

**VOLUNTARY AGENCY FOR PROMOTING LIFELONG LEARNING****Prof. Dhananjay Lokhande¹ Ph. D. & Mr. Sunil Dabhade²**

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Abstract

In the Present context lifelong learning is Global Phenomenon. Lifelong Learning has been an integral part of Indian culture. The Indian tradition and culture have given prime Importance to the acquisition of Knowledge and upheld the virtue of Learning. In Developing Countries, the role of Voluntary Agencies is Increasingly emphasized in the field of lifelong learning and voluntary agency are acquiring greater importance. The objective of the Lifelong Learning is to create a learning society and it is impossible without the active participation of voluntary organization. In this Paper concept of lifelong learning, Voluntary agency, History, and importance of each other will be analyses, difference between lifelong learning and voluntary agency will be given details in present paper.



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Introduction: -

Lifelong Learning has been an integral part of Indian culture and society. The Indian tradition and culture have given prime Importance to the acquisition of Knowledge and upheld the virtue of Learning. In Developing Countries, the role of Voluntary Agencies is Increasingly emphasized in the field of lifelong learning and voluntary agency are acquiring greater importance. Voluntary Agencies engaged in social welfare activities, like helping the helpless, doing relief work, spreading literacy and so on, have a credible record of achievement. Voluntary agency is involving in development process they are making their efforts to involve the people, the term 'voluntarism' is derived from the Latin word 'voluntas' which means will or freedom. It is that action or activity which is not directed or controlled by the state. It is an activity which is governed by its own members and not by any outside force or external control. Non-Governmental organization has get an important place in India, Since Independence the participation of NGO sector has been increasing in welfare programs,

development oriented initiatives, empowerment of women and marginalised segments, protecting environment spreading literacy and adult education, education for all etc. According to one estimate, there are 1 million NGO's in India (Jain,1997,128). The term NGOs called as Voluntary Agency. The objective of the Lifelong Learning is to create a learning society and it is impossible without the active participation of voluntary organization.

Lifelong Learning (LLL) and Voluntary Agency -

Lifelong means according to Jan Comenius 'it is from Cradle to grave' continues professional development for acquisition of skills and competences for workplace. At the age of 0 to 5 years we learn to perform the most wonderfully complicated tasks with no formal education like communicating our needs, speaking, imaging, learning to read to enumerate, sometimes even to write they represent a major intellectual achievement which almost every time masters. Learning means doing things in a different way, creating an out and out focus on the needs and demands of the learner giving learner the tool and technique with which they can learn according to their own learning style and needs learning is giving ownership of learning to the learner himself or herself and not to the teacher. Lifelong learning is no longer just one aspect of education and training, it must become the guiding principle for participation and provision across the full continuum of learning contexts.

The European Lifelong imitative and the American council on Educational describe LLL as 'Lifelong learning is the development of human potential through a continuously supportive process'

- Which stimulate and empowers Individuals.
- To acquire all the knowledge, value, skill and understanding.
- They will require throughout their lifetimes
- To apply them with confidence and creativity

According to Cropley and Dave (1978) 'the concept of lifelong education has five essential ingredients totality, integration, flexibility, democratization and self-fulfilment. Lifelong learning states that 'learning' continues throughout the whole of life, it sets out deliberately to break down the barriers between the recognised stages such as primary, secondary, higher and adult education and out of school.

Lifelong learning is based on philosophy of 'it's never too soon or too late for learning' lifelong learning is lifelong, life wide, voluntary and self-motivated learning how to recognize learning strategy and monitor and evaluate learning is pre condition for lifelong

learning. Lifelong learning is in which everyone is targeted which is continuous thought out life and which is focused entirely on the needs and demands lifelong learning has become a key concept in the thinking about education and training worldwide. Lifelong learning is about the interaction between learner, educator and diverse knowledge. Peter Jarvis Pointed out in his famous Helsinki speech in sept. 2000, that lifelong learning was a key factor in raising socially essential forms of capital namely, social capital based on 'Value rationality' through the development of human resource, strengthening and developing learning competence and skills. Learning should be renewed so as to promote growth, competitiveness and employability through combined actions and responsibilities of member states and the citizen within them.

According to Beveridge, "a voluntary organization is an organization in which whether its workers are paid or unpaid, is initiated and governed by its own members without external control. A voluntary agency may be defined as "an organization that is administered by an autonomous board which holds meetings, collects funds for its support, chiefly from private sources, and spends money whether with or without paid workers, in conducting a programme directed primarily to improve public health by providing health services or health education or by advancing research or legislation for health or by combination of these activities." They have long history of social service in this country. After Independence many NGO are working with the help of the International agencies are engaged in providing funds.

