The Role of Media, NGO’s and Civil Society

Prof. Y.S. Balavantagol
Professor & Chairman
Department of Political science
Rani Channamma University Belagavi

Shrikant S Muchandi
Research Scholar,
Department of Political Science
Rani Channamma University
Belagavi

Abstract

The Covid-19 a dreadful disease spread or transmitted in the form of pandemic, and it’s transmission is blamed on a coronavirus. This hideous disease mushroomed the globe creating disastrous up heals in numerous aspects of human existence. It not only infected the governments but also infected rather in more worse form the common men, migrants, laboures etc. During this period which starts from March 25, 2020 and engulfed the global proved to be economic, political, social domains with baneful effects. Such out breaks extremely more potential than nuclear bombs, it can destroy the world passively, such dreaded incident has happened and still persisting. The world is struggling to disentangle. In order to get rid of this, the role of media, NGO’s and civil society is considered to be tremendously significant and more worthy.

It is in this context, this paper focuses on the origin and transmission of the disease and the arduous struggles led by the aforesaid agencies along with suggestions.

Key Words – Covid-19’ NGO’s, civil society, media, coronavirus, and wide-ranging impacts.

The posthaste announcement of the lockdown that gave just four hours to people to take notice of lockdown created a nationwide panic. The migrant labourers were the badly affected. Because of the lack of work and other supportive facilities in the cities, hundreds of labourers and their kith and kin desperately wanted to rush back to their destination. With no transportation onhand, they began the difficult journey by bare foot, and numerous were
undergone police brutality on the way. The lockdown, thus, was evil than COVID-19 for the resourceless poor. Under circumstances like this the media focus on their plight and the media coverage and projection caused blaming of migrants as “irresponsible behaviour” at the pandemic.

The term news Media refers to the group of people that convey information and news to the people. There was an anticipation that the media’s coverage shall be “positive” but that did not happen and a small section of media dared to adequately address the covid-19 journalistic zeal and ethics.

The permeation of the COVID-19 was disastrous, and proved to be challenging for both union as well as state governments for lack of poor health emergency. In such a situation, journalism has a great role to play because it has been seen as a platform for accurate information and critical and reasonable discourse. The Media’s coverage of the news surrounding Delhi’s Tablighi Jamaat Markaz was suspicious. Many participants had departed from markaz, however many people were stranded in the mosque because lockdown and were infected. However, media coverage fuelled prejudiced and polarised coverage, and the Tablighi Jamaat was labeled as violating lockdown rules and “corona jihad,” “Islamic insurrection,” and “corona terrorism.” This shows that the media is involved in spreading fabricated information to carry forward it’s own agenda.

Social media

The information about the pandemic through social media has been much galloping than the virus itself. But the impact on human behaviour is colossal. Social media trigged mass hysteria, scramble and scarce for healthcare resources. However social media animatted the government machinery to improve the tactics for infectious diseases and strengthen public health infrastructure hence social media can be termed as sharp edged sword.
**Civil society**

A civil society is pregnant of groups or organizations etc in the interest of the citizens but functioning outside of governmental and for-profit seeking sectors. Organizations and institutions that constitute civil society comprises of labor unions, non-profit organizations, churches, and other service agencies that offer worthwhile service to society without seeking any benefit.

Civil society and rural based organizations have a important role to play in combating the COVID-19, as highlighted it in the recently launched report on the socio-economic impact of Covid-19. NGOs manage to bring economic and substinance related opportunities, and can have responses to the communities.

For individuals and families in certain places, NGOs are the only point of reference on the pandemic. NGOs have been the first allusion push themselves for new initiatives for state medical systems across the world, The NGOs create national emergency funds, through sharing themselves and provide assistance to nursing homes and other facilities such as technical support etc.

The role of charitable NGOs is crucial in crisis, particularly, in terms of treating affected and in protecting workers closely associated with health care. Civil society-led operative measure is not a panacea. it is crucial to consider the capacity, ability and the motivational actors in the civil society. However, civil society as watchdog informed citizens about their rights and — and improving service delivery and development. During the current pandemic, it is essential in ensuring funds allocated for pandemic to achieve it’s ultimate goals.

