

**VOLUNTARY EFFORT IN WEAKER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
(An Indian Experience)****Dr. G. SATYANARAYANA***

Voluntary Effort in weaker community Development has been the fascinating field of research for the social scientists and more so the Sociologists all over the world. This is more so in the context of underdeveloped and developing countries specially like India. It is due to the socio-economic, political and cultural composition of Indian society. It consists of diverse socio-economic and cultural groups with rich cultural heritage and traditional way of living inspite of rapid growth in science and technology. It is a country with huge population, consisting of about hundred million population. Hence, Indian society encounters historically number of complex socio-economic, political problems. These problems are multiplying day by day due to rapid growth of population and its related socio-economic and cultural problems which have become an hindrance to the progress of the nation. Likewise Indian society specially rural society has been facing lot of problems such as poverty, unemployment, health, education, mal-nutrition, superstitions, ignorance, illiteracy, casteism, untouchability, factionalism, child-marriage, dowry, indebtedness, suicides on the one side and decline of resources in terms of land, forest, water, livelihood opportunities etc. on the other. As such there is acute shortage of food and consequent hunger problems due to lack of avenues and resultant frustrations, violence and rapid migration to far off places including international migration.

In the above circumstances, philanthropic services in the form of voluntary organizations in other words N.G.O's have become important in the mitigation of human suffering specially of the weaker communities such as lower castes, classes and tribal communities. There are about six lakhs voluntary organizations working for the upliftment of weaker communities and to mitigate their suffering by the aid and help of national and international organizations.

*Professor and Head Department of Sociology, Osmania University, Hyderabad, A.P.

However, the expected results and objective development is not taking place due to non-seriousness of voluntary workers and organizations despite the importance given by international organizations such as IMF and World Bank which are emphasizing voluntary effort in the development process of weaker communities in under developed and developing countries. Further, it is a popular opinion that voluntary effort is not able to do its due service in elimination of the suffering of the people and instead they have become the organizations of self aggrandizement.

With above theoretical and empirical background this paper mainly aims at to understand the nature of voluntary effort in the development of weaker communities specially in the context of India.

The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To understand the historical importance of voluntary effort in India.
2. To understand the contemporary problems of Indian society and the role of voluntary organizations.
3. To understand the problems of weaker communities and their perceptions in regards to their development.
4. To understand the priorities of sponsoring organizations and prospects of voluntary efforts in the development of weaker communities

However it may be concluded that though there are about six lakhs voluntary organizations which are working in India with the aid and help of national and international organizations, yet the problems of weaker communities are multiplying due to lack of will to eradicate them. Voluntary organizers are working for their self aggrandizement rather to eradicate the problems of weaker communities in India.