

## **Respondents wise Status of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) of Karnali Zone Nepal**

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### **Abstract**

*Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have been promoted in the development activities in Nepal since the restoration of democracy in 1990. NGOs have been recognized as one of the development facilitator institutions in Karnali Zone. The objective of this study was focused to identify the status of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on the basis of its structure, environment, values and Impact. The study had adopted the civil society index as a theoretical tool of study. Randomly in total 562 respondents were selected from five districts of Karnali zone. The findings of ANOVA showed that there was a significant difference between respondents in the structure of NGOs in  $P=0.007$  significant level at 95% confidence interval. But other three components environment, values and impact were not significantly difference. It could be assumed that because of the geographical differences, involvement of human resources, basic infrastructure, access on communication and technologies and perception on NGOs activities are the major factors which made the perceptual difference among the respondents in structure of NGOs. Similarly, contribution of NGO in promotion of political awareness, transparency of their work and empowering citizenship were more or less in the same level in all five districts so response of participants became similar in environment, values and impact of NGOs. It is necessary to identify the locally reliable and related indicators of NGO to assess the NGO's status and their performance.*

**Keywords:** NGO, Respondents, Status,

## **Introduction**

The study was focused to identify the status of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on the basis of its structure, environment, values and Impact. This study was carried out in five districts; Dolpa, Humla, Jumla, Kalikot and Mugu of Karnali Zone. Karnali Zone falls under the lowest ranking among all zones and districts of Nepal from the Human Development Index (HDI). In this context, NGOs were played significant contribution to meet the minimum basic needs of the community along with Nepal Government. There were 32000 NGOs registered and affiliated with Social Welfare Council which 560 NGO in Karnali Zone. NGOs in Nepal formed and operate under the Societies Registration Act 2034 (1977) and Social Welfare Act 2044. District Administration Office (DAO) and the Social Welfare Council (SWC) are the important governing institutions of NGOs in Nepal (Dhakal, 2007, p. 5). NGOs HAVE been working on the environment sector, forestry sector, wildlife sector and national development; poverty, human right, HIV and AIDS, health, etc. (Bhandari, 2014, p. 183). Since the 1990s, the role of development non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in international development has increased along with massive interest and concern over NGO performance from NGO practitioners, governments, citizens, donors, policymakers and academics (Lund, 2012). The current main crux of the matter in Nepal is how to reach out to the most excluded and needy people for their improvements. Both donors and NGOs apply different approaches to this issue; some INGOs go as far as contracting directly with local communities and user groups – by passing intermediary Nepali NGOs (Ingdal, 2007, p. iv). NGOs have been recognized as one of the development actors but formal academic research of the contributions and their status is not carried out in Karnali Zone. Civil society institution and NGOs in different sectors can bridge the differences between transitional citizens with different backgrounds as they learn to coexist in the public sphere and concomitantly develop higher levels of trust (Abom, 2004; TUSALEM, 2007, p. 380). To find the status of the NGOs in Karnali Zone, specific research was carried out with the basis of Civil Society Index (CSI).

## **Method**

Quantitative designed was applied in the study. In quantitative data, cross-tab, frequency table and ANOVA test and multiple comparison (Bonferroni test) values were analyzed for descriptive analysis of data, as well as correlation was done to explore the relation between two and multiple variables. In total 562 respondents were selected from 5 groups: beneficiaries -400, NGOs Board - 56, NGOs staff – 56, Civil Society - 25, Government Official – 25. In district wise, number of participation were Dolpa - 66, Humla – 82, Jumla - 146, Kalikot - 174 and Mugu - 94 by using the simple random sampling. Multistage Simple Random Sampling was used to deduct the size of the study area on the basis of logical reasoning and simple random sampling which was adopted to select the respondents. Under the random sampling, lottery method (two types of similar paper card was used having with symbol of '0' and '1' ('0' means not selected and '1'

means selected) was used to select the respondents for survey and interview both. The entire paper cards were kept in one container and participants were asked to draw the card. Who got the 1, was selected for the study.

## **Result**

This study had measured the main four elements (structure, environment, values, and impact) of NGOs on the basis of five types of respondents. These four elements determine the overall status of the NGOs and their performances. All these four elements also include 25 sub-elements. Under these 25 sub-elements there were 74 individual indicators which support to measure the NGOs. These sub-elements were as below:

### **Structure**

There are six main components under the structure. These six components are breadth of citizen participation, depth of citizen participation, diversity of civil society participation, resources, level of organization and inter relation of NGOs. There is a significant difference between respondents in the structure. There is significant difference of breadth of citizen participation between civil society to beneficiaries, NGO board and Civil Society. There is significantly difference of depth of citizen participation between civil society and beneficiaries and NGO board. There is a significant difference of resources and interrelation between NGO boards, civil society and beneficiaries.

### **Environment**

There are seven main components under the environment. These seven components are political context, basic freedom of rights, socio-economic context, socio-cultural context, private sector civil society, legal environment and state civil society. There is no significantly difference between beneficiaries, NGO board, NGO staff, and Government and Civil society.

