

# Role of NGOs in Rural Development of Himachal Pradesh

\*Prof. Usha Sharma, #Bittu Kumari

\*Professor, #Assistant Prof. and Research Scholar, Deptt. Of Commerce, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, India.

**ABSTRACT** - Rural development generally refers to the process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas. Rural development has traditionally centred on the exploitation of land-intensive natural resources such as agriculture and forestry. Rural development actions are mainly and mostly to development aim for the social and economic development of the rural areas. Rural development programs are usually top-down from the local or regional authorities, regional development agencies, NGOs, national governments or international development organizations. India is a land of villages and the Government of India has been implementing numerous rural development programmes for the upliftment of rural Communities. A number of NGOs have been playing a vital role in rural community development, besides government interventions. Realizing that the government alone was not able to meet the challenges of the massive enormous tasks in the process of rural development, the non-profit, voluntary and non-governmental organizations had to be involved in different phases and activities at the global, regional and local levels. The NGO sector effectively works towards uplifting the socio-economic status of the poor.

**KEYWORDS:** Rural Development, government, NGO, rural development. Schemes.

## I. INTRODUCTION

India is rightly regarded as the land of villages. In a country where 75% of the population lives in villages, the importance of rural development is self-evident. Rural development programmes are designed to facilitate a multi-faceted growth of the rural poor by providing the benefits of development to them and the improvement of their living standards. After independence and particularly after the constitution came into force the government has initiated a number of programmes to solve the chronic problems facing villages in India. Soon after independence, in the early stages, efforts were made through Community development programme, democratic decentralization and Panchayati raj were made to eradicate poverty and hunger from the rural India and to usher in all round development of rural masses. It should be noted that all these rural development programmes were synonymous with agricultural development. This followed the worldwide thinking and India's excessive concern, especially till the Green Revolution in the late 1960s, with the food self-sufficiency. Later on it was realised that rural development is much broader in scope than merely agriculture development. Therefore, if the strategy for rural development had to be made effective, a multi – pronged approach to rural problems was imperative. The Panchayati raj institutions did not help much the weaker sections of the society due to domination and control of higher castes in

these bodies, therefore, after the evaluation of earlier programmes, a number of special programmes were taken up for poverty alleviation in the hope that benefits of these programmes may reach the people living below poverty line.

### 1.2.1.1 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Special Development programmes which were directly or indirectly designed for the uplift of socio-economic conditions of the rural people. Broadly, these programmes fall under the following three categories-

1. Area based programmes to counter endemic poverty due to hostile Argo climatic conditions and degeneration of ecosystems, such as Drought prone Areas Programme, Desert Development Programme and Hill Area Development programme come under this category.
2. Targeted group of individual house-hold and poverty group-oriented programmes of income generation through assets and skills endowment. The Integrated Rural Development programme, The national Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, Rural landless Employment Guarantee programme and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana being run by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment belong to this category.
3. The Minimum Needs programme to support the poverty groups by providing for sufficient consumption and social services to improve the quality of life and to

provide infrastructural support to the programme of poverty alleviation.

### 1.2.1.2 IMPLEMENTATION AGENCIES

Implementation of programmes, plans, reforms, policies etc. is a serious problem. The success of public administration for development can be measured only in relation to the implementation of programmes etc. Thus, implementation is the key to the success of government. Implementation is the phase between a decision and operation. It seeks to determine whether an organization is able to carry out and achieve its stated objectives. Thus, implementation, as putting programmes into action, is difficult exercise.

The main agencies which are implementing the Integrated rural development programme are-

- Central Government
- State Government
- District Level
- Block Level
- Panchayati Raj Institutions
- **Voluntary Agencies.**

Today the voluntary agencies are playing an important role in rural development. Such voluntary agencies should be strengthened and encouraged at the village level, block and district levels. In 1991, there were 44 agencies that were involved in the process of rural development. The examples of some of them are The farmers Service Societies, The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology, etc.

The voluntary agencies have emerged as a main instrument for awareness generation among masses and as a an instrument for the implementation of the government policies. Therefore, it becomes imperative to study these voluntary agencies/NGOs at Global, national and regional level and their roles which they play in various areas so that the working of these agencies can be further strengthened. The present study focuses on the role of these voluntary agencies in the rural development especially in Himachal Pradesh where most the people lives in rural areas.

## II. DEFINITION OF NGO

A **non-governmental organization (NGO)** is an organization that is neither a part of a government nor a conventional for-profit business, 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 interest groups.

### Recognition of the Role of NGOs by the Government

Since Independence in 1947 until the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85), there was little effort on the part of the Government to define the role of a voluntary agency or to recognise the importance of NGOs in the development process. The tendency until now was to equate the work of the voluntary agencies with only welfare activities and charity work.

Realising the importance of participatory development, the Sixth Five Year Plan Document, emphasised the importance of non-governmental organisations, formal and informal in nature, as new actors, which could motivate and mobilize people in specific or general developmental tasks and meet the new demands of the growing sphere of developmental activities. The new areas where awareness and conscious participation of the people is critical for success were identified as:

- (a) optimal utilisation and development of renewable source of energy, including forestry through the formation of renewable energy associations at the block level
- (b) family welfare, health and nutrition education and relevant community programmes in this field
- (c) 'Health for all' programmes
- (d) water management and soil conservation
- (e) social welfare programmes for weaker sections
- (f) implementation of minimum needs programme
- (g) disaster preparedness and management (floods, cyclones, etc.)
- (h) promotion of ecology and tribal development
- (i) environmental protection and education

The new actors sought to be associated with these tasks were

- (i) youth and women's organisations at different spatial levels, particularly for promoting eco-development and environmental protection
- (ii) Voluntary organisations of specific beneficiary or interest groups like, self-employed women, or farmers or of people who have common economic interest such as marketing
- (iii) Voluntary organisations engaged in general developmental work, in an area or a specific activity
- (iv) Organisation of the farmers living in command area of irrigation projects, catchment area in the hills and watershed areas in un-irrigated regions into cooperatives for improving land and water management without affecting the individuality of holdings

- (v) Religious, social or cultural organisations or clubs (Rotary, Jaycees, Lions etc.) which often undertake developmental activities in selected areas
- (vi) Professional organisations or educational institutions which take up study, research and social action programmes as part of their professional or social commitments.

