

NATIONAL SECURITY AND ROLE OF INGOs / NGOs IN PAKISTAN

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Abstract

In Pakistan dramatically International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) & Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have proliferated and are under the scrutiny of Government, civil society and media. Sometimes they play important role to overcome the threats and challenges to governance and National security. Increasing number of INGOs / NGOs in Pakistan is attributed to absence of governance and is considered as a main cause of Government failure and rise of militancy. The spread of INGOs / NGOs and simultaneously militancy / terrorism in Pakistan has been seen by many Pakistanis as a complementary phenomenon. This study examines the adverse role of INGOs / NGOs in Pakistan and the prevalent practices and attitudes towards their accountability and legitimacy. It reflects as to how INGOs / NGOs can become vital social organizations, or conversely, a security risk and support for their missions. It provides an understanding as to what this sector is up to and concurrently suggests measures for its efficacy in Pakistan.

Keywords: *INGOs, NGOs, Government, Security, Terrorism.*

Difference between INGO & NGO

Both terms, INGO & NGO may be differentiated as INGO has the same mission akin to NGO but it works internationally and has outlets in different countries with respect to their projects whereas NGO only operates in its home country / area.

Registration Policy for INGOs & NGOs in Pakistan

INGOs. Previously, the INGOs submitted registration requests with Economic Affairs Division (EAD), Ministry of Finance, Islamabad but due to lack of proper monitoring system and security clearance, the practice got discontinued in 2015. Currently, the INGOs are not bound to get registered with Ministry of Interior (MoI), Islamabad as per new

policy. The INGOs file request for registration with MoI, Islamabad which is vetted by Intelligence agencies and INGO registration cases are discussed in MoI INGO Consultative Committee. The INGOs found security wise cleared sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MoI, Islamabad. It is pertinent to mention that all the financial agreements and transactions related to INGOs are still processed through EAD, Islamabad.

In details, Ministry of Interior (MoI), Islamabad has taken action against a lot of INGOs in the recent past, asking them to stop their works or projects in the country and even rejected their applications to be registered under the new policy for INGOs and asked some selective INGOs to complete their projects within specified frame of time. Among the instructed INGOs Plan International Pakistan, Action Aid and many others are included through these INGOs were trying to promote human rights, media, democracy, equality and freedom of expression. PHF (Pakistan Humanitarian Forum), a consortium of more than 60 INGOs showed its concern over the situation. Since 2015 INGOs have been being issued letters of rejection.

INGOs focus education, health, food security, water supply, better livelihood and human rights. But many of them go beyond their limitations and become spies working for the opponent agencies. What Shakeel Afridi did in 2012 in the guise of vaccinator and harmed the image of country Pakistan, whole world watched and made negative opinion against Pakistan as a supporter of terrorism and protector of chief of Al-Qaeda, Osama Bin Ladan and others related to other militant groups. In October 2015 in Pakistan Policy of registration of INGOs was revised and the intelligence agencies were directed to expand their control.

The Section 72 of the new policy reads “In Case of grievance of any INGO against the orders of INGO Consultative Committee, the concerned INGO may file a representation (within 90 days from the date of the orders of INGO Committee) before a special Ministerial Committee to be constituted and notified by the government. The said committee would decide all representations within 90 days. The decision of this committee would be final”.

According to the new policy, “Hiring of foreign nationals by the INGOs in their management and staff shall be subject to prior clearance of Ministry of Interior. Maximum duration of visa for non-Pakistani Nationals working for the INGOs will be one year and the INGOs will have to employ foreign nationals against not more than 10 percent of the total staff positions, and give preference to Pakistani Nationals for the key appointments.”

Another rule says, “There shall be no activity until respective Provincial governments and concerned district authorities are informed regarding the INGOs’ programe in their areas and their approval for carrying permissible activities is obtained”.

The state institutions of Pakistan for registration of INGOs are undergoing great changes these days due to deficiency in prospective vision. Their head bureaucrats or technocrats are ready to replace public with private. The dysfunction in the health and legal justice system and public sector education is due to this deficiency of their wrong bureaucratic attitude has become the reason for deficit in the overall governance. We make policies with ambiguously national interest. The new registration (with the government) regime with the need of NOC (No Objection Certificate) is damaging the picture of the country. These NGOs and INGOs are suffering from the new policy. A lot of famous INGOs have failed to get NOC or registrations and even had been ordered to wind up their projects within 2 months.

