



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION'S (NGOs)
CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION: A CASE STUDY**

NAGARAJAN CHELLIAH

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**BY
NAGARAJAN CHELLIAH**

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TABLE OF CONTENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
LIST OF FIGURES	x
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	xi
ABSTRACT	xiii
ABSTRAK	xvi
CHAPTER	
I INTRODUCTION	1
NGOs: Growth	1
NGOs: Mission	5
NGOs: Challenges	7
NGOs: Among the Plantation and Poor Urban Communities .	9
Statement of Problems	17
Objective of Study	18
Significance of Study	19
Limitations of Study	20
Definitions of Terms	22

II	LITERATURE REVIEW	27
	Introduction	27
	Defining Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs)	27
	Role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)	30
	History of NGOs	31
	NGOs in Malaysia	34
	NGOs Role in Community Development	40
	NGOs Role in Eradication of Poverty	46
	NGOs Role in Adult Education Development	50
	NGOs Role in Women's Education	55
	Research Framework	60
III	METHODOLOGY	65
	Introduction	65
	Methodology of the Study	65
	Population of the Sampling Units	67
	The Sampling of the Units	68
	Data Analysis	71
	Reliability of the Study	72
	Validity of the Study	73

IV	FINDINGS	63
	Introduction	63
	<i>Alaigal</i> : Growth As Kalvikuzhu	80
	<i>Alaigal</i> : Programmes	80
	Community Organising	82
	The Case of Klabang Estate, Chemor	84
	The Kg. Chekkadi Case	86
	The Kg. Meru, Jelapang Case	97
	Kg. Chepor Case	98
	Other Community Organising Activities	99
	Campaign for Plantation Workers	100
	The Rural Development Programme	100
	The Election Campaign	102
	The Wage Referendum Campaign	105
	<i>Alaigal</i> : Publications	109
	<i>Alaigal</i> : Social Programmes	111
	Conclusion	114

V	DISCUSSION, SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	115
	Introduction	115
	Discussion of Findings	115
	Summary	120
	Objective of the Study	120
	Methodology	120
	Summary of Findings	121
	Conclusion	122
	Recommendations	123

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Respondents Personal Particulars and Questionnaire

Appendix 2 Average Monthly Wages of Workers in Selected
Sectors: Peninsular Malaysia 1981-1990

Appendix 3

- 3.1 The Prevalence of Intestinal Parasites among
Estate children by Age and Gender
- 3.2 Haemoglobin levels among Indian Children
From Oil Palm estates according to Gender
- 3.3 Anaemia among patients with intestinal
Nemotode infections

- 3.4 Anemia in relation to intensity of Hookworm Infections
- 3.5 Growth of 6 years old children in Estates In Malaysia
- 3.6 Growth of 5 years old children in Estates in Malaysia

Appendix 4

- 4.1 Attempted Suicides Admitted to Medical Words in Ipoh
- 4.2 Suicides in Malaysia (1989-1992)

Appendix 5

- 5.1 Regulations of the Workers' Minimum ~~Standards of Housing and Amenities Act.~~ 1990 which are frequently violated
- 5.2 Water supply situation in plantations according to findings of government survey of 1570 estates (1988)
- 5.3 Basic Amenities, water and toilet facilities in Estates

Appendix 6 The 'RDP' Campaign

Appendix 7

- 7.1 5 claims by the plantation Community to the Electoral Representative (Malay)
- 7.2 The Candidates Declaration (Malay)
- 7.3-7.6 5 claims by the plantation community to the Electoral Representative (Tamil)

Appendix 8 Rubber Tappers' Wage Movement 1975-1995

9 Oil Palm Harvester's Wage Movement 1975-1995

9A National Per Capita income Compared with per Capita income of Plantation Workers 1975-1995

10 Fair Compensation of Estate Workers Upon Sales of their Estate

Appendix 11.1 Wage Referendum Campaign (Tamil & Malay)

11.2 Abolish Plantation Poverty (Tamil & English)

Appendix 12 Memorandum to the YAB Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib, Perak D.R (Malay)