Today India has a vibrant NGO sector. Although there has been no complete census of NGOs, their total number is roughly estimated at about 1,00,000 of which only 25,000 to 30,000 are active. The largest number of such organisations listed at one place is 12,313 NGOs registered with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) 1976, as of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1989, besides 726 unregistered NGOs under the 'prior permission category'. There has been astronomical increase in the number of NGOs during the past ten-fifteen years due to rising awareness and social concern, widespread poverty and deprivation, weakening governmental delivery mechanism, democratic spirit and increased funding.

The Seventh Plan (1985-90) envisaged a more active role for the voluntary organisations so as to make communities as self-reliant as possible. These were expected to show how village and indigenous resources could be used and how human resources, rural skills and local knowledge, grossly underutilised at present could be used for their own development. Further these were to be utilised to demystify technology and bring it in a simpler form to the rural poor, to train a cadre of grass-root workers who believe in professionalizing voluntarism, to mobilise financial resources from within the community and to mobilise and organise the poor and generate awareness to demand quality service and impose a community system, of accountability on the performance of village level government functionaries.

#### Role of NGOs in Rural Development

Voluntary organisations can play a crucial role in rural development by supplementing government efforts as they are close to the minds and hearts of the rural people. They have their roots in the people and can respond to the needs and aspirations of the community. They face problems in terms of funding, recruitment and retention of trained and qualified staff, leadership crisis, poor maintenance of records, apathy of bureaucracy and the tendency of politicians and others to use them for personal or political gains. Voluntary action and state are the two sides of the same coin of rural development administration and they must recognise their interdependence. In a country like India the voluntary organisations can provide only a starting point and impetus. The voluntary organisations and government should come to the negotiating table; and with mutual respect and maturity discuss on development issues

as they both are to be viewed as partners in rural development

### III. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The seventh five year plan document (1985-90) envisaged a greater role of the voluntary agencies and the NGOs in the implementation of development. The seventh plan has given special importance to the role of NGOs in rural development. For the first time an amount of Rs. 50 crores has been allocated as financial assistance to voluntary agencies in their endeavour to uplift the rural poor. The Government of India has also encouraged the involvement of international voluntary agencies through coordinating agencies. The eighth five year plan document (1992-97) emphasized on the role of voluntary organizations in rural development. The plan document states that a nation-wide network of NGOs will be created. In order to facilitate the working of this network, three schemes relating to the creation, replication, multiplication and consultancy development have been worked out by planning commission. Further efforts will be made to evolve a system of providing one window service to the NGOs working in the area of integrated development.

**Suresh Kumar Bhaker (2014)** in his paper published in the journal of business and policy economics highlighted the role of NGOs in rural development of India. He studied the performance of 8 NGOs engaged in health, hygiene and sanitation field in Uttar Pradesh in India. The paper highlighted the performance evaluation of People's Participation. He concluded that there is a casual relationship between NGOs and rural development. Although there is not much change in the health indicators as result of NGOs efforts. But the health indicators are not only instruments to measure the work of NGOs. What the knowledge and views of villagers have been broadened towards health, hygiene and sanitation that can't be described in words. Moreover the positive efforts of these activities cannot be measured in a short span of time, but a lifelong effect on human body and personal life of the villagers. If the knowledge of health, hygiene and sanitation is strong and wide that will certainly develop the social and economic life of the villagers. If the rural areas are well developed that will make the country more developed. Thus the role of these NGOs cannot be assessed only through impact indicators or the services they provide, but should be assessed in a long and wide view for overall development.

**D.S Jadhav (2015)** studied the role of NGOs in rural development in India. According to him In India, the scope of development is not narrow but very wide, as it includes not just the economic development but the growth on social front, quality of life, empowerment, women and child development, education and awareness of its citizens. To achieve this, a holistic vision and collaborative efforts involving various departments, agencies and even NGOs is required. NGOs or Non-Governmental Organizations have

more benefits of working in rural areas as compared to governmental organizations because NGOs are more flexible, NGOs are specific to a particular locality and moreover these are committed towards serving the public and community as a whole. Further he highlighted the main role of NGOs in rural development with economic reforms and liberalization. He reveals that as economic reform and liberalization saw the Government vacating several areas to let private sector entrepreneurship flourish and contribute to the high growth rate of the economy in recent years, a similar paradigm shift is needed to transform NGOs from their dependence on aid and grants from within and outside for transforming the rural scenario in the country. This is sought to be achieved for the NGOs through engaging them in micro-finance, micro insurance, and micro-entrepreneurship activities for the overall development of the rural areas and to promote the welfare of the people of rural India, The NGOs have taking active participation in rural development. The rural poor and socially depressed classes are mainly depending upon the operations of NGOs. No particular job is particularly meant for the NGOs. Thus, there is a huge competition among the NGOs to extend the services for the benefit of the poor. At the same time we should not forget the mushrooming of the NGOs for their welfare. The following are the important activities should take up for the development of the poor.

1. Agricultural related programs: Numerous activities can be undertaken under agriculture sector. The jobs/projects like distributing planting materials, cattle, poultry, minor irrigation, free medical care for cattle's, safe drinking water for animals etc.