Voluntarism may be seen as typically oriented to the service of the victims of the state and civil society, the principal goal being existential amelioration of victim groups. Compassion and charity are the ethical foundations for voluntarism. Voluntarism is inherently intolerant of violence, even by the victims.

The Role of NGO and Voluntary Organisation

The NGO perform a numerous role in society. They are advocates, educators, catalysts, monitors, whistle blowers, mediators, lobbyists, activists, Mobilizer for human resource and environment, protectors of human rights, conscientizers animators and conciliators. Even they also played role of advocacy in critique government policies, have constraints in their working environments. The advantages of Voluntary agency are many, In comparison with government, they are relatively better position to personalize the provision of services they offer to the people. The main advantage of NGOs lies in their proximity to people and their sensitivity to the needs of the community. It can give capacity of bringing people together and motivate them to participate in development process. The contribution of the sector to the

domains of social welfare, development, income-generating enterprises, empowerment, and conscientization (the process whereby people are made aware of their conditions, rights and expectations) was notable.

Natures of Voluntary Agency: -

- It is a group of people.
- Voluntary Agency has Specific purpose.
- Voluntary Agencies Work in multiple field for marginalized.
- Voluntary Agencies is May be registered, may not be registered
- Their programmes are based on social welfare activity.
- Voluntary Agencies are receiving funds from donor agencies.
- They make plan and programmes by their own and Implement.
- Voluntary Agencies are non-formal.
- They Have maintained cooperation among the members.

Characteristics of Voluntary Agencies:

- Membership of Voluntary Agency are purely voluntary
- Voluntary Agency are formed through the initiative of person's interest
- Voluntary Agency are neither formed nor run for profit making
- Voluntary Agency are governed by their own set of rules
- Voluntary Agency have first-hand experience and knowledge
- Voluntary Agency are closer to people

Principles and ideology of voluntary organisation:

- Voluntary organisations are working according to the need of the community's people
- Concerned with improving and increasing the services require by the community
- Helps groups, community to develop their skills
- Should work with the professional ethics
- It helps people to help themselves

The International Council for Adult Education (ICAC) is major global partnership of Adult learner and Adult education and their program (ICAC) Promote lifelong learning as a necessary component for people to contribute creatively to their communities and to live in independent and democratic societies. It acts from the tent that adult and lifelong learning is deeply linked to social, Economic and political Justice, equality of gender relation living in harmony with environment, respect for human rights, peace and recognition of cultural diversity.

ActionAid is an International development Agency that works with local partners in 42 countries. Their aims are to fight against poverty and injustice. Action Aid International is member of over 1000 alliances and networks. In the field of Adult education, Action Aid is best known for its innovative approach called Reflect, which focused the theories of Paulo Freire with Participated methodologies, in 2003 Reflect was awardee UN International Literacy Prize in recognition of exceptional work in fight against illiteracy and it is now used by 350 organizations in 60 countries

Conclusion -

Lifelong learning policy and discourse is available in the learning society. In other countries lifelong learning is part of National discourse and it is promoting practice. There is not yet directly exposure a lifelong learning discourse, but NGOs and individual associations have changing notion of state. The voluntary organization's role and importance has increased manifold. The reason behind that government structures are not geared for integrated development like agriculture, energy, environment, water resources, equity and voluntary sector in achieving such goals. NGOs works at the grassroots level taking into account the local needs and requirements and is founded on the principles of equity and social justice. NGOs have been identified as private service providers. They have key pillar of strategies that have tried to roll back the state. The NGO sector has often simultaneously constituted a site of resistance by citizens to such polices, contributing to the building of alternatives either through organized opposition, policy influence or self-help alternatives, it is working for the downtrodden in society for lifelong learning through the Non-government organization. Today the role in the development process has increased and has also become more complex. From the welfare and charity approach, the voluntary agencies have gradually changed and widened their outlook towards overall development of the society. In other words, their meaning and role has been extended to an area, which would be fruitful in improvement of qualitative political behaviour of the people and making weaker sections of our society sensitive to political participation in a greater degree.

The Role of NGOs in Important for lifelong learning as following-

- 1) To Create awareness among rural and depressed class in society.
- 2) To develop models and Modules as well as develop proper strategies.
- 3) To support welfare Programme of Governmnet.
- 4) To organize poor people form villages and urban slums.
- 5) To cater training programme.

- 6) To disseminate information.
- 7) To organize Human resource.
- 8) To develop leadership among community.

Considering above Points, In Totality the role of NGOs is very much instrumental promoting lifelong learning.

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