

through co-operative and facilitative operations. In either way, the objective is the same – to have the state serve its citizens better. Theoretical issues involving NGO-state relations will be explained by an examination at the empirical level of the drinking water crises in rural Gujarat (India). PRAVAH is an issue-based network of NGO representatives, academics and advocacy workers whose main objective is to ensure drinking water to all people in Gujarat. It has recently begun to work with the state to promote bottom-up, community-led drinking water development initiatives in Gujarat. The specific subtleties that exist between PRAVAH and the Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board will demonstrate the elements of co-operation that arise within NGO-state partnerships and will bring about more specific conclusions to the meaning and impact of indigenous civil society and its relationship to the state.

Biography

I completed my Bachelor of Commerce degree at McGill University in 1996. I'm currently in the final stages of writing my thesis for my Masters in International Development Studies at Dalhousie University. In the last four years I have participated in various field-related activities in India in several different contexts. In 1996, I volunteered my time at Child Haven International, Hyderabad, a home for destitute children and women. In the summer of 1998, I was accepted into a the Shastri Indo-Canadian Summer Program which gave me an academic as well as practical insight into the various developmental activities that have been taking place in Almora, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Kerala. Finally, this past summer I worked as a research intern on Shastri Indo-Canadian Research Project in Gujarat, India and received the CIDA Innovative Awards to conduct my thesis research.

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The Changing Roles and Contributions of NGOs: Efforts to Address Complex Humanitarian Emergencies.

Abstract

After taking into consideration the changing nature of conflict in the post-Cold War era, which has resulted in an increased interest in the roles and contributions that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can make in efforts to achieve human security, this paper suggests that NGOs can potentially assume four fundamental roles. These roles include: 1) the relief and rehabilitation functions that are normally associated with NGOs; 2) human rights monitoring; 3) conflict prevention functions through early warning; and 4) mediation and reconciliation roles that can be seen as 'peace-building' functions. Each of these roles is treated separately herein in order to highlight the strengths that NGOs have in contributing to the achievement of long-term peace and security; while, at the same time, suggesting ways to minimize the potential problems that NGO involvement, and external aid in general, may create. Finally, this paper posits that regardless of the individual intentions of the actors in addressing complex humanitarian emergencies, be they NGOs, International Governmental Organizations (IGO) or the Military, all actors must coordinate their individual practices and planning processes if efforts to provide the foundation for, and enhancement of, civil society in affected areas are to be successful.