2. Health programmes for human and non-human beings: The works like pit drainage, housing, creation of smokeless environment, good drinking water for animals and human beings, regular health check-up camps etc. will improve the health conditions of the human and non-human beings.

3. Community development programs: The community development programs like adoption of villages for development, moral support during flood and famine period, supply of food and drinking water during flood, common well, training programs for the rural youths, housing projects, repair and renovation of houses etc will satisfy the basic necessities. The important program like training programs for the rural poor will hold the youths from rural exodus. Even this type of training programs may also be extended for the rural women, so that we can expect self-sustenance among this community.

4. Human Resource Development programs: The personality development programs, skill development programs, educational programs, integrated development projects etc will enable the rural poor to earn bread and butter.

5. Trade and industrial promotion: The important problem in the present context is availability of the market for the products of rural enterprises. Therefore, an NGO has a direct link with the government for marketing of the goods. Apart from this, NGO can also go for training the rural youths in fabrication works, wood works, beedi rolling, agarbathi manufacturing, printing press etc.

**R. Singhal (2015)** in his paper discussed the effectiveness of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and various models of organizational effectiveness (OE) that have been applied in NGOs. Furthermore, different viewpoints that emerged from research over the past four decades are synthesized. The review of models and research studies revealed little agreement among the academic community to conceptualize NGO effectiveness. While early studies focused on the assessment of NGO effectiveness highlighted organizational goals, contemporary studies focused on the processes that contribute to NGO effectiveness. Most of the studies found the governing board as a common dimension of NGO effectiveness. The paper conceptualized NGO effectiveness as a multi-dimensional social construct with an ability to achieve an organizational mission through a competent governing board, strong NGO-employee relationship, and efficient financial measures. The paper concluded that it is difficult to develop a universal standard definition of NGO effectiveness because NGOs work on diverse themes, issues, scales, and approaches. On the basis of the analysis, it is suggested that future research on NGO effectiveness should focus on specific cultures, focus, and scale of NGOs.

**Uma Sarmistha (2015)** conducted a research at Rural Handloom Textile Industry in Bihar. He pointed out that the functioning of rural handloom sector will not be able to fit in the new- classical framework of labour Market and development studies. Thus, taking the point what Granovetter explain in his theory of embeddedness of middle path between over and under Socialisation, may help these societies move towards a better future. The Middle path can come with government initiatives in the region. He concluded that the Government can come up with some policy. Solutions such as creation of Some kiosks to distribute and collect the finished product and provide equal Remuneration to all weavers; (ii) strengthen the rural employment guarantee Programme to provide more jobs in rural areas; (iii) upscale technology in the weaving; and (iv) provide health care and other facilities in the village. This kind of middle path can give society a balanced path way to development, which would recognise.

**P. Raghupathi (March 2016)** studied the impact of rural Development programmes on Landless Dalits. The study found that there is large- scale arbitrariness, nepotism and manipulations in the selection of beneficiaries. According to the selection guidelines, the beneficiaries have to be selected from the actual BPL families but in reality the

actual BPL family but in reality, the panchayat member and sarpanch arbitrarily select the beneficiaries. In a number of cases, the BPL list is manipulated. Therefore the BPL list must be prioritized according the level of income and landholding criterion or any other specified measure. The middleman who manipulate must be dealt with stringently in order to ensure fair selection of the beneficiaries. Thus a greater degree of transparency and accountability from the implementing authorities and better awareness and proper utilization of the benefits by the eligible beneficiaries would ensure better results.

#### IV. RESEARCH DESIGN

##### NEED OF THE STUDY

In India, the scope of development is not narrow but very wide, as it includes not just the economic development but the growth on social front, quality of life, empowerment, women and child development, education and awareness of its citizens. The task of development is so huge and complicated that just implementing government plans is not sufficient to fix the problem. To achieve this, a holistic vision and collaborative efforts involving various departments, agencies and even NGOs is required. Owing to such a great need, the number of NGOs in India is increasing rapidly and, at present, there are about 25,000 to 30,000 active NGOs in India.

Superficially, rural development seems to be a simple task but, in reality, it is not. Post-Independence era has seen many rural development programs through different five-years plans. Alleviating poverty, employment generation, more opportunities for generating income, and infrastructure facilities are emphasized through the policies and programs of the government. Along with this, the panchayat raj institutions have also been initiated by the government to strengthen the democracy at grass roots level. But in spite of all the efforts rural poverty, unemployment rate, low production still exists. The fight is still on for the basic facilities such as livelihood security, sanitation problem, education, medical facilities, roads, etc. Still there is a huge gap in terms of infrastructure that is available in urban and rural areas. The basic rural development should include all these apart from employment, proper water supply and other basic facilities.

NGOs or Non-Government Organizations have more benefits of working in rural areas as compared to governmental organizations because NGOs are more flexible, NGOs are specific to a particular locality and moreover these are committed towards serving the public and community as a whole. As the task of development is massive, many NGOs are playing vital role in the rural development of India in collaboration with the government. The Government openly welcomed and encourages participation of the NGO's in development process. Now international agencies like World Bank, which was earlier

working exclusively through national government prefers to work through the NGOs for the implementation of their projects. This makes clear that NGOs have gained prominence in the present times. So, it becomes essential to see the extent of the role played by the state NGOs in the development of Himachal Pradesh.

##### SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study has been conducted in three districts of Himachal Pradesh. i.e. Chamba, Kangra and Solan. The present study has undertaken to look into the performance of the NGOs and their relevance in development of the rural areas of state. The main purpose of the study is to discuss the role of the NGOs in rural development of Himachal Pradesh. The present study also provides an in depth background, analysis and interpretation of the performance of the NGOs the different areas of rural development in Himachal Pradesh.

##### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present exercise attempts to attain the following objectives during the course of research.

##### OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the role and relevance of NGOs in the rural development of Himachal Pradesh.
2. To examine the role of NGOs in creating awareness among rural masses regarding government schemes and programmes for rural development

#### V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the present study both primary and secondary sources of data have been used to fulfil the various objectives of the study.

##### Primary Data

Primary data was collected with the help of questionnaires, discussions, interviews and observation methods.

##### Questionnaires

A single set of questionnaire was framed to collect data from beneficiaries of NGOs in three district of Himachal Pradesh. While framing the questionnaires an attempt has been made to cover all the aspects related to NGOs.

First of all, preliminary preparation was done for finding out the scope for conducting the present study. Deskwork in various libraries such as Himachal Pradesh University, Indian institute of Himalayan Studies, Himachal Pradesh University, Himachal Pradesh Secretariat, Department of Registrar of Cooperative Society, Shimla and various literatures from office of NGOs was done to review the necessary literature. Various dissertations, Ph.D. Thesis, reports, Newspaper and websites have been consulted to obtain secondary data for the purpose of study. The Ministry of rural development, The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Planning

Commission, Family Welfare were also visited to collect information on the present study.

A sample of 450 beneficiaries from the selected volunteer organizations was selected through proportionate random sampling procedure. The respondents from different categories of caste, age group, sex, education level, family background, status and size of income were selected. Further based on discussion with the implementing officials and authorities of NGOs, the major programmes three NGOs were listed for research work and the programmes of these NGOs in Rural Development were identified.

**TOOLS USED FOR ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA**

In the analysis of the collected data the Statistical package for social sciences (SPSS, Version 20) was used. Keeping in view of the study, the data collected was coded, scored, and tabulated, analysed and research report was prepared on that basis. The following tools were used in the analysis of the data.

**I) Mathematical Tools**

**II) Statistical tools**

The following statistical methods have been used in this Work for the analysis of the data.

**1. Arithmetic Mean:**

The arithmetic mean has been applied to study the opinion of the NGO beneficiaries on close ended questions and 5 - point likert scale for different rural development indicators and also for the questions related to health, education and social welfare etc of the beneficiaries. The arithmetic mean has been calculated by assigning numerical values to the qualitative indicators. These values have been assigned to qualitative responses as per the below details-

- Five for strongly agree
- four for agree,
- three for indifferent,
- two for disagree
- One for strongly disagree.

**(ii) Co-efficient of Skewness:**

The co-efficient of skewness, as a statistical tool, helps in the study of degree and direction of variation from the central value. It also shows that a particular distribution is symmetrical or positively skewed or negatively skewed.

**(iii) Chi-Square Test:**

The  $\chi^2$  test as a test of goodness of fit has been used to analyze the magnitude of difference in opinion of the NGO beneficiaries between observed distributions under the assumption that it is equally distributed on the 5- point scale percent or lower level of significance.

**VI. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

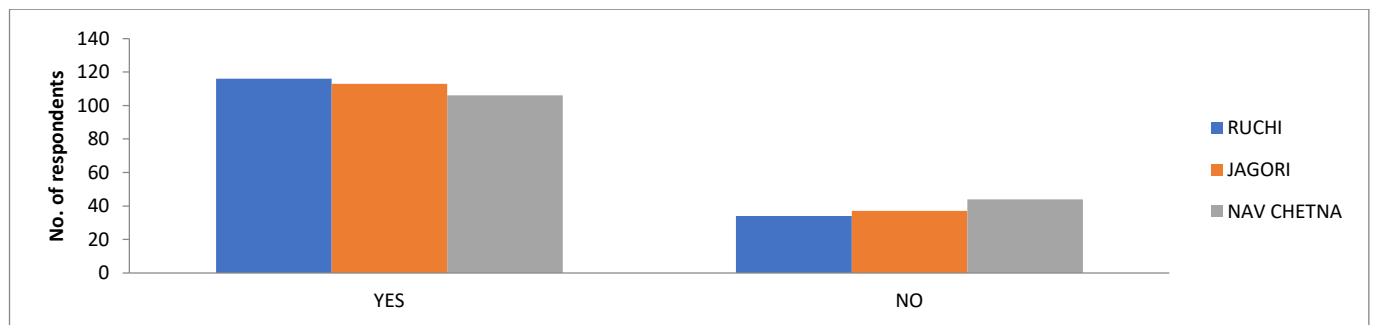
**1. NGOS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Table 1.1 shows the classification of beneficiaries on the basis of their views regarding the role of NGOs in the rural development. It is clear from the table that NGOs are a very important role in the development their area. Further when we asked particularly about the work of selected NGOs in the rural area majority of the people were in the favour of the selected NGOs and their role in the rural development. When asked about the role of NGOs in rural development, 335(74 %) of the beneficiaries responded in the favour of role of NGOs in the rural development whereas 115 (25.6%) of the beneficiaries responded that NGOs are working in the field of social welfare and rural development.

**TABLE 1**

| RESPONSE     | RUCHI      | JAGORI     | NAV CHETNA | TOTAL              |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| YES          | 116        | 113        | 106        | 335(74.4)          |
| NO           | 34         | 37         | 44         | 115 (25.6)         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>150</b> | <b>150</b> | <b>150</b> | <b>450 ( 100%)</b> |

**NGOS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**



Source: data collected through questionnaires

Hence it can be concluded from the above table and discussion that NGOs in the State are playing a very important role in the Rural development and now they have become a wheel of development in rural areas of Himachal Pradesh. Further analysis of some of the important variable was done to develop a vast understanding of role of NGOs in rural Development. Some of the important components of rural development are as follows.

