

private voluntary organizations, whose objectives are not entirely altruistic. Since most Canadian expatriates work with NGOs that are closer to the western definition, we will, unless otherwise indicated, mean not-for-profit, non-governmental organizations with altruistic objectives when we refer to NGOs throughout the rest of this guide.

Following the introduction of multi-party democracy and the beginning of decentralized, people-initiated development, the NGO sector experienced increased freedom from government control and unprecedented growth. Though small compared to Bangladesh, the sector in Nepal consists of more than 4,000 organizations. Previously, even registering an NGO was a big problem. Those that managed to get official registration were closely controlled by the Social Services National Coordination Council.

When the government allowed donor agencies to support NGOs directly, it became attractive for Nepalese to open new ones. Recent newspaper articles have suggested that the government should monitor NGOs more closely because some of them—family ventures without genuine development motives—have tapped substantial foreign funding. Some newspaper articles have highlighted discrepancies

between the declared and real incomes of many well-known figures in the NGO sector. As a result, many educated Nepalese have an unfavourable opinion of the NGO sector.

Although the sector's reputation has suffered, the allegations of widespread profiteering have been largely unfounded. NGOs have been effective in creating awareness among the population, developing indigenous skills, providing income generation opportunities and creating social consciousness about basic needs for health, sanitation and education, for example.

Structure

To understand the structure of the NGO sector, it is useful to examine the four types of NGOs in Nepal: National Facilitating NGOs, National Implementing NGOs, District/Regional Facilitating/Implementing NGOs, and Grassroots NGOs.

National Facilitating NGOs, which are composed of international and national NGOs, facilitate NGO work at the district and grassroots levels by providing funding, training, technical assistance and institutional linkages.

National Implementing NGOs consist of international and national NGOs that are directly involved in implementing activities at the national,