOs under each partnership programmes.
(v)   Effectiveness of different partnerships.
(vi)   Minutes/proceedings of various meetings and workshops related to GO-NGO collaboration.

(5)   To select the NGOs to various Government programmes based on guidelines and instructions from Apex Committee.

(6)   To conduct periodical reviews and assessments on partnership effectiveness in various programmes in coordination with the Apex Committee.

(7)   The district level committees will process the applications for grant received from NGOs in accordance with the policy guidelines of the State Government and as per instructions to be issued by the Department of Planning from time to time and forward the same to the concerned   Administrative Departments for sanction of grant under the Plan scheme PM 1.10 'Assistance to NGOs'.

17.7   An outlay of Rs.1500.00 lac was provided for the scheme PM 1.10 'Assistance to NGOs' under the sub-head "Secretariat Economic Services" in the 10th Five Year Plan, against which an expenditure of Rs.890.70 lac has been incurred. An outlay of Rs.1500.00 lac and Rs.300.00 lac has been provided for the 11th Five Year Plan and Annual Plan 2007-08 respectively.

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