### 1.1 Construction of Link Roads

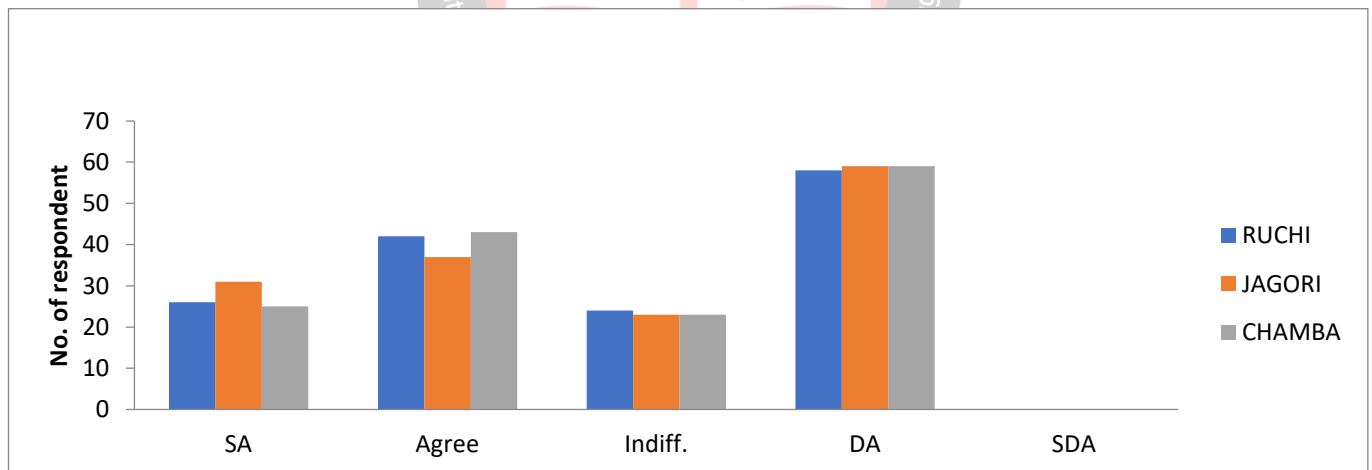
The perception of the beneficiaries of three district NGOs about the role of NGOs in construction of link roads is given in table 1.1. It can be observed from the table that NGOs have made little efforts to provide such help to beneficiaries. It is evident from the table that out of total 450 beneficiaries 176 (39.3%) were disagree, 82 (18.2%) were strongly agree, 122 (27.1%) agree while 70 (15.3%) were indifferent in their views regarding the role of NGOs in the construction of link roads. The mean scores (3.24) of the overall response of the beneficiaries indicates that NGOs play a little role in the construction of link roads in the rural areas as the combined data for agree and strongly agree is 204 whereas the combined data for disagree and indifferent is 246. Hence we cannot fully ignore the role of NGOs in the construction of link roads so we can say NGOs play a little role in the construction of link roads in the rural areas.. The low value of skewness (0.229) also supports this fact that the opinion of beneficiaries is concentrated towards higher side of the overall mean score. The  $\chi^2$  values for goodness of fit are also highly significant. It statistically supports the findings that the majority of beneficiaries of three selected NGOs are agree that NGOs play a moderate role in construction of link roads.

**TABLE 1.1 Construction of Link Roads**

| Name of Organization | SA            | Agree          | Indiff.       | DA             | SDA | Total         | Mean | Std. Dev. | Skew. | Chi Sq. | PValue |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----|---------------|------|-----------|-------|---------|--------|
| RUCHI                | 26<br>(17.3%) | 42<br>(28.0%)  | 24<br>(16%)   | 58<br>(38.7%)  | 0   | 150<br>(100%) | 3.24 | 1.145     | 223   | 84.463  | .000   |
| JAGORI               | 31<br>(20.7%) | 37<br>(24.7)   | 23<br>(15.3)  | 59<br>(39.3%)  | 0   | 150           | 3.27 | 1.185     | 227   | 150.00  | .000   |
| NAV CHETNA           | 25<br>(16.7%) | 43<br>(28.7%)  | 23<br>(15.3%) | 59<br>(39.3%)  | 0   | 150           | 3.23 | 1.142     | 229   | 107.738 | .000   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | 82<br>(18.2%) | 122<br>(27.1%) | 70<br>(15.3%) | 176<br>(39.3%) | 0   | 450           | 3.24 | 1.156     | 229   | 337.341 | .000   |

Source: data collected through questionnaires

**Figure 1.1 Construction of Link Roads**



Source: data collected through questionnaires

NGO-wise break-up of the responses of the beneficiaries also show the similar pattern. The moderate role in the construction of link road is played by all the three selected NGOs. The mean score of this NGO is 3.24 and 3.27 respectively and the value of skewness is .223 and .227 respectively. Further the chi square values are highly significant in all NGOs. This also supports statistically the above findings. Thus, it makes clear that mostly the beneficiaries in these NGOs have received moderate help when it comes to construction of link roads.. Thus, it is clear from the statistical analysis that the NGOs have been playing a moderate role in construction of link roads in the rural areas.

