Volume 1, Issue 1, 2023

## **ROLE OF NGO'S IN PAKISTAN**

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Received	Revised	Accepted	Published
15 August, 2023	08 September, 2023	16 September, 2023	30 September, 2023

#### ABSTRACT

The role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Pakistan is extensive and multifaceted, encompassing a wide range of activities that aim to address pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges. In the realm of poverty alleviation, NGOs in Pakistan are at the forefront of implementing impactful programs that seek to uplift impoverished communities. These initiatives often include education and skill development projects, microfinance programs, and vocational training, all geared towards empowering individuals to break the cycle of poverty. NGOs also play a crucial role in healthcare by providing essential medical services and promoting preventive care in undeserved areas. In the education sector, NGOs contribute to increasing literacy rates and improving access to quality education, particularly in remote and marginalized regions. Moreover, NGOs actively engage in community development, initiating projects related to infrastructure, clean water, and sanitation facilities to enhance living conditions. Women's empowerment is a key focus, with many NGOs implementing initiatives that promote gender equality, women's education, and economic opportunities. In times of crises, NGOs respond swiftly with emergency relief efforts, providing aid and rehabilitation to affected communities. Through advocacy and policy influence, NGOs contribute to shaping policies that promote sustainable development and poverty reduction. Additionally, they foster social innovation and entrepreneurship, supporting local initiatives that contribute to economic growth and job creation. In summary, the role of NGOs in Pakistan is pivotal in creating positive change, fostering community resilience, and contributing to the overall development of the nation. Keywords: NGO, Pakistan

INTRODUCTION

NGO stands for non-governmental organization. While there is no universally agreedupon definition of an NGO, typically it is a voluntary group or institution with a social mission, which

operates independently from the government. NGOs or similar organizations exist in all parts of the world. What is considered an NGO in one country may not qualify as an NGO in another, as legal definitions, permitted activities, monitoring, and oversight differ from country to country. The term can encompass many types of organizations.

Although these terms are not necessarily interchangeable, an organization similar to an NGO may be called nonprofit, charity, non-profit organization (NPO), civil society organization (CSO), citizen sector organization (CSO), social benefit organization (SBO), an advocacy organization, voluntary organization, grassroots support organization (GSO), and non-state actor (NSA). You may also hear the terms independent sector, volunteer sector, and civil society during discussions about NGOs.

#### History of NGO's

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Pakistan have a rich history, dating back to the mid-20th century. Initially, NGOs primarily focused on social welfare, education, and community development. Organizations like the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), established in 1947, played a pivotal role in humanitarian aid.

During the 1970s and 1980s, political turmoil and natural disasters spurred the growth of various NGOs. The Aga Khan Development Network

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(AKDN), founded in 1970, is renowned for its contributions to education, health, and rural development.

In the 1990s, there was an expansion of NGOs focusing on human rights, gender equality, and advocacy. Notable organizations like Aurat Foundation and Shirkat Gah emerged during this period, championing women's rights.

Furthermore, the devastating earthquake in 2005 led to increased NGO involvement in disaster relief and reconstruction efforts. Organizations such as Edhi Foundation and Pakistan Humanitarian Forum played vital roles in humanitarian assistance.

#### **Evolution and expansion of NGO'S**

Nongovernmental organizations, especially nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), are recognized as important social, political, and economic actors (Clark, 1990; Edwards & Hulme, 1992: Riddell & Robinson, 1995). The increased interest in NGOs is due in part to the perceived limitations of the state as a development agent ( Hyden, 1997 ; Lindenberg & Dobel, 1999 ). These trends also reflect a growing recognition that community citizenship is important in political and economic change (Putnam, 1993; Woolcock, 1998). The success of some development NGOs in improving people's quality of life at the grassroots level has also drawn attention to studies (e.g. Krishna, Uphoff, & Esman, 1997; Paul, 1982).