Though the Ministry of Interior has issued the new policy, it makes the Intelligence security apparatus responsible for approval or rejection of NOC’s and registration. It makes the general opinion that security establishment has started accepting or rejecting the INGOs for work in the country on its own. The rough handling of the INGOs clearly shows agonistic behavior of the establishment towards human rights based civil society. It seems to be having bad impact on socio-economic condition of the people. First, closure or suspension of the INGOs affects the INGOsrelated people’s livelihood badly. Second, as it provides opportunities to the local youth of getting education, skills promoting programmes, this kind of action deprives the youth of the same opportunities to get progress in their lives. In Punjab NGOs which have influence on the government have not been affected by the new policy and got registered. Thirdly, our establishment must not ignore the fact that their disfavoring INGOs particularly and implementing local partners generally will spoil the image of the country throughout the world. The reliance on the cruel people of establishment must be decreased as much as possible. It seems to be unjust that USAID or DFID are registered and given NOCs but local NGOs are denied. Since 9/11 in the cover of agriculture, welfare and rights advocacy a lot of mistakes have been made. It is against the national interests and it is destroying the image of Pakistan worldwide. It will not help to solve the already present problems but will help to increase them horribly if the security establishment keep driving the INGOs policy.

NGOs. NGOs got registered in Pakistan with Social Welfare

Aim / Scope (Why subject topic was chosen)

The scope of this study is to analyse and highlight adverse role of INGOs / NGOs working in the country with overt agenda. Some INGOs / NGOs are purposefully operational aimed at fostering the community based organizations within each country / different countries through various projects & operations whereas some INGOs / NGOs are advocacy based thus influencing the policy making of different countries regarding certain issues or promote the awareness on human rights. To work on projects NGOs receive millions of Rupees from its donors (INGOs) but they do not fulfill their stated required targets for the betterment of deprived community whereas during baseline studies many INGOs / NGOs collect unwanted terrain data from the targeted areas, i.e. Dr Shakeel Afridi case.

Methodology.

The methodology would generally be mixed, mainly basing upon qualitative approach. However, quantitative data would also be used in the form of 'Performas' to establish a supporting point on the work performed by INGOs / NGOs / Consultant Firms of foreign donors as a "Primary Source" whereas few articles and policy regarding registration of INGOs / NGOs were consulted from 'Internet' as a "Secondary Source".

Introduction

A famous Professor of Sociology Mr James Petra (1999) from Binghamton University, New York, USA says that NGOs get funds and help from different governments and keep close working relations with the states, moreover these NGOs make vivid interactions with governmental agencies occasionally and therefore these are not Non-Governmental Organizations. The performance of these NGOs is reviewed and examined by their overseas donors who have their own criteria, interest and mission.

Since the horrible incidents of 9/11, INGOs / NGOs in Pakistan are chiefly responsible for the fragmented local education system, bad governance of local education programs and growing division and inequality in the social system.

In Pakistan almost every INGO / NGO is working as state agency protected by its own Government Embassy. The Citizen Foundation (TCF) and Human Development Foundation (HDF) have made a claim on their web-sites that they are promoting English Language in a country where daily 20 hours load shedding takes place as through English were to solve all the problems in Pakistan.

The INGOs / NGOs do not have proper agenda and their made projects are deteriorating the local education system. In many developed countries like China, Russia, Germany, Poland, Indonesia etc..., English is not used as an educational medium but in Pakistan there is no concept of getting education without English.

INGOs / NGOs are strongly established, get high salaries and benefits and enjoy elite status in the society. They receive huge amount from different governments and foundations or donors which have direct link with some Western think tanks. They even work as official contractors for the foreign governments. Black Water did the same thing after the sad incident of terrifying Earthquake took place in Pakistan. The Black Water experts helped a construction company map the area of Kashmir and provide the collected data to US agencies. Black Water did all in the guise of a charity organization. INGOs / NGOs always follow the instructions of their sponsoring states. They gather intelligence, burnish their image and promote their interest.

Innumerable INGOs / NGOs are working all over the world, their special area of working is the third world, where they work as charity organizations, policy institutions, educators etc... being representatives of UNO, IMF, World Bank and so on.

Almost 90% INGOs / NGOs in Pakistan are working for education for which many governments, including Scandinavian and British governments the agencies of which are against Pakistan's Islamic values.

In financial hardships or natural disasters, local industry usually fails due to bad effects in the form of energy crisis, job disappearing, lack of investment and purchasing power. In this situation second job has great importance for the needy family, therefore to reduce the family financial problems wife, daughter or mother comes forward. Here INGOs / NGOs suddenly start offering attractive jobs to the affected families as a safety net for the middle class. They get even the important and intellectual people's favour and these people strengthen the INGOs / NGOs, their sponsors and other international institutions in the society[1].

The role of Dr.Shakeel Afridi in the alleged killing of Osama Bin Laden is one of the major examples of collaboration of the local people with the foreign agencies. The media in Pakistan under the influence of foreign agencies started accusing the Pak Army and its institutions.