### 1.2. NGOs help in providing Water facilities

The perception of respondents with regard to role of NGOs in providing water facilities to its beneficiaries has been exhibited in table 1.2. The opinions of the beneficiaries' falls between agree and strongly agree. The overall mean score being 3.68

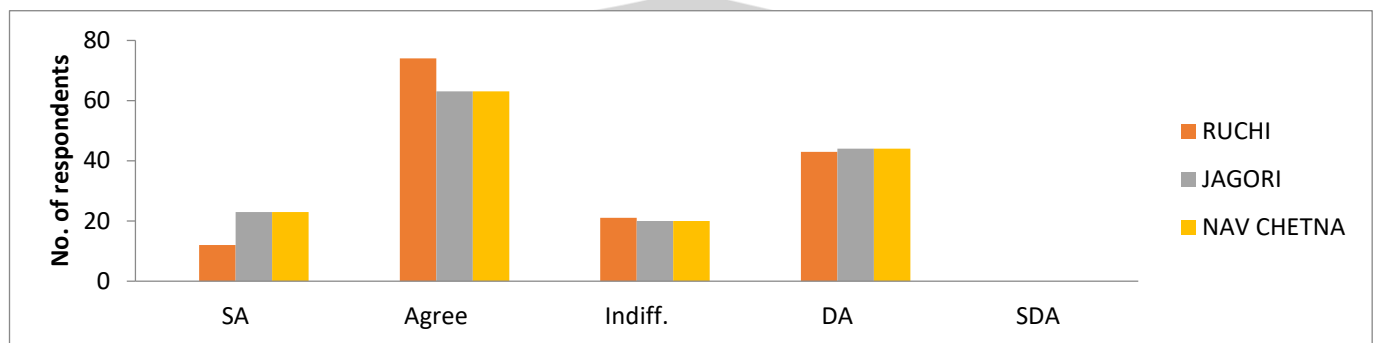
indicates that majority of beneficiaries agree with this development indicator. The negative value of skewness (-.215) indicating concentration of more opinion towards higher side of mean score. The highly significant chi square value also supports that there is found significant relationship among the responses of the respondents that NGOs help in providing water facilities in the rural areas.

**TABLE 1.2 NGOs AND WATER FACILITIES**

| Name of Organization | SA                    | Agree                  | Indiff.               | DA                     | SDA      | Total         | Mean        | Std. Dev.    | Skew.        | Chi Sq.        | P Value     |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------|---------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| RUCHI                | 12<br>(8.0%)          | 74<br>(49.3%)          | 21<br>(14.0%)         | 43<br>(28.7%)          | 0        | 150<br>(100%) | 3.37        | .986         | -.282        | 84.353         | .000        |
| JAGORI               | 23<br>(16.7%)         | 63<br>(28.7%)          | 20<br>(15.3%)         | 44<br>(39.3%)          | 0        | 150           | 3.43        | 1.071        | -.173        | 132.951        | .000        |
| NAV CHETNA           | 23<br>(16.7%)         | 63<br>(28.7%)          | 20<br>(15.3%)         | 44<br>(39.3%)          | 0        | 150           | 3.43        | 1.071        | -.173        | 132.951        | .000        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>51<br/>(18.2%)</b> | <b>207<br/>(27.1%)</b> | <b>61<br/>(15.3%)</b> | <b>131<br/>(39.3%)</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>450</b>    | <b>3.68</b> | <b>1.024</b> | <b>-.215</b> | <b>335.964</b> | <b>.000</b> |

Source: data collected through questionnaires

**Figure 1.2 NGOs AND WATER FACILITIES**



Source: data collected through questionnaires

NGO-wise analysis shows that the mean scores of all NGOs fall between agree and strongly agree. It shows that beneficiaries in every NGO find that these NGOs are playing a major role in providing water facilities. The negative value of skewness also indicate that majority of opinion of beneficiaries is concentrated towards the higher side of mean. Thus, majority of beneficiaries in these NGOs agree to this statement. The chi-square test of goodness fit also shows that there is significant relationship among the opinion of the beneficiaries. It is concentrated towards higher side as indicated by value of mean score and negative value of skewness. To sum up, the majority of the beneficiaries in the rural areas of Himachal Pradesh claimed that NGOS play an effective role in providing water facilities in the rural areas. Further during the survey researcher came to know that NGOs are working with IPH department to provide water facilities in the rural areas. NGOs also helping in creating awareness about water purification and use of clean water for drinking purpose in order to avoid all health hazard.

**1.3 NGO help in Watershed development**

The opinion of respondents with regard to role of NGOs in watershed development to its beneficiaries has been shown in table 1.3. It can be observed from the table that the majority of the beneficiaries in each NGO have responded positively to this indicator. The opinion of the beneficiaries falls between agree and strongly agree. As per the table out of 450 beneficiaries 159(35.33%) are strongly agree, 120 ( 26.66%) of the respondents are agree whereas 81(18%) were disagree while 66(14.66%) of the beneficiaries were indifferent with the statement. The overall mean score being 3.46 and it indicates that majority of the beneficiaries agreed with this indicator. The negative value of skewness (-3.85) is also supporting the study from the higher side of mean value. The  $\chi^2$  values for the test of goodness of fit in all these NGOs are highly significant. This also supports statistically the above findings. The value of chi square is 159.80 and the table value is 5.991 which is less than the calculated value at 5 percent level of significance and there is found a significant relationship among the responses of the respondents that NGOs help in watershed development in the rural areas of Himachal Pradesh.

