

MODEL ANSWERS – GSM 3 FORMAT B TEST SERIES

- **Social Welfare:** NGOs initiate internal programs and projects where relief and charity are key actions. Butterflies, for instance, is an NGO with a program for street and working children.
- **Mediation:** NGOs in this role can be seen as participating or taking up external programs and projects.
- **Consultation:** Human rights NGOs offer support documentation and dissemination of information, and their expertise is critical in addressing human rights violations.
- **Development and Operation of Infrastructure:** Community-based organizations can construct housing, provide infrastructure, and operate and maintain public toilets and solid waste collection services. Sulabh Movement is one such major NGO in the country working for liberation and social mainstreaming of scavengers.
- **Facilitating Communication:** NGOs can facilitate communication upward from people to the government and downward from the government to the people.
- **Research, Monitoring, and Evaluation:** Innovative activities are carefully documented and shared by NGOs for effective participatory monitoring that would permit the sharing of results with the people themselves as well as with the government.

Further human rights NGOs mobilize public opinion, approach the judiciary on behalf of poor people who otherwise have no access to justice, and pressurize the government on certain issues, such as protection of prisoners' rights, torture, etc.

Challenges faced by human rights NGOs in India

- **Administrative demands:** Three amendments in particular from the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020 have significant financial and compliance implications for NGOs: opening a pass-through bank account in a specified branch in New Delhi, stopping NGOs from transferring foreign grants to other registered NGOs, and the lower cap on administrative expenses.
- **Lack of Credibility:** This is perhaps the most plaguing issue for human rights NGOs operating in India. Many NGOs which claim to work for the cause of human rights push foreign agendas. This impacts the credibility of all other NGOs.
- **Lack of Transparency:** NGOs to achieve and maintain a high degree of transparency in not just their work but also their financials. Most recently, Amnesty International was compelled to close its offices in India after its bank accounts were frozen over alleged violation of the FCRA.
- **Lack of funds:** Most of the NGOs in India are suffering from a paucity of funds. The government does not give the entire grant, NGOs have to make matching contributions, which they are sometimes unable to make, therefore, unable to avail themselves of the grants.
- **Inadequate Trained Personnel:** There is a dearth of personnel with a sense of dedication and interest in social services.
- **Misuse of Funds:** Serious charges of misuse and misappropriation of funds by some of the NGOs may impact other NGOs who are working with dedication and commitment.

India has long had a strong civil society at the forefront of human rights advocacy within the country and globally but the constraints faced by human rights NGOs, including by the application of laws, need to be brought down to protect India's robust civil society.

17. What do you understand by Integrity Pact? Examine whether an Integrity pact against corruption is an effective tool or a paper tiger? (15 Marks, 250 Words)

Approach:

Begin by defining what an integrity pact is, followed by a brief description of its relevance. Then examine how it can help check corruption, followed by its limitations. Conclude by taking a positive stand suggesting a brief course of action to implement integrity pacts.