The evolution of small-scale projects such as civil society or development NGOs has been the subject of debate for decades. Some analysts focus on the macro level to explain the structure and characteristics of civil society. For example, political scientists view the evolution of civil society as a response to the state and its power over citizens (e.g., Berger & Neuhaus, 1977; Bratton, 1989). Economists analyze industry development in terms of responses to unmet demand or business failure (Hansmann, 1987; Weisbrod, 1988). Other analysts focus on the important role of values and ideological commitment in motivating resources and actions on public issues (Lohmann, 1992; Tandon & Naidoo, 1999; van Til, 2000). Some explain the nature of work as a result of the interaction of social, economic and political factors (Putnam, 1993 ; Salamon & Anheier, 1998, 1999.

At a mid-level analysis, other analysts argue that developments in the non-profit, nongovernmental sector can be understood in terms of a focus on shorter time periods and more narrowly defined enterprises. For example, it has been argued that NGO organizations and programs can be understood as local diffusion of models created by national organizations (Skocpol, Ganz, & Munson, 2000). Others have suggested that experience with development initiatives may result in successive "generations" of NGOs carrying out increasingly complex activities (Korten, 1987), or that accumulated experience in multiple countries may inform more effective efforts to strengthen the NGO sector. It has been argued that it can be used to provide (Carothers, 1999). , Smillie and Haley, 2001).

We agree that the development of the NGO sector depends on the interaction of political, economic and social forces operating over the long term. This evolution is increasingly influenced by global forces and national circumstances. However, the experience of many countries shows that some actors play particularly important roles in social and sectoral change and development processes. Khandwalla (1988) argues that some organizations become "strategic" to achieve national development goals, either by being at the top of a particular sector, by being officially recognized pioneers in solving important problems, or by being agents of change in their own right. I did it (p. 27). -28).

In this article we will focus on support organizations, institutions that play an important and sometimes central role in the development of the NGO sector. We argue that these institutions help address issues related to the nature of the sector itself, as well as national and global contexts. We offer some initial suggestions for understanding the emergence of support organizations and the circumstances under which they can play a strategic role.

The article develops this argument in several sections. We begin by discussing the challenges facing the development NGO sector. We then describe the support functions that help NGOs address these challenges and discuss examples of specialized support organizations that have emerged to perform these functions. We use these examples to

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discuss the contribution of support organizations and formulate some suggestions about their role, the circumstances of their establishment, their position as strategic actors, their choice of strategic actions and how to provide external support. Support their development.

#### Law governing the NGO's in Pakistan

The government of Pakistan has long recognized the importance of NGOs, and this is reflected in Pakistan's development plans, especially the SAP and the 8th Five-Year Plan, which are already in their second phase. A key point of interaction between government and NGOs is registration. Registration allows NGOs to clarify their role and goals and inform the government of their activities. On the other hand, registration is also seen as an attempt by the government to regulate and control NGOs.

#### The Law and Pakistani NGO's

There is no legal definition of the term "NGO" in Pakistani law. However, NGOs are generally considered to be organizations unaffiliated with the government that work for the welfare, interests and/or development of society or a particular sector of society. Typically this is a group of volunteers.

Each NGO may develop its own charter, articles, rules and by-laws, provided they are consistent with the laws of the country. If an NGO is registered under a law or regulation, it must comply with the provisions of that particular law or regulation.

NGOs in Pakistan do not need to register to carry out charity, welfare or development activities. However, some specific activities can only be carried out if the NGO is registered under certain laws or regulations. NGOs can gain certain important benefits through registration that they would not otherwise receive.

Registered NGOs receive legal status at a formal level among funding agencies and other organizations for a number of reasons. Members can represent the organization and NGOs can open bank accounts in the organization's name and enter into contracts in the organization's name. It constitutes an organization and provides personal immunity to its members from the obligations of the organization. Registered NGOs may also receive financial support from specific government agencies, as well as local, national and international funding agencies.

NGO registration trends have a lot to do with current trends in the development sector. Governments and international funding agencies are increasingly encouraging NGOs to apply for registration to take advantage of the financial support they provide. Many funding agencies also offer technical assistance and advice as a condition of registration.

## Pakistani Registration Laws

The history of the five different types of registration available to Pakistani NGOs goes back 140 years.