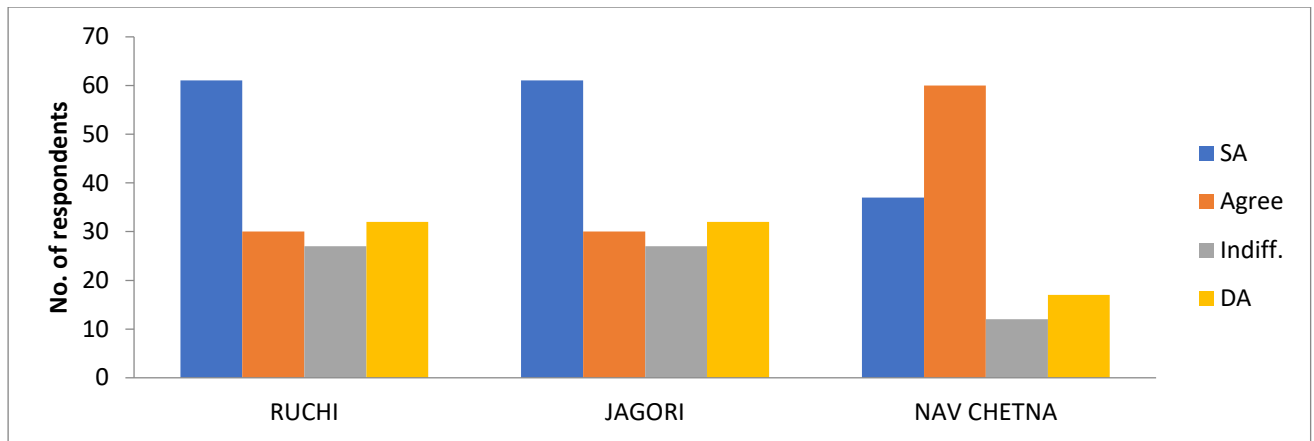


**Table 1.3 NGOs AND WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT**

| Name of Organization | SA                      | Agree                   | Indiff.                | DA                  | SDA                   | Total                 | Mean        | Std. Dev.    | Skew.        | Chi Sq.        | P Value     |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| RUCHI                | 61<br>(40.66%)          | 30<br>(20%)             | 27<br>(18%)            | 32<br>(21.33%)      | 0                     | 150<br>(100%)         | 3.80        | 1.187        | -.385        | 97.492         | .000        |
| JAGORI               | 61<br>(40.66%)          | 30<br>(20%)             | 27<br>(18%)            | 32<br>(21.33%)      | 0                     | 150                   | 3.80        | 1.187        | -.385        | 132.951        | .000        |
| NAV CHETNA           | 37                      | 60<br>(28.7%)           | 12<br>(15.3%)          | 17<br>(39.3%)       | 24                    | 150                   | 3.46        | 1.393        | -.671        |                | .000        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>159<br/>(35.33%)</b> | <b>120<br/>(26.66%)</b> | <b>66<br/>(14.66%)</b> | <b>81<br/>(18%)</b> | <b>24<br/>(5.33%)</b> | <b>450<br/>(100%)</b> | <b>3.46</b> | <b>1.393</b> | <b>-.385</b> | <b>159.809</b> | <b>.000</b> |

Source: data collected through questionnaires

**Figure 1.3**



Source: data collected through questionnaires

NGO-wise analysis shows that the majority of the beneficiaries in all the three NGOs also indicate similar pattern of responses. The negative value of skewness also indicates that opinion of the beneficiaries is concentrated towards the higher side of mean value. The value of skewness in these NGOs ranges supports that majority of the beneficiaries in each NGO favour the indicator of watershed development. To sum up, the majority of the beneficiaries of Himachal Pradesh claimed that NGOs play an effective role in watershed development in rural areas. Further when researcher visited these areas for survey then we came to know from local people especially in Solan district even at the time of survey, RUCHI in Solan district was running such project.

**1.4 NGOs played a role in the improvement in Social status of the rural people.**

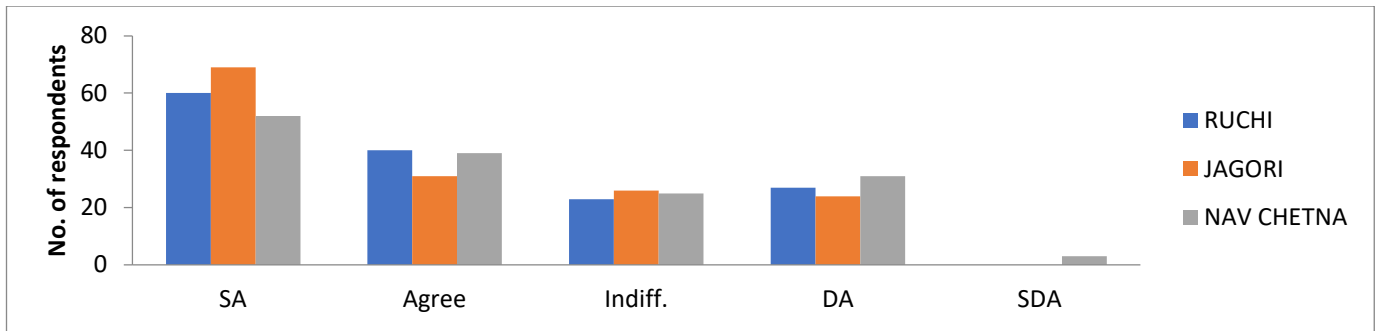
The perception of respondents with regard to the role of NGOs in improving social status of its beneficiaries has been exhibited in table 1.4. The opinion of the beneficiaries falls between agree and strongly agree. The overall high mean score being 3.85 indicates that majority of beneficiaries agree with this social development indicator. The negative value of skewness (-.527) is also indicating concentration of more opinion towards higher side of mean score. The chi square test of goodness fit also shows significant difference in the district of opinion of beneficiaries which also supports the above findings.

