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# NGOs, from the Promotion of Civic Participation to Public Problems Solving<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract:

*In the contemporary world, NGOs are considered as important tool for motivating the community. So they committed their true mission and the promotion of civic participation and strengthen social identities.*

*Functional characteristics of non-governmental organizations are the element to leverage the centers of political and social development of powerful governments since they are concrete and familiar with the problems of society and the operational strategies which would facilitate this process of mutual trust between the people and organizations. NGOs on the one hand offer reasonable solutions in line with approved organizations as agents to match between the facts and reality of society and on the other hand changes to a tool to have true political, social and economical behavior. However, the NGOs are active in the formulation of national relations and policy formulation in an organized and disciplined based on three main factors, ie, resources, policies, and institutions. Organizations are not restricted to state administration in centralized system bodies and this process in the democratic system limits the accumulation of desires and expectations and at the end reaches to the desired place. Hence, this research will attempt to emphasis on field research (questionnaire) and according to the development evolution and role of NGOs analyze the effects of this center on youth. Therefore, the hypothesis is that there is a direct relationship between the Enlightenment and the effectiveness of policy towards NGOs and solving social damages.*

**Keywords:** NGO, Insightful, Civic Participation, Community Vulnerability.

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## **Introduction:**

Today NGOs are used in various forms all over the world to benefit and promote civic participation according to their tissue-specific words. Thus, these centers play an important role as an intermediary between the individual (social atoms) and the powers of government and community. Generally the term "NGO" is causing many of these organizations to prefer the term private voluntary organizations or private developing organizations. Reports prepared by the United Nations in global governance shows that there were around 29,000 international NGOs in the mid-1990s. In some countries, the number of NGOs has been even higher than this number. However, about 2 million NGOs are working in the United States, most of which were created in the past 30 years. Russia has 4000 NGOs. Only in a poor African country, Kenya, approximately 240 NGOs are established each year. However, NGO is a concept that no definition have been presented yet. Despite the fact that both in theory and practice in the field of scientific and aware of what everyone is talking and what they are expected, perhaps one can emphasize its establishment by the definition of learning as "any organization which is not established by the government" to establish the traditional and non-traditional activities in the context of social, cultural, scientific, legal, spiritual, service, etc if are defined regardless of the political and profit targets. Plurality and diversity which is probably derived from the disposition of intellectual definitions and interpretations and expectations can lead the confusion in demonstration and limits the network development. It seems that after providing definitions and based on the central aspects of concepts and common and compatible elements it is possible to give independent definitions to solve the complexity. However throughout history there have been voluntary associations of citizens, NGOs has been developed, as the case nowadays, especially at international level seen in the last two centuries.

## **2 - Theoretical Foundations of NGOs**

There are many different definitions because of functions in the field of NGO advocacy. Ray Elton and Jack Plano know NGOs a mechanism to provide cooperation between national teams in international affairs, particularly in the areas of economic, social and cultural rights. Solomon Lester and Helmut Higher know NGOs formed the independent, flexible, democratic and non-profit situation that has focused on their activities in order to contribute to the strengthening of economic and social fringe groups, solve problems, and sometimes solving the public problems of specific cortical. Finally Diane Otto defines NGOs as nonprofit character sings which members are citizens or residents of a set of one or more countries that the type of activities is designed to meet the needs of the communities where it works (Otto, 1996, 79).



(Martens, Op.cit, 35-37)

Hashimoto divided NGO activities into the following four categories:

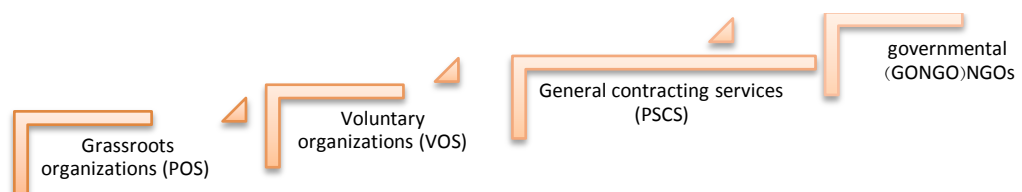
Development group: Agriculture, refugees, health and other basic needs

Supportive: which is based on the researches and studies of government reviewers

Financial group: has the duty of financial support

Pragmatic: has the duty of training in fields such as environment and development

On the other hand Curtin divided NGOs into 4 groups based on customers:



(Upoff and Broken, 1998,192)