**NGOs and under previleged**

Urban slums mark various metropolitan cities in India. Slum dwellers have no influence in the corridors of power. They lack access to adequate food, clean drinking water, sanitation, healthcare and education facilities. such slums are at the receiving end of abrupt dismantlement in favor of building malls and are more economically viable.

In this backdrop, NGOs perform an important role, in terms of helping the deprived populations. First, NGO’s help them that governments often neglect. Secondly, NGO’s build local networks and resources. Thirdly, they creat upward
mobility among slum dwellers by generating jobs. Fourthly, NGO’s create trustworthy banks that are used during emergencies. Fifthly, NGO’s that are well-staffed and maintain records of the work. When hundreds of migrant workers return back to their shanties in villages from remote cities where work has shrunk due to lock-down, governments and various non-governmental organisations have come out to mitigate their grievances.

A crowd-funding platform 'Milap' has opened a window for daily wagers infected by COVID-19. The financial burden on families that merely on daily earning-labourers, domestic helpers, taxi drivers, restaurant waiters, beauticians/hairdressers have undergone a consequences far-reaching. This crowd funding action by Milaap is to exhibit citizen initiatives to allivate economic crisis faced by poor families with the monetary resources. Milap said in its website.

An NGO in India, has started a campaign 'India fights Corona', with the help of funds for the poor especially soaps, sanitizers and masks. "To contain the pervasive virus with much needed hygiene standard. Number of people fed in states during lockdown is innumerable NGOs in 13 states and Union Territories catered meals to more people than the state governments did during the nationwide lockdown that brokeout on March 25 in the wake of rapidly spreading pandemic. According to the central government’s reply submitted to Supreme Court, a total of 84,26,509 people were provided meals all over the nation at the time of during lockdown, nearly 54.15 lakh people were provided sustinance by state governments while and the remaining 30.11 lakh were furnished with food by NGOs.

**Beyond basic requisites:**

Despite providing meals to the poor, NGOs in every corner of country launched relief measures for people. The analysis of the central government shows that 10.37 lakh people in India took refuge in shelter homes provided by state governments and NGOs. about 10.37 lakh people, sought shelter in camps established by NGOs.
The work done by the NGOs and other CSOs during lockdown is absolutely crucial, we must realise that the entire work came in the form of relief. The relief measures are sporadic, however much dependent on the civil society’s relationship has with the local authorities. We all have to realise that the struggle with coronavirus is a long one. If countries truly want to be abstricted of pandemics, both structured approach and the untapped assets found in the civil society are to be explored. Governments must identify NGOs that have the resources to approach citizens to share crucial information and relief activities. These group of NGOs must be trained beforehand taking into consideration the multiple scenarios that could possibly arise in the form of pandemic and the best possible ways to mobilise resources. The discussions and deliberations will also help the government to arrive at best possible structured approaches and framework which can be used in turn by organisations to support the government in it’s work.

**Conclusion**

The role played by governments, NGO’s and civil society is remarkable, truly laudable, without such agencies humanity cannot survive. The role of NGO’s is extremely proved to be worthwhile. After the analysis of the data available in this context, this paper infers that no problem can be solved by single-handedly however the organization/agency may be strong. Clapping can not be done by single hand, it needs both the hands. Hence it is imperative that whether it is global or national emergency, intellectual and rational dimensions of human being can be used unitedly. This is what this tries to prove that in the absence of NGO’s and rational civil society no government can manage to contain such furious diseases and virus. United effort is essential in all the circumstances and the history has often shown it.
References:

Abi-Habib and Yasir 2020; Ellis-Petersen and Chaurasia 2020.


Google covid 19 community mobility reports .www.google .com

Nachiket Mor  Resources for NGOs During the COVID 19

George Mohler Impact of social distancing during COVID 19 pandemic on crime
Indianapolis

Nikhil Dey : The rule of civil society in times of crisis

Mohammad sinan siyech, Naweeda jouhar- Civil Society and Covid -19 in India
Unassuming Heroes.

Mukesh Rawat :India Today ,Coronavirus in India