13 Letter by Kg. Chekkadi Residents Committee to the District Officer, Kinta (Malay)

14 Sun 11/3/96 500 Squatters March 2km to Lodge report against Council

15 STAR 11.3.96: 166 Arrested after row at Police Station

16 NST: 14/3/96: 15 squatters lodge report Of assault by FRU personnel

LIST OF FIGURES

1.	Research Framework: Role of NGOs	63
2.	Programmes by <i>Alaigal</i>	80

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
SOCISO	Social Security Organisation
UKM	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (The National University of Malaya)
CARE	Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere
SEWA	Self Employed Women's Association
EPF	Employers Provident Fund
CAP	Consumer Association of Penang
SAM	Sahabat Alam Malaysia
MNS	Malaysian Nature Society
ha	hectares
LDCs	Less Developed Countries
UN	United Nations
TOL	Temporary Occupation Licence
AFSC	American Friends Service Committee
HUZA	Human Settlements of Zambia
FUNDASAL	Salvadorean Foundation for the Development of Low Cost Housing

ICAE	International Council for Adult Education
MMA	Malaysia Medical Association
Selangor DE	Selangor Darul Ehsan
Perak D.R	Perak Darul Ridzwan
MIC	Malaysian Indian Congress
DBI	Dewan Bandaraya Ipoh
NST	New Straits Times (local daily)
MAPA	Malaysian Association of Plantation Employers
NUPW	National Union of Plantation Workers

ABSTRACT

This study attempted to outline and describe how non-governmental organisations (NGOs) can effectively contribute to the community development education of the urban poor and the plantation communities in the country. This is a qualitative study using the case study design. A local non-governmental organisation: *Alaigal* was chosen for this case study.

The first part of the study explained the contribution of various NGOs all over the world, especially highlighting their activities and contribution towards community educational development. The objective of this study was to outline the growth of *Alaigal*; list out the programmes and how these programmes brought self-awareness and community education development to the respective communities.

The data collection was done by interviewing the *Alaigal* committee members and the resident committee members such as Kg. Chekkadi. Observation and participation in some of their programmes and documents such as articles from magazine *Alaigal's* publications and seminar papers provided more information.

Alaigal's programmes were community activities in Kg. Chekkadi, Klabang Estate and Kg. Jelapang Baru and networking activities with other NGOs such as Rural Development program, Election Campaign and Wage referendum campaign. Other programmes include social programmes for the urban poor and plantation communities and providing consultancy and advocacy services to those facing industrial problems such as SOCSO benefits, unfair dismissal and others. These activities were documented by observation and interviewing.

The books, pamphlets and newsletters published by *Alaigal*, made the community to be aware of the problems faced by a section of the people in our society. These programmes brought self-awareness among the members of the society who are now aware and ready to seek for their basic rights in a democracy way. These programmes and publications provided non-formal education and self-awareness which helped to empower the members of the communities to achieve self reliance and community development.

The services provided by NGOs supplement the governments effort in bringing about economic growth and community educational development to the marginalized communities. Thus, government should encourage and foster

the growth of NGOs in the country for the development and prosperity of the nation.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk menggambarkan bagaimana organisasi bukan kerajaan (NGO) boleh memberi sumbangan ke arah pembangunan pendidikan komuniti di kalangan orang-orang miskin di bandar dan di estet. Kajian ini merupakan kajian kualitatif yang menggunakan kaedah kajian kes. Sebuah organisasi bukan kerajaan, tempatan yang bernama 'Alaigal' dikaji dalam kajian kes ini.

Objektif kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji bagaimanakah Alaigal membawa kepada pembangunan masyarakat dan pembangunan pendidikan dewasa di kalangan komuniti tempatan melalui program-programnya. Maklumat tentang program dan faedah program-program ini diperolehi melalui temubual, pemerhatian dan penglibatan dalam program yang dikelola oleh Alaigal dan jawatankuasa komuniti berkenaan: dan artikel-artikel surat khabar, majalah tempatan dan penerbitan-penerbitan Alaigal sendiri.

Alaigal mengelolakan program-program komuniti di Kg. Chekkadi, Klabang Estate dan Kg. Jelapang Baru. Penglibatan Alaigal secara usahasama pembangunan masyarakat ladang (net working) dengan NGO lain seperti; Kempen pilihanraya, kempen gaji berpatutan dan program pembangunan luar bandar dan penganjuran program sosial dan memberi bantuan konsultansi dan guaman kepada yang menghadapi masalah berkenaan dengan tuntutan gaji, bantuan PERKESO dan masalah perjawatan didokumenkan melalui pemerhatian dan interview.