Fuller believes that the NGOs are classified of activity by type to nine parts; he proposed resource control features and based on the views of National Development and experts and anthropologists such as Broken Shaw argues that many NGOs have been established in Africa to emulate Western scholars, so they used imitation pattern. Fuller according to the answering index is claiming that unlike the traditional organizations they have the desire and ability to answer and are careful and control the receiving of the helps against the damages of decision making in organization. Also in community center they are trying to

improve the culture and cultural diversity through activities such as education and promotion, community behavioral, motivate various sectors of society in order to increase social participation of people, trying to achieve meritocracy, efforts to promote a culture of criticism, promote original and distorted true religious beliefs, recognizing the capabilities and shortcomings, and efforts to strengthen coordination among the NGOs to shape their actions (Mostashari, op.cit, 27). Another major activity of NGOs is in relation to the states. They serve as representative of the people and engage with governments on their performance goals. They can also be implemented as well as the executive arms of government in the implementation of their programs in line with the objectives of the act or be as politician or programmer and as in the position of observer to observe the actions of the government or with the knowledge and insight aim to increase responsibility and do as intelligent intermediary between the state and the nation (Dayni, 2005, 9).

### **3 - The functions and obstacles for NGOs performance**

NGOs facilitate grassroots groups' entry into the realm of social activity as a medium can attract people's participation which has important effect on civilization. Positive and negative effects of this process have been investigated and some look them as instrument of colonial domination. Perhaps there is a third view suggests that the approach focuses on public affairs. The first view of the role of these organizations is in their participation, and sustainable human development, arm of government institutions and NGOs and helping to make them good and need minimal administration and try to show their interaction framework. It is clear that NGOs try to encourage participations, full fill the gaps and stabilize development to have dynamic and active society. For several reasons they can have much more of bureaucratic systems and associated public. NGOs in society are the important connectors of government and people and due to this position they can gather people and use their power and capacity potential to have stable development. Since the world is in a mood that countries compete with each choice to use the talents of the vast majority of citizens. Organizations will be able to establish and strengthen relationships between communities' members ultimately lead to more justice towards one another.

Social and political participation of NGOs in the sense of expanding the scope of powers and duties is considered as the important indicators to evaluate and analyze the development of communities. General political relationship in the world rests on three pillars, first, the relationship between governments and ruled ones, second, fight with each other for the survival of the regime inhibit or eliminate others, third, competitive relationship ruled to climb the ladder of politics. Two of these three types of power are related directly to the citizens. Thus, establish a connection among its citizens with the goals and values of the community's other devices. In fact, instead of struggling to climb the social pyramid serves more suitable place for constructive collaboration. NGOs are the surest means to achieve this goal that is sometimes called the so-called third sector (Larson, 2008, 113-115). The roles of intermediary organizations are as introduction to functioning rule as they should be related to its share of social contributions. So the philosophy of this organization is that individuals can form independent from interference

by others around common interests to communicate with each other. Member roles within their organizations and social development will lead to a feeling of satisfaction. NGOs create the possibility for people who take a decisive role in the organization and exploration and talents will build self-confidence and self-esteem and also a sense of satisfaction and hope that people will realize all this lead to social development. These organizations provide opportunities to people with legal entities within the group to take part in various community programs which cause the definition of programs, regional and national profits and the decrease of negative results. In addition it will facilitate the move towards participatory planning. Such organizations as the basis for conducting international activities, can express their views and common interests with other countries to help establishment of a direct connection between the nations major contribution to world peace and to have stable development. Also those who agree with thoughts constantly directed to the establishment of civil society and have commented on this issue. Hegel believes that civil society includes economic and family ties to that is outside of the political and judicial building and is unlimited section. Marx relates the formation of civilization to the level of development of internal powers that are in private sectors as a bourgeoisie level. Perhaps in Marx view, civil society is against the government and is covering everything except the government, because he writes: with the release of private ownership of the community it becomes as separate state, which is located beside and outside civil society. Civil community is a, organization that uses a bourgeoisie to gain its internal and external goals of ownership and profit. According to Hegel civil community includes private and profits and activities of people and is located out of governing region, he predicts the establishment of NGOs that would unite and connect the government and civil society .In addition, as there are numerous benefits of people in different segments, there would be competition between groups. Hegel knows one of the legislative duties of the government to shape a peaceful competition between groups and conflict resolution between sets. Emile Durkheim, put government and civil society together and writes that the government can be a deterrent when the massive interest in civil society is isolated and this happens when the groups are strong enough to cause the government to build a balanced .In his opinion, group of interfaces, not only protect individual rights against the state, but because they have access to people, can guide them through the strengthening of moral and social cohesion instead of the family (Nazmi, 1377: 143). The relationship between NGOs and civil society in line of thought is double; in one hand they are instances of civil society and are considered as its major elements. On the other hand, organizations are grown in developed societies that assumed to have civilization and some of the duties out of the state .If effectiveness is a favorable element of a state and have a consensus on it, miniaturization of the volume of government is basic strategy to achieve this goal. To this end, organizations are required to assume some of the duties of the state. Governments have proved that they are unable to take care of all the needs and demands of various social groups, while there is ample capacity of the human population that by creating a favorable environment for them to flourish, governments can get more benefits with less cost to the public. Therefore, since the development means prosperity and power potential of a country, the relationship between sustainable development and the participation of NGOs