**TABLE 1.4 NGOs AND SOCIAL STATUS OF RURAL PEOPLE**

| Name of Organization | SA                      | Agree                   | Indiff.                | DA                     | SDA                 | Total      | Mean        | Std. Dev.    | Skew.        | Chi Sq.        | P Value     |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| RUCHI                | 60<br>(40%)             | 40<br>(26.67%)          | 23<br>(15.33%)         | 27<br>(18%)            | 0                   | 150        | 3.89        | 1.126        | -.545        | 90.879         | .000        |
| JAGORI               | 69<br>(46%)             | 31<br>(20.67%)          | 26<br>(17.33%)         | 24<br>(16%)            | 0                   | 150        | 3.97        | 1.132        | -.610        | 134.879        | .000        |
| NAV CHETNA           | 52<br>(34.67%)          | 39<br>(26%)             | 25<br>(16.67%)         | 31<br>(20.67%)         | 3<br>(2%)           | 150        | 3.71        | 1.201        | -.427        | 116.762        | .000        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>181<br/>(40.22%)</b> | <b>110<br/>(24.44%)</b> | <b>74<br/>(16.44%)</b> | <b>82<br/>(18.22%)</b> | <b>3<br/>(.66%)</b> | <b>450</b> | <b>3.85</b> | <b>1.156</b> | <b>-.527</b> | <b>333.728</b> | <b>.000</b> |

Source: data collected through questionnaires

Figure 1.4



Source: data collected through questionnaires

NGO-wise analysis also shows the similar pattern of responses of beneficiaries. The majority of the beneficiaries in all the districts are agree that respective NGOs play a very important role in the upliftment of the social status of the rural masses. The negative value of skewness also indicates that majority of opinion of beneficiaries is concentrated towards the higher side of mean. Through personal observations it came to light that RUCHI and JAGORI in Solan and Kangra district respectively have been most effective in increasing social status of the beneficiaries. These organizations have opened sewing and knitting centres and computer training centres for rural women and children and has trained them in stitching work. Rural women have definitely increased their status as they have started earning on their own. These organisations have also started skill development courses for the rural youth under skill development schemes started by Government of India. This has led to increase in their social status. Hence, the organization has achieved a tremendous success in this field. In contrast to RUCHI and JAGORI, NAV CHETNA has registered far less success but still they are doing well in increasing the social status of the rural masses by helping them in other ways such as women and children issues, creation of Self Help Groups and the like. NAV CHETNA is running skill development courses for educated youth in the rural areas of Chamba district. To sum up, the majority of beneficiaries of Himachal Pradesh claimed that NGOs play an effective role improving their social status.

## VII. CONCLUSION

### ROLE OF NGOs IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

From the chapter on 'Role of NGOs in Development of Himachal Pradesh', it can be concluded that today the role of NGOs in the field of rural development is wide. It covers not only the rural infrastructure but also covers health, education, social welfare, environment protection etc. The process of growth and development as initiated by NGOs has made a significant improvement in the social, economic, health and educational facilities in rural and remote villages of the three districts of Himachal Pradesh. It has resulted in an increase in the awareness level of

beneficiaries in terms of health, hygiene, education and environment. However, these NGOs still lag behind in building physical infrastructures for the beneficiaries.

To be specific the survey shows that most of the beneficiaries are sure about the NGO services in construction of link roads, in providing water facilities, watershed development projects, development of cash crops, development of sericulture units, awareness about irrigation techniques and preservation of natural resources of water and modern technologies in cultivation and harvesting, various government schemes, vocational institutes, mobile schools, adult education, functioning of school committees, maintenance of school libraries, awareness about scholarships, bio-diversity, measurement of air pollution and environment education. Further, the research shows that by and large NGOs have done well in many other fields such as plantation of medicinal plants, formation of village committees, awareness about sanitation, implementation of govt. programmes like NRHM, Swachh Bharat Mission etc, awareness about family planning, organization of health camps, AIDS, adolescent health and Rogi Kalyan Samities, in dealing with disability, a)airvedic home remedies, educational institutes, schools for special children, awareness about right to education more specifically girls education through SSA programmes, forest maintenance and plantation, encouraging entrepreneurship through forest produce, solving sanitation problems and awareness about solid waste management. Moreover, government has been involving NGOs extensively in implementation of various social development projects. This clears the picture that NGOs do have a stake at grass-root level and the strength of NGOs is well recognized by the government.

The roles that the NGOs perform today in rural development of Himachal Pradesh are numerous. They are advocates, educators, catalysts, monitors, whistle blowers, mediators, activists, mobilizers (of both men and resources), protectors of human rights, conscientizers, animators, and conciliators. NGOs are playing a promising interlocutors role in all development activities in existing academic as well as development studies. In recent times, responding to Grass-roots level initiative and voluntary

action became necessary to develop the rural areas. The increasing demands for the NGOs are itself a response to recent trends relating to socio-economic issues and their corresponding development interventions in academic and policy-oriented research. Today NGOs are playing a dominating role in the implementation of child care, women development, anti-poverty and minimum needs programmes. Further NGOs are also supporting many other economically and social vulnerable groups like small and marginal farmers, agricultural labours, scheduled castes and tribes, bonded labours, rural artisans, rural women, etc., who also need to be brought in the mainstream of development process.

### REFERENCES

- [1] Planning Commission, Programme Evaluation -Organization Study of the Working of the Aided Voluntary Agencies in Social Welfare Programme, New Delhi, 1978. Planning Report, The Planning Commission Government of India, 2008-2009.
- [2] Draft Sixth Five Year Plan, Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- [3] Draft Seventh Five Year Plan, Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- [4] Draft Eighth Five Year Plan, Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- [5] Dhillon, D.S. and B.S Hansra, Role of Voluntary Organization in Rural Development, Kurukshetra, 43, 1995
- [6] Jadhav , D.S, role of NGOs in rural development, BVDU IMRDA, SANGLI 2015.
- [7] Kumar, Suresh, role of NGOs in rural development, International journal of multidisciplinary studies. Volume 01, No.5, Sep - Oct 2014.