Selain daripada itu, buku-buku dan risalah juga diterbitkan oleh 'Alaigal' untuk menyedari dan mendidik masyarakat yang terlibat, pihak kerajaan dan orang awam tentang masalah yang dihadapi oleh rakyat yang kurang berkemampuan dan kurang bernasib baik, yang begitu lama tinggal di pinggir bandar dan di ladang. Program-program ini telah membawa kesedaran dan keinsafan di kalangan masyarakat, yang mula membangkit untuk menuntut hak asasi mereka dengan cara yang aman dan damai.

Program-program ini membawa pendidikan bukan formal dan kesedaran sendiri, yang membantu ahli-ahli komuniti untuk mencapai berdikari dan pembangunan ekonomi. Program-program NGO ini menyokong

usaha kerajaan untuk membawa pertumbuhan ekonomi dan pembangunan pendidikan di kalangan masyarakat yang kurang bernasib baik. Oleh itu, perkhidmatan NGO harus digalakkan oleh kerajaan untuk kesejahteraan masyarakat dan pembangunan negara.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or voluntary organisations is a term used to describe non-statutory, non-profit making organisations that are primarily concerned with welfare work (Bills and Mackeith, 1989). They are private, voluntary agencies which fund, implement or actively support social, economical and developmental programmes.

Non-governmental organisations constitute the third major channel, after bilateral and multilateral aid agencies, through which development aid is provided (Clark, 1991). International NGOs are primarily found in industrialized countries which provide financial support, material aid, technical assistance and expertise to NGOs in developing nations.

NGOs: Growth

Voluntary organisation existed in different guises before the twentieth century in both North and South. The early Southern NGOs arose out of independent struggles, for example the Gandhian movement

in India has many offshoots that still flourish today. These include handloom centers and other handloom technology initiatives and people's courts that use non-violent citizens' pressure to achieve justice for the lowest castes, land reforms and other forms of social justice (Clark, 1991).

The catholic church-based CARITAS and Save the Children Fund were the earliest Northern NGOs to enter Voluntary Welfare Services. Initially these NGOs were engaged in relief work primarily in war-torn Europe.

During the 1950s and 1960s the number of Northern NGOs multiplied and their focus and attention gradually shifted to the Third World and its' activities also broadened to include independent struggles, welfare activities and development activities. The increased funding opportunities from Northern Voluntary sources led to the growth of numerous Southern NGOs. In the 1970s, many engaged in self-help activities, governed by the vested interests of the political, economical and human rights development. These interests pioneered the approach of "conscientization" - a combination of political, educational, social organisation and grassroots development.

Conscientization (Clark, 1991), designed not just to improve living standards, but to help the poor to perceive their exploitation and realize the opportunities they have for overcoming such exploitation through mass organisation. Throughout much of the Third World, NGOs concentrated on fastening structures to help the poor in their struggle against injustice. The gradual realization throughout the 1970s that poverty is political in nature, led the NGOs to organise programmes for development, education, public campaigning and parliamentary lobbying in pursuit of political changes both in the West and South.

The 1980s saw more progressive Northern NGOs with programmes for the Third World which supported and funded them but took a subdued role. Some of the more thoughtful NGOs have come to realize that their projects by themselves can never benefit more than a few chosen communities and that these projects are only likely to be sustainable when local, public and private organisations are linked into a supportive national development system (Clark, 1991).

An early example of this is the Kaira District Dairy Cooperatives of India, an NGO which grew rapidly in the 1970s. It acquired milk stock from villages helped by funds from Northern NGOs (including

World Bank), introduced technological innovation in animal feeding and it was able to invest in the construction of a factory producing a wide range of 'Amul' brand dairy products. When EEC offered its surplus dairy products to the government of India as food aid, the Kaira District Cooperatives, worked together with the government to change the governments policy which protected the market advantage held by the Kaira District Dairy Cooperatives (Clark, 1991).

The NGO, instead of accepting the new, more hostile environment, successfully lobbied for a reform of that decision, which benefitted the government and the people, in the form of training, research and alternative plans to pursue its reformed objectives. Today, NGOs do not comprise a tight community; but embraces multi-million dollar food aid managers, trade unions of peasants and street hawkers, lawyers advocating the environmental causes and illiterate barefoot midwives.

The NGOs reflecting largely their historical evolution, can be divided into relief and welfare agencies, technical innovation organisations, public service contractors, popular development agencies, grassroot development organisations and advocacy groups and networks.