is highlighted. Human development has been given in the third-generation theories, and utilization of community capacity has been considered. In addition to the participation of all concerned individuals and groups, the NGOs can play a key role in this regard. These organizations can attract public participation in government to help achieve development goals and by making the field of activities for different people use their skills to make the connection between people and different organizations and could be able to improve the developmental goals (Larson, Op.cit, 120-121.). there are considerable view of skepticism and even opposition against those such a positive and essential for NGOs in all societies. These organizations appear to the attention of the media because of the nature or appearance of non-governmental organizations and humanitarian targets and have especial effect on public. International organizations such as UN provide equipments and space to these organizations and use their skills and power in UN goals. These characteristics of NGOs forced governments, especially the dominant state having such organizations to serve as pressure groups to discourage them from competing countries and their foreign policy and economic. Set of conditions and government support of organizations provide them benefits. The growing role of international organizations and their impact on public opinion thereby increase importance of these organizations and the analyses show the importance of these relations in international connection in near future. As the global changing mover to the unselected organizations to do in democracy but only the leaders are accountable to their members and sponsors and are much less transparency in the functioning than political parties (Alborz, 1380: 93). Another author believes that by focusing on the goals of NGOs in the country held back, aggressive misrepresenting of globalization and vast projects of the public organizations would further homogenize the social needs especially in the second half of 1980. Until today they have dramatically expanded as an arm of government and foundation as super state with the same strategy and with different figures in recent years. Since these projects are less known in Iran and appear as faces of people, humanity, private and sometimes leading NGOs to emerge. The missions and rules are hidden and unknown even for some of the actors and their roles. Analyzing the documents of international organizations and centers related to UN especially in USA, Asia and Europe show that these organizations are made investments of multinational companies and have financial and political support of national and international law, including the UN, World Bank, IMF and ... ( Mansuran. 1379: 112). The view that recognizes these organizations as domination factor and as a Western country' tool to develop their power and their effect in the world and has acceptable reasons argues that: In the early 1980s, prospective parts of the neoliberal ruling class, found that their policies created widespread dissatisfaction and sharply polarized the population. These politicians with a nongovernmental ideology with the aim of creating an anti-social tension and interference between antagonistic classes began to establish organizations of the antagonistic classes of non-intervention. These organizations indirectly dependent on neoliberal investment sources and were directly involved in competition with social and political movements and are used for dealing with regional leaders and social themes. United States, European governments and the World Bank increased funding of NGOs against neoliberals' grew in the early 1980s. This led to the creation of a direct link

between the growing movements against neoliberals. Also, their role in the development of neo-liberal values were considered which expressed that nature of NGOs, their political posturing and focus on self-help will crippled poor as non-political, they reinforce the confirmed election of neoliberal parties and the mass media and without going beyond the state could cause such conditions in social system. NGOs with accommodating poor in neoliberal economics through voluntary action, create a political world that seem to be disappearing solidarity and social action and establish a conservative adjustment with the power structure at national and international levels. Formulated problems replacing became another barrier, many former leaders of guerrilla and social movements, trade unions and mass organizations of women are also handed by NGOs. Some are attracted to use this power primed for useful activates. However, forgiveness and higher salaries (often heavy or exchange) and recognition by overseas levers, conferences and their networks and also employment of seductive clerks and relative safety are in these class of activates. Conversely, political - social movements contain less material benefits but are more important than respect for the independence and freedom of challenging political and economic systems (Omidi, 1385, 46).

#### **4 – Research Hypotheses**

1 - There is a direct relationship between NGOs as a mission of enlightenment among the public and the social damage of the solution in province.

2- There is a direct relationship between the level of NGO influence on policy of city or county and problem solving in the province or city.

#### **5 - The method of data collection**

The method of data collection was completing questioners by all individuals. In September of 1392 semen scientific and research capacity courses were held in Urmia that 36 teachers, board members and ordinary members of NGO's were responded to the questionnaire.

#### **6 - Data Analysis**

In the course of analyzing the research hypothesis four major characteristics are reviewed, such as scope of activity, major problems, funding assumptions such as the formation of NGOs in order to prove the hypotheses.

