

Foreword

By

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There are a number of Central Government and State Government Schemes which are implemented by the National Minorities Development Corporation, the Karnataka State Minorities Development Corporation and the State Directorate of Minorities for the benefit of minorities. Many of these schemes are required to be implemented by NGO's and Self Help Groups. However, till now a list of NGO's working for minorities was not at all available. As such, many such schemes and programmes meant for minorities have suffered due to low involvement of NGO's. NGO's play an important role by building bridges between the bureaucracy and beneficiaries. They help in taking the Government to the doorstep of the beneficiary. They operate at the field level and have first hand knowledge of the needs and requirements, joys and sorrows, conveniences and difficulties, despair and hope and strengths and weaknesses of the common man. It is very important for any Government agency or statutory body to foster these links and have a good rapport with them in order to reach out to the poorest

of the poor. These links are also important for the development of the deprived and backward regions in the far-off, interior regions of the State since Government offices cannot possibly exist in each and every village.

The Karnataka State Minorities Commission has taken the initiative to identify and list out the NGO's working for the welfare of the minorities in the State. This was an onerous task. Wide publicity was given and such NGO's were invited to send the details about their organization and their activities to the Commission online and by traditional methods as well. In spite of the efforts made to enlist each and every NGO, it is possible that many NGO's might not have furnished their particulars. That is why, we do not claim that this is a complete list of the NGO's working for minorities in the State. However, I wish to assure the NGO's who are not listed in this Directory that this is a continuous programme and we will keep updating the Directory and keep adding new organizations. Since we got encouraging response from the NGO's in our very first attempt, we hope that the responses will be more pronounced in future.

The Karnataka State Minorities Commission has not just fulfilled a long felt need by undertaking this programme, but has also succeeded in bringing all the NGO's working for the minorities together so that they could share their problems, their experiences and their successes. This is the reason why we have not insisted that the NGO should be registered and we have listed unregistered NGO's too. We are not giving recognition or a registration certificate or a license. We are not examining their bonafides. We are just bringing them together and showcasing their existence. These are merely information pages, using which, any Government department or statutory body that wants to do something for the minorities can have easy access to various organizations. The postal address, telephone number, e-mail ID etc. of the NGO's has been provided for this purpose.

Not just the Government departments or statutory bodies, but even the NGO's themselves can get in touch with each other by using our Directory. The Directory will be a boon to convey any important information, decision or news. It makes the task of organizing seminars and workshops of NGO's working for minorities much easier. Since the field of activity of every NGO has been mentioned, it will be possible to contact only such NGO's who are working for a particular cause without involving the other NGO's who may not be in that field of activity or may not be interested in it at all. You can pick up whom you want depending on your need.

The Directory will also be extremely useful for the common man who is generally in the dark in the matter of obtaining the benefits from various schemes. The NGO's had to search for them. Now, with the help of this Directory, men and women who are in need can contact one of the local NGO's and seek their help. Various schemes and programmes of different departments which are not specifically earmarked for the minorities can also be availed and utilized by the minorities and their NGO. It is extremely important that they do not confine themselves only to the minority schemes but make the best use of all the general schemes and programmes which every citizen has a right to benefit from, provided he fulfills the requirements of the schemes. For this reason, we have listed 270 Central Government Schemes for the information of the NGO's and the public.

In the National Conference of the State Minorities Commissions which was held recently at New Delhi, our programme of listing and publishing a Directory of NGO's was highly appreciated by the National Minorities Commission and many of the State Minorities Commissions. Infact, many of them are eagerly awaiting the release of this Directory since they intend to emulate us. It is the privilege of the Karnataka State Minorities Commission that it has always taken the lead in implementing novel and progressive ideas. For the first time in the country, a Directory of this type is being published and this will also help in espousing the cause mooted in the Sachar Committee Report.

I am glad to place on record the persistent efforts of Mr. S. Tahsin Ahmed, Secretary of our Commission in fulfilling this mission. Infact, listing of NGO's and publication of this Directory is his baby. He has enhanced the value of this Directory by evaluating the data collected and by conducting a Study. A report based on this Study has also embellished the Directory. He has also given some Useful information about the NGO's alongwith a list of 270 schemes of the Central Government. In my opinion it is a good and extremely useful package and I hope that the same will be of immense benefit to all the minorities.

I will be failing in my duty, if I do not thank Mr. Francis Jackson (Bangalore), Mr. Sheikh Rizwan (Raichur) and Mr. Syed Mastaan (Gulbarga), Members of our State Minorities Commission who gave full support for this initiative and unanimously passed a resolution in the meeting of the Commission giving the green signal for implementing this project. Mr. Syed Ateeq and Mr. Syed Abdul Rahman, data entry operators have done a commendable job in computerizing the final manuscript.

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