The oldest of the five laws is the Societies Act of 1860, enacted in pre-partition British India, passed in the late 1800s and early 1900s and still preserved in the Societies Registration Office in Karachi. The first organizations registered under this Act were: These are typically professional, scientific and artistic societies. A change occurred in the mid-20th century, with the emergence of religious, philanthropic, and rehabilitative societies that reflected the upheaval associated with the creation of the new Pakistani state. Currently, the law mainly regulates the activities of charities, educational institutions and public institutions.

The Trusts Act 1882 provided legal guarantees for private acts of public charity and granted enormous powers and flexibility to the creators of trusts. Today the situation is much the same, but only a very small number of operating NGOs are trusts. Because trust deeds, unlike the other four types of reporting files, are not open to public inspection, it is difficult to determine the full scope of reporting under the Act. The Recorder of Deeds has no known directory or list of trusts. Some NGOs are registered under the Charitable Contributions Act, 1890. These donations constitute a trust for charitable purposes and for the furtherance of the public interest.

The Co-operatives Act of 1925 reflected the spirit of equality and participation of the time as the labor movement spread around the world. This cooperative movement was spread to the Indian subcontinent by British colonists. Although many people do not think of cooperatives as strictly nongovernmental organizations, in Pakistan the

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functions and style of cooperatives are almost identical to those of NGOs registered under other laws and regulations. Co-operative law and the procedures accompanying it are very extensive, and the publications published by the Registrar aim to inform members not only about the law but also about the international cooperative movement. A notable trend over the last three decades has been the proportional growth of credit and housing societies, which has placed many cooperatives on a level with commercial organizations. A scandal over the abuse of these laws led to a freeze on cooperatives in the Punjab province in 1995.

After independence, societies, trusts and cooperatives were formed by people who migrated from India to Pakistan, and many institutions were established around religious and ethnic groups. Many of these organizations were led by women who worked tirelessly to provide rehabilitation and services to refugees and laid the foundations for some of Pakistan's leading national NGOs.

#### **Types of NGO's**

Here are some NGO classifications based on their orientations:

## 1. Charity:-

Charitable orientations refer to paternalistic endeavours with little involvement from recipients. It includes NGOs that run campaigns to meet the needs of the underprivileged, such as to provide clothing, medication, food, shelter, education and transportation. Such NGOs also play an active role in supporting those in need after natural disasters. These organisations play a very significant role in fostering development. Typically, they get financial support from the government and they can also receive private donations.

#### 2. Service:-

Service orientations include those organisations that run campaigns to advance family planning, healthcare and education. They categorise such activities into programmes that ask for people's active involvement to ensure smooth execution. The funds for these organisations can come from private individuals or from the government.

## 3. Participation:-

Self-help initiatives with a participatory orientation include locals in the project's implementation, whether through financial, labour, material or other contributions. Participation starts with the identification of needs and continues through the planning and execution phases of a community development project. Participatory orientation is common in cooperatives.

## 4. Empowerment:-

Empowering orientations aim to raise awareness regarding the potential power that impoverished people possess to improve their own lives. It also assists them in better understanding the political, economical and social elements that affect them. These organisations can emerge spontaneously around a problem or topic in some cases, while in other cases, external professionals assist in the establishment of such groups.

#### Name of NGO'S in Pakistan 1. EDHI FOUNDATION:

It is a non profit social welfare organization based in Pakistan. It was founded by Abdul Sattar Edhi in 1951, who served as the head of organization until his death on 8 July 2016. Bilguis Edhi, a nurse by profession, used to oversee the maternity and adoptive services of foundation. The Edhi foundation headquartered is in city of Karachi. Its main focus is humanitarian aid and social welfare. This foundation provides 24-hour emergency assistance across Pakistan and internationally. (Edhi, 2015).

## 2. PAKISTAN SWEET HOME:

It is a non profit organization in Islamabad. A heaven for the under

privileged. Pakistan sweet home is runned by zamurd khan known as Papa Jani in his whole era of Pakistan sweet home. It is an orphanage for abandoned children across the country providing basic necessities of life including education, home and health care(2019).