### **Values**

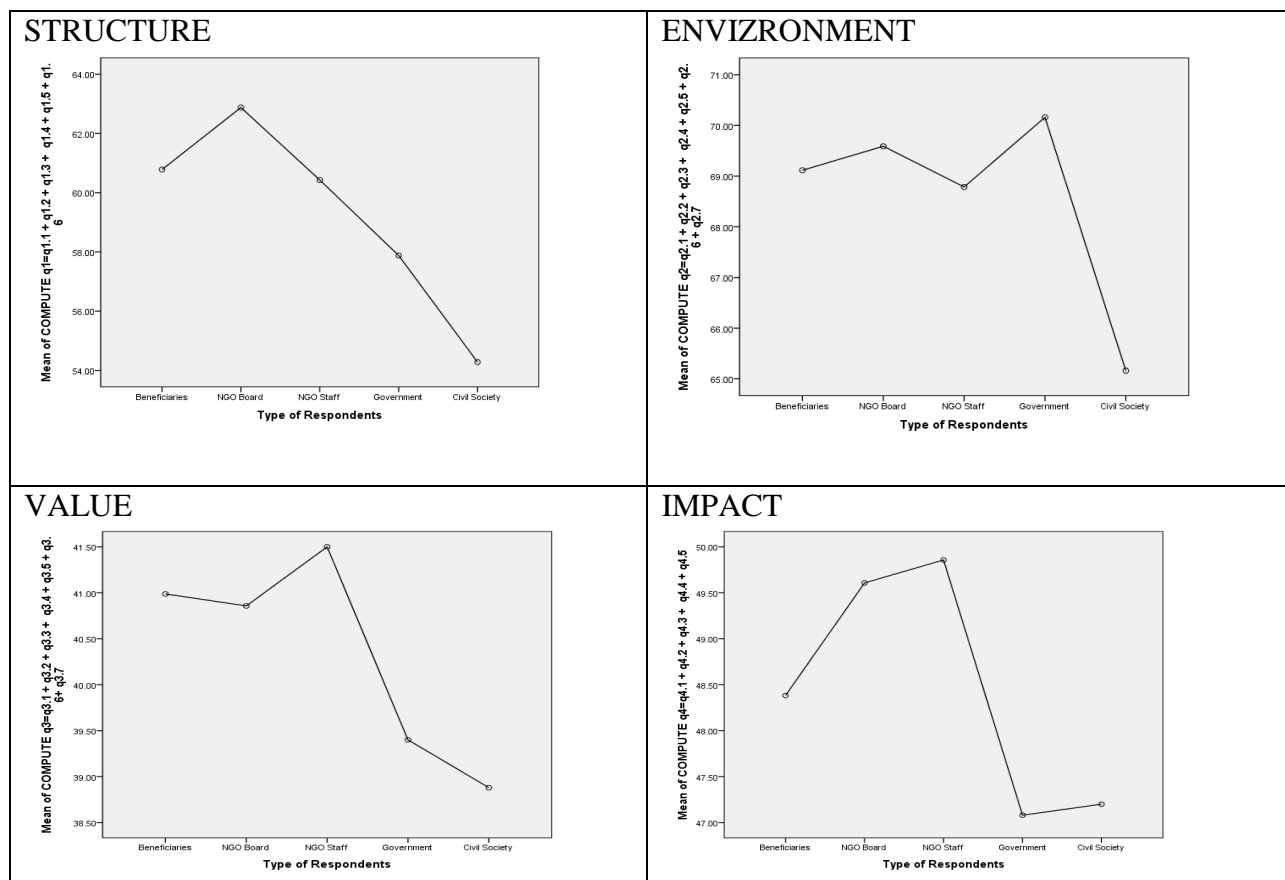
There are seven main components under values. These seven components are democracy, transparency, tolerance, non-violence, private sector civil society, poverty eradication and gender equity. There is no significantly difference of non-violence between respondents.

### **Impact**

There are five main components under Impact. These five components are holding state & private sector, influencing public policy, responding to social interest, empowering citizens and building social capital. There is no significantly difference of non-violence between respondents.

The study had collected the data from the respondents regarding their perception on status of NGOs of Karnali Zone on the basis of major four elements. The data presented below explained the mean value of each element of NGOs. The following data shows the mean differentiation of four major elements (structure, environment, values, and impact) on the basis of five types of respondents. The analysis of variance (ANOVA) test was calculated and found the following values. The mean values and value of f-test has given the description of NGOs status in Karnali Zone. Comparative data are presented to identify the high and low value of four main elements as well as its significant differences between and within the respondents.