During "War on Terror", millions of people had to be displaced in North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. The displaced people had to quit their jobs and finish their business thus their economic conditions were in the worst shape. At this juncture, INGOs /

NGOs came forward as their saviour taking preventive actions focusing “Survival Strategies”. These INGOs / NGOs are silent on the matter of food hoarding or unjust except some which guard Western values by struggling for the protection of women’s liberation, Gay & lesbian rights, freedom of press and media etc.

These INGOs / NGOs deliberately ignore the fact that every society has its own sacred values which must not be violated. Instead of this they start producing social polarization and cultural clashes. A report of Red Cross says that NGO’s use money more on the people than World Bank does. These NGO’s have strong control of food, medicine, education & funds[2].

Sometimes they become more powerful than the real governments of the countries where they work and impose their ideologies and values the poor people. The media houses, politicians or businessmen are also favoured by the INGOs / NGOs with Western largess. This makes them more faithful to the INGOs / NGOs than their own governments. “AmankiAsha” by Jang Newspaper and GEO TV in Pakistan is one of the examples for the statement.

Here the writer appeals to the readers not to shake hand with the NGOs without understanding their designs and the effects of their projects on their own culture, religions, social norms and heritage of their countries. It is also a fact that all is not equal in every case, there are found some NGOs which are really sincere for the human beings, i.e. Green Peace.

No doubt, since last 60 years countless gracious people have been donating incalculable funds for the poor through INGOs / NGOs. If the funds had been spent justly and properly, poverty would have been erased in the world.

According to the Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy(PCP) there are almost more than 130,000 active NGOs which are working in the country which shows that for every 2000 person, one NGO works. In 2001, according to a civil society index made by the Agha Khan Foundation around 10000 to 20000 NGOs were working in Pakistan.

The dramatic increase in the number of NGOs was possible due to the foreign aid, donations, grants and even loan, only America has given more than 10 Billion US Dollars after 2001. The big portion of the amount was spent for the betterment of political and economic situations. Pakistan has been facing terrorism, sectarianism, restlessness and violation for many decades. Democracy is replaced by dictatorship again and again. All these make it necessary that Pakistan must get the help of foreigners with expertise and

money in controlling the troubles. Pakistan had to face the worst earthquake in 2005, flood in 2010-2011. Incidents like these made the INGOs / NGOs be attentive towards Pakistan. They say that depressed Nations are deceived by INGOs / NGOs which also go away from the accountability and transparency, regulation or oversight. These INGOs / NGOs have become big corporations, their staff receives market-based salaries therefore, there must be use of transparency and accountability so that it may be ensured that the foreign funds are not misused. In an irregular and undocumented institute it is not possible in Pakistan so far. Unfortunately in Pakistan we do not have such authority or ability to inspect or supervise these INGOs / NGOs, their use of funds to regulate their projects and activities. It is vivid that these INGOs on behest of their foreign donors through local NGOs have always opposed any legislation in this regard by using their influence on the system of the country and have been successful.

It has been observed that when INGOs / NGOs got restricted for implementation of their intangible projects or faced scrutiny issues by Government authorities / Intelligence agencies, they used to get registered as consultant firms on behest of their foreign donors, i.e. USAID, DFID & UN organizations. Moreover, the foreign donors being front offices of Foreign Intelligence Agencies & Entities (FIA&E) also used INGOs / NGOs as a tool for acquisition of terrain information of their interest. For this purpose, foreign think tanks devised their objectives to get ingress at grass root level in different communities in Pakistan thereby FIA&E got plausible opportunity after 2005 Earthquake in KPK & Kashmir areas and during Floods – 2010 in South Punjab.

South Punjab became attraction for FIA&E for fulfillment of their overt & covert goals through INGOs / NGOs (Firms / Networks / Consortiums) to examine social weaknesses of the masses, religious tendencies, ethnic & demographic data, linguistics & sub nationalist elements, political pulse, law & order situation, sexual health care and above all strategic analysis of natural / geological resources and existence of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) installations. Overtly, FIA&E launched various development projects in South Punjab to conduct surveys of their interests in covert manner thus introduced two types of surveys, i.e. Pre-activity survey & post activity feedback during survey.

Pre-activity survey is also called “Base Line Survey” which includes pre-launch of project entities, identification of area, target community and its need assessment. The post activity feedback is known as “End Line Survey” which is usually conducted on completion of project coupled with monitoring & evaluation, feedback from beneficiaries with its future

prospects. Here are few examples of major controversial surveys conducted by FIA&E through INGOs / NGOs / Consultant Firms / UN organizations in South Punjab which depicts adverse role of the subject[3].