## **3. DARUL SUKUN:**

House of peace in karachi for physically and mentally disabled children and adults, both men and

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women in poverty or unable to address their challenges. (Mifrah, 2012).

#### 4. AKHUWAT FOUNDATION:

It is the world largest Islamic microfinance organization that

provides interest free loans to most deserving segments of society. Its owner name is Muhammad Amjad Saqib who was entrepreneur, development practitioner and author. He was awarded by noble prize for his work for poverty alleviation. (Salama, 2015).

#### **5. WHEEL CHAIR FOUNDATION:**

It is a non profit organization founded in 2000 by real estate

developer Ken Behring. The foundation partners with donors to provide wheel chairs to people who need them but cannot afford them, mostly in developing nations. (Kenneth, 2019).

## 6. ACTED:

It is a french humanitarian NGO. It is nonpolitical and non profit organization. It works in 42 countries responding to emergencies and crisis situation. (Alliance, 2015).

# Role of donor Support in NGOs in Pakistan

In Pakistan, bilateral or multilateral funding agencies are referred to as donors. It does exclude Pakistani humanitarian associations, or individual residents.Financing offices regularly give assets to monetary and public area advancement, especially for enormous scope foundation improvement. without even a trace of interior assets, two-sided and multilateral financing organizations play got a significant part in friendly turn of events and backing to NGOs .The multilateral organizations incorporate different Joined Countries offices zeroing in on training, wellbeing, water, nourishment, safe parenthood, conceptive wellbeing and orientation. Among the reciprocal wellsprings of help Canada, Germany, Japan, US and Joined Realm are vital in their commitments to the social area. Oxfam, Save the Children, Asia Foundation, British Council, Action Aid, and Christian Social Services are just a few of the international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) operating in Pakistan. Since NGOs don't take part in the venture arranging stage, there are in many cases issues in execution

#### Impact of NGO's on poverty in Pakistan

'working for the poor' whether this is in 'relief' mode or in pursuit of more durable 'development' solutions to chronic poverty [Mustafa (1992); Narayan et al. (2000)]. There has been mixed record of NGOs performance in Pakistan. Relations between NGOs and the government have at time, marked by tension. NGOs are reported to have not moved forward to address fundamental inequity issues that create the problems in the first place [Mumtaz (1997)]. NGOs in Pakistan mostly prefer to work on relief rather than focusing on problems of poverty and inequality. Some NGOs support social entrepreneurship and innovation as a means of addressing poverty. By fostering sustainable business models and supporting local entrepreneurs. NGOs contribute to economic growth and job creation. NGOs are often involved in providing emergency relief and rehabilitation in response to natural disasters and crises. Their quick response helps communities recover from shocks and rebuild their lives, preventing a worsening of poverty conditions.

#### **Problem of NGOs in Pakistan**

**Regulatory Environment:** Severe guidelines and administrative obstacles can make it hard for NGOs to enlist and work without a hitch. There might be postpones in acquiring important endorsements, and the administrative structure might be likely to changes that influence the working of NGOs (Ranjha et al., 2015).

**Funding Issues:** Numerous NGOs in Pakistan depend on outside financing, which can be eccentric and dependent upon international and monetary changes. Giver needs might move, and getting manageable subsidizing for long haul undertakings can be a critical assessment (Bhattacharya, 2014).

**Security Concerns:** NGOs working in specific areas of Pakistan might confront security challenges because of political precariousness, struggle, or fanatic exercises. This can present dangers to the

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security of NGO staff and obstruct their capacity to really complete their work (Dashti et al., 2021).

**Limited Capacity and Resources:** A few NGOs in Pakistan might come up short on human and monetary assets expected to carry out and scale their projects. Restricted limit can ruin the capacity to arrive at target populaces and accomplish wanted results (Siddique & Ahmad, 2012).

Absence of Coordination: Coordination among various NGOs and among NGOs and government offices might need. This can prompt duplication of endeavors, shortcomings, and holes in assistance conveyance (Dashti et al., 2021).