Table 1: The respondents' titles to answer the questionnaires in semen

<b>Gathered percent</b>	<b>Valid percent</b>	<b>percent</b>	<b>frequency</b>	
<b>65.7</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>general</b>
<b>88.6</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Member if Central Council</b>
<b>100.0</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>member</b>
	<b>100.0</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>all</b>
		<b>2.8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Without answer</b>
		<b>100.0</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>Total Response</b>



Table 2: Scope of semen

Gathered percent	Valid percent	percent	frequency	
11.1	11.1	11.1	4	cities
61.1	50.0	50.0	18	province
100.0	38.9	38.9	14	national
	100.0	100.0	36	all

Table 3: Major problems of semen

Gathered percent	Valid percent	percent	frequency	
19.4	19.4	19.4	7	Lack of understanding towards the subject
61.1	41.7	41.7	15	Little attention of authorities
69.4	8.3	8.3	3	The lack of consistent approach
80.6	11.1	11.1	4	Inability of organization
100.0	19.4	19.4	7	99
	100.0	100.0	36	Total Response

Table 4: Financing methods of studied semen

Gathered percent	Valid percent	percent	frequency	
48.5	48.5	44.4	16	Government help
69.7	21.2	19.4	7	People help
87.9	18.2	16.7	6	Membership fee
100.0	12.1	11.1	4	Inability of organization
	100.0	91.7	33	all
		8.3	3	Without response
		100.0	36	Total response

## Directional Measures

			Value	Asymp. Std. Error <sup>a</sup>	Approx. T <sup>b</sup>	Approx. Sig.
Ordinal by Ordinal	Somers' d	Symmetric	.562	.102	5.176	.000
		EnlightenmentDependent	.541	.101	5.176	.000
		social problem Dependent	.584	.105	5.176	.000

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

Table 5: SPSS 16 software Output for the first study to examine the research hypothesis social harm Enlightenment \* Cross tabulation

		Social problems					all
		excellent	good	medium	weak	99	
Enlightenment	Excellent	3	2	0	0	0	5
	good	4	6	3	0	1	14
	medium	0	3	8	1	1	13
	weak	0	1	0	3	0	4
	all	7	12	11	4	2	36

#### Analyzing first research hypothesis:

There is a direct relationship between enlightenment NGOs as a mission among the public and the social and solving province problems.

Somer's d coefficient is statistically is used to test this hypothesis. Calculated Somer's coefficient equals to 0.56 and is significant at the 10 %. So there is a significant relationship between the Enlightenment of NGOs and social problem solving.

#### Analyzing second research hypothesis:

There is a direct relationship between NGO influence on policy problems of the province or city and solving province problems.

Table 6: Output in SPSS 16 for the second hypothesis analyses  
Provincial policy\* problem solving Cross tabulation

		problem solving				all
		excellent	good	medium	weak	
Provincial policy	Excellent	2	0	0	0	2
	good	2	1	2	0	5
	medium	0	5	7	3	15
	weak	1	4	6	3	14
all			10	15	6	36

#### Directional Measures

			Value	Asymp. Error <sup>a</sup>	Std. T <sup>b</sup>	Approx. Sig.
Ordinal by	Somers'd	Symmetric	.276	.152	1.739	.082
		Provincial policy	.266	.149	1.739	.082
		problem solving	.286	.156	1.739	.082

a. Not assuming the null hypothesis.

### Directional Measures

			Value	Asymp. Error <sup>a</sup>	Std. T <sup>b</sup>	Approx. Sig.
Ordinal by	Somers'd	Symmetric	.276	.152	1.739	.082
		Provincial policy	.266	.149	1.739	.082
		problem solvingDependent	.286	.156	1.739	.082

b. Using the asymptotic standard error assuming the null hypothesis.

Somers'd coefficient has been used to test this hypothesis. Somers coefficient was calculated to be 0.27, which is significant at the 10 %. So the hypothesis is confirmed at the 10% significance level.

#### **Conclusion:**

NGOs are considered as perfect tools to achieve personal and social development of the collective demands. These centers are flexible to provide a proper channel through which ordinary citizens can be involved in decisions. NGOs in societies are the important chain between government and people and it can be addressed to mobilize masses in different fields due to the nature and can use the potential skills for stable development because the present world is such that countries use the vast majority of citizen talents to compete with each other. Organizations will be able to cause the establishment and strengthen of relationships between community members to vast the equality and justice among each other.

In this study we evaluated the influence of NGOs by focusing on the process of solving social problems as one of the most important objectives and functions. The results show that there is a significant positive relationship between the amount of enlightenment of NGO mission among the public and the social and problem solving and also between effectiveness of the policies of NGOs in city or county and problem solving in city or province. Therefore, investing, protecting and providing important social institutions can work to accelerate rapid transit from social problem solving and difficulties process of development period.

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