UNICEF & World Health Organization.

UNICEF & World Health Organization (WHO) were only donors of Polio Eradication Program in the country. Both UN organizations conducted Micro Plans (Pre & Post Campaign) surveys and collected data of vaccinated children / families on a prescribed performa. They did mapping of following sensitive information at Union Council level which was later shared with USAID:-

- a. Religious Entities
 - (1) Number of Maddaris / Masajids & names of their Caretakers in area
 - (2) Nomadic Groups (IDPs & Afghan Nationals)
- b. Infrastructure of the area
 - (1) Roads & bridges in area
 - (2) Residential areas / plots

United States Institute For Peace

United States Institute for Peace (USIP), a Washington based dubious “Think Tank” which is being funded by USAID. USIP conducted poll overtly aiming building positive image of Police in coordination with National Police Foundation, Islamabad. In a poll performa, only two sections were related to police whereas others aiming unrelated collection of personal / sensitive & socio economic data of the local community which could lead to identification of targets by FIA&E if so. This also highlighted direct involvement of foreign donors in Government Departments/Police.

Institute For Public Opinion Research.

Institute for Public Opinion Research (IPOR) is Islamabad based patronized by USAID. It conducted survey regarding Polio Control / health services & performance of Government Departments in Dera Ghazi Khan (Prohibited Area) and collected information about demography & political stance of general masses. The track record of IPOR focused on extremism / terrorism and social & political agenda was found.

Development Alternatives Incorporated.

Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI) is US Consultant Firm hired by Office for Transition Initiative (OTI - USAID), US Embassy, Islamabad. DAI ran Azm-e-Pakistan (AEP) Project for peace promotion (2016 -18). AEP was earlier known as Umeed-e-

Jawan Project (2014-15) which got executed by Creative Associates International (CAI - US based Dubious INGO) and another Youth Initiative South Punjab Project (2012-14) by International Organization for Migration (IOM - subsidiary of UN) in South Punjab. These projects were aimed at collection of data at grass root level under peace promotion programs and identification of religious & cultural fault lines through youth / community engagement. These were intangible projects with controversial aspects like awareness creation about collection / disbursement of 'Zakat' & 'Chanda' and identification of extremism in community particularly amongst youth of Maddarris & universities. These programs emerged as having no benefits for the youth[4].

International Resources Group.

International Resources Group (IRG) is US based Consultant Firm contracted by USAID. IRG was placed instead of INGOs / NGOs in South Punjab in particular by USAID after facing strict vigilance by Government authorities / Intelligence agencies. IRG hired Pakistan Industrial Trading Company (PITCO), Lahore for GPS survey in areas of power supply DISCOs under USAID's Power Distribution Program (PDP) through Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) under supervision of US Nationals. IRG managed to install Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) System & conducted GIS Mapping of Feeders through PITCO besides GPS survey of 11000 Volts Electricity Poles at DG Khan (Prohibited area) w/o permission of Ministry of Interior and Intelligence agencies. However, Strategic Planning Division (SPD) authorities were got timely sensitized before installation of AMR system on PAEC setups.

Oxford Policy Management Institute

It is UK based Consultant Firm having USAID funding. Oxford Policy Management Institute in collaboration with Planning Commission of Pakistan initiated survey to identify nutritional deficiency in children & women. It collected personal data & information besides highlighted social weaknesses of the masses and shared with USAID. The survey could have been done only through Pakistan Bureau of Statistics but not through USAID & Foreign Firms.

AIDS Control Program.

Punjab AIDS Control Program conducted survey for identification of AIDS victims & potential AIDS patients in community / sex workers. The survey was totally based on vulgarity and was conducted on prior taking blood samples of likely AIDS patients. The survey questionnaire also got filled in by non-targeted women like working ladies thus

causes vulgarity within community which was not in line with Islamic values. It was merely identification of inclination towards un-natural sexual practices based on assessment for following European trend for promoting sodomy[5].

Conclusion

It is necessary that the attitudes of both INGOs and Pakistani NGOs coupled with civil society must be reviewed. INGOs / NGOs have to make suitable standards of coexistence with the government in Pakistan which will produce harmony between them. The NGOs which are professional, committed and willing to protect the interests of Pakistan, are the need of the country. INGOs / NGOs must select the team of skillful persons instead of making it profitable family business. The persons who are devoted to the country must be the part of their team. The INGOs / NGOs make a system of accountability, transparency and representation so that they may not be objected or doubted. If Pakistani NGOs are successful in making the system they need not get any help from the foreign donors because Pakistan has the 4th biggest nation which is philanthropic in the world by adopting all the measures. Pakistani NGOs can not only be helpful to the Pakistanis but be helpful to the foreigners.

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