**Cultural and Linguistic Diversity:** Pakistan is portrayed by different societies and dialects. NGOs might confront difficulties in understanding and tending to the exceptional necessities of various networks, particularly in remote or minimized regions (Ranjha et al., 2015).

**Political Obstruction:** NGO'S in Pakistan might experience political tensions or obstruction in their exercises. Political plans might impact the heading of specific activities, and this can influence the autonomy and lack of bias of NGOs (Bhattacharya, 2014).

**Public Trust and Discernment:** Public confidence in NGOs can be impacted by elements like responsibility, straightforwardness, and the viability of their undertakings. NGOs might confront difficulties in keeping a positive public picture and tending to suspicion (Dashti et al., 2021).

**Natural Disasters and Climate Change:** Pakistan is inclined to natural disasters, including floods, earthquakes, and dry seasons. NGOs working in the compassionate area might confront provokes in answering crises and giving appropriate assistance (Ranjha et al., 2015).

**Innovation and Framework Difficulties:** In certain areas, there might be lacking framework and restricted admittance to innovation. This can affect

the capacity of NGOs to carry out innovation driven arrangements and convey successfully (Siddique & Ahmad, 2012).

#### Prospect of NGO's in Pakistan

The prospect of NGOs in Pakistan are formed by a blend of difficulties and open doors. While NGOs face different impediments, there are additionally sure factors that add to their likely achievement and effect. Here are a few parts of the possibilities of NGOs in Pakistan:

**Social Effect and Development:** NGOs in Pakistan can possibly contribute essentially to social turn of events, neediness mitigation, schooling, medical care, and other basic areas. They can assume an imperative part in tending to cultural difficulties and working on the personal satisfaction for marginalized populaces (Adil et al., 2023).

Advocacy and Civic Engagement: NGOs can act as backers for common freedoms, natural supportability, and civil rights. They assume an essential part in bringing issues to light, impacting strategies, and preparing networks for positive change (Shaheen, 2010).

**Innovation and Technology Adoption:** The reception of imaginative arrangements and innovation can upgrade the adequacy of NGOs in Pakistan. Utilizing computerized apparatuses and information driven approaches can further develop project the executives, checking, and assessment (Rafay et al., 2020).

**Community Empowerment:** NGOs can possibly engage local networks by including them in dynamic cycles, assembling their abilities, and advancing economic improvement practices. This can prompt more comprehensive and participatory advancement drives (Rafay et al., 2020).

**Worldwide Collaborations:** NGOs in Pakistan frequently team up with global associations, giver offices, and different NGOs. Such coordinated efforts can acquire monetary assets, specialized aptitude, and worldwide prescribed procedures,

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improving the effect of their responsibilities (Pasha et al., 2002).

**Youth Commitment:** Pakistan has an enormous youth populace, and NGOs can connect with youngsters in different drives, including training, expertise improvement, and local area projects. Youth inclusion can carry new points of view and energy to social improvement endeavors (Shaheen, 2010).

**Health and Humanitarian Reaction:** NGOs assume an essential part in well-being emergencies and compassionate crises. With the rising significance of worldwide medical problems, NGOs in Pakistan can add to further developing medical services framework and crisis reaction frameworks (Shaheen, 2010).

**Women Empowerment:** NGOs in Pakistan can add to Women Empowerment by resolving issues, for example, orientation based viciousness, schooling, and financial open doors. Supporting ladies in different features of life can emphatically affect the general improvement of networks (Adil et al., 2023).

**Natural Preservation**: Pakistan faces natural difficulties like deforestation, water shortage, and environmental change. NGOs can add to ecological preservation endeavors by advancing reasonable works on, leading mindfulness crusades, and executing protection projects (Rafay et al., 2020).

Limit Building and Cooperation: NGOs have the chance to construct their authoritative limits, further develop administration designs, and upgrade the abilities of their staff. Cooperative endeavors with different NGOs, government organizations, and the confidential area can enhance their effect (Pasha et al., 2002).

## NGO'S

## ROLE OF USAID IN

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) plays a crucialrole in supporting and partnering with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to address global development challenges. Here are key aspects of the role of USAID in relation to NGOs:

## **1-Financial Support:**

USAID provides significant financial support to NGOs through grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements. This funding is directed toward projects and programs that align with USAID's development priorities, such as health, education, economic growth, and humanitarian assistance.

## 2-Capacity Building:

USAID invests in strengthening the capacity of NGOs to effectively plan, implement, and monitor development projects. This includes providing technical assistance, training, and resources to enhance the organizational and programmatic capabilities of NGOs.

#### **3-Partnerships and Collaboration**:

USAID collaborates closely with NGOs to leverage their expertise, local knowledge, and community networks. Through partnerships, USAID aims to enhance the impact and sustainability of development interventions

## 4-Technical Assistance:

USAID offers technical assistance to NGOs, sharing expertise in areas such as project design, monitoring and evaluation, financial management, and governance. This support helps NGOs implement projects that are in line with international best practices.

#### 4.Advocacy and Policy Influence:

USAID works with NGOs to advocate for policy changes that align with development goals. NGOs often play a key role in advocating for the rights of vulnerable populations, and USAID supports these efforts to bring about positive policy changes.

#### 5. Emergency and Humanitarian Assistance:

In times of crises, including natural disasters and conflicts, USAID partners with NGOs to deliver emergency relief and humanitarian

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assistance. NGOs often have local presence and expertise, making them valuable partners in responding quickly to urgent needs.

#### **Improvement of NGO's**

Here are key areas to focus on for enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of non-governmental organizations (NGOs):

#### **1-Strategic Planning:**

Develop a clear and focused strategic plan that outlines the organization's mission, goals, and objectives. Ensure that the plan aligns with the needs of the communities served and reflects the organization's values.

#### **2-Capacity Building:**

Invest in the professional development of staff and volunteers. Provide training and resources to enhance skills in areas such as project management, fundraising, advocacy, and communication

#### **3-Governance and Leadership:**

Establish strong governance structures with a well-defined board of directors. Ensure that board members possess diverse skills and expertise relevant to the organization's mission. Foster effective leadership at both the board and executive levels. Financial Management

Implement sound financial management practices, including transparent budgeting, financial reporting, and internal controls. Diversify funding sources to reduce dependency on a single donor and promote financial sustainability.

#### **4-Monitoring and Evaluation:**

Develop and implement robust monitoring and evaluation systems to assess the impact of programs. Use data to inform decision-making and continuously improve program effectiveness.

#### **5-Community Engagement:**

Foster meaningful and participatory engagement with the communities served. Involve community members in the design, implementation, and evaluation of projects to ensure relevance and sustainability.

Continuous improvement in these areas will contribute to the overall effectiveness, sustainability, and positive impact of an NGO.

#### Conclusion

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Pakistan play an indispensable role in the country's socio-economic development and the well-being of its diverse communities. These organizations have emerged as vital agents of change, addressing a myriad of challenges from poverty and healthcare to education and community development. Bv implementing targeted programs and initiatives, contribute significantly NGOs to uplifting marginalized populations, empowering women, and fostering social and economic resilience. Their swift response to emergencies and crises underscores their role as frontline providers of relief and rehabilitation. Moreover, NGOs actively engage in advocacy and policy dialogue, influencing governmental decisions to create an enabling environment for sustainable development. Through their commitment to social innovation, entrepreneurship, and grassroots initiatives, NGOs in Pakistan demonstrate a dedication to fostering positive change and improving the overall quality of life for communities across the nation. As dynamic contributors to Pakistan's development landscape, NGOs continue to exemplify the transformative potential of civil society in addressing the multifaceted challenges that the country faces. People of Pakistan take immense pride in their nationality and fraternity. Due to such a strong bond among each other, Pakistan hosts a catalog of NGOs, NPOs whose goal is to help and improve the livelihood of their fellow citizens. The existence of such NGOs shows that the culture of Pakistan is one of integrity and respect. These NGOs have proven over time that they have what it takes to provide relief and support during dire ties. As responsible members of a community, we should always look out for ways to help and support these organizations

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