**Respondent wise mean value of four elements of NGOs**



**ANOVA test within the respondents**

Description	F Value	P - Values	Remarks
Structure	3.582	0.007	Significant
Environment	0.941	0.44	Insignificant

Values	0.977	0.420	Insignificant
Impact	0.829	0.507	Insignificant

**Source:** Field survey, 2014

From the above table in the structure F value is 3.582 and P-values is .007 observed. It indicates there is a significant difference between respondents in the structure. And other three components environment, values and impact are not significantly difference observed within respondents. There was significant difference in structure among the types of respondents in  $P = .007$  significant level at 95% confidence interval. But the data accepted was no difference in environment, values and impact among the types of respondents in  $P = .44$ ,  $P = 0.420$  and  $P = 0.507$  respectively significant level at 95% confidence interval.

Respondent wise multiple comparison of major elements of NGOs (Bonferroni test)

Table 1: Respondent wise multiple comparison of structure of NGOs

Desc ription	Respondents types	P- Values	95% confident level		Remarks
			Lower bound	Upper bound	
Structure	Beneficiaries – NGO board	1.000	-6.187	2.002	No significant difference
	Beneficiaries - NGO staff	1.000	-3.741	4.449	No significant difference
	Beneficiaries – Government	1.000	-3.014	8.819	No significant difference
	Beneficiaries – Civil society	0.021	0.585	12.419	Beneficiary has significantly higher
	NGO board – NGO staff	1.000	-2.977	7.870	No significant difference
	NGO board – Government	0.419	-1.908	11.898	No significant difference
	NGO board – Civil society	0.005	1.691	15.498	NGO board has significantly higher
	NGO staff – Government	1.000	-4.355	9.452	No significant difference
	NGO staff – Civil society	0.124	-0.755	13.052	No significant difference
	Government – Civil society	1.000	-4.518	11.7183	No significant difference

**Source:** Field survey, 2014

The table no. 1 shows that there was significant difference between the beneficiaries and civil society at the  $P = 0.021$  significant level which is less than .05. The value of beneficiaries was significantly higher than civil society. Similarly, there was significant difference between the NGO board and civil society at the  $P = 0.005$  significant level which is less than .05. The value of NGO board was significantly higher than civil society.

The relation between the other respondents; government vs. civil society, NGO staff vs. civil society, NGO staff vs. government, beneficiaries vs. government, NGO board vs. NGO staff found no significant difference because the P value was greater than .05 significant level.

The above table and graphs shows that NGO board value has higher score and civil society has lower score between five respondents.

Table No. 2: Respondent wise multiple comparison of environment of NGOs

De scr iption	Respondents types	P- Value s	95% confident level		Remarks
			Lower bound	Upper bound	
Environment	Beneficiaries – NGO board	1.000	-4.771	3.822	No significant difference
	Beneficiaries - NGO staff	1.000	-3.967	4.626	No significant difference
	Beneficiaries – Government	1.000	-7.253	5.163	No significant difference
	Beneficiaries – Civil society	0.731	-2.253	10.163	No significant difference
	NGO board – NGO staff	1.000	-4.887	6.494	No significant difference
	NGO board – Government	1.000	-7.814	6.673	No significant difference
	NGO board – Civil society	0.854	-2.814	11.673	No significant difference
	NGO staff – Government	1.000	-8.618	5.8696	No significant difference
	NGO staff – Civil society	1.000	-3.618	10.869	No significant difference
	Government – Civil society	0.986	-3.518	13.518	No significant difference

Source: Field survey, 2014

The table no. 2 has explained the multiple comparisons between the respondents regarding their perception on environment of NGOs. The data shows that there was no significant differences between the each group of respondents because P value was found greater than .05 (5%) of significant level at 95% confidence interval.

Table no. 3: Respondent wise multiple comparison of values of NGOs

Description	Respondents types	P- Values	95% confident level		Remarks
			Lower bound	Upper bound	
Values	Beneficiaries – NGO board	1.000	-2.604	2.864	No significant difference
	Beneficiaries - NGO staff	1.000	-3.247	2.222	No significant

					difference
	Beneficiaries – Government	1.000	-2.363	5.538	No significant difference
	Beneficiaries – Civil society	1.000	-1.843	6.058	No significant difference
	NGO board – NGO staff	1.000	-4.264	2.979	No significant difference
	NGO board – Government	1.000	-3.152	6.067	No significant difference
	NGO board – Civil society	1.000	-2.632	6.587	No significant difference
	NGO staff – Government	1.000	-2.510	6.710	No significant difference
	NGO staff – Civil society	1.000	-1.990	7.230	No significant difference
	Government – Civil society	1.000	-4.901	5.941	No significant difference

Source: Field survey, 2014

Following the analysis of table no. 2, the study found insignificant association between the respondents regarding their perception on environment of NGO. In the same way, the data also explored the relationship between the respondents regarding their response on 'value' of NGO. The data of table no. 3 shows that there was no significant difference between the respondents. NGO board vs. government or NGO's staff vs. civil society vs. beneficiaries were found no relations between them. The P value was found greater the .05 significant levels. It accepted the null hypothesis.

Table No. 4: Respondent wise multiple comparison of impact of NGOs

Description	Respondents types	P-Values	95% confident level		Remarks
			Lower bound	Upper bound	
<b>Impact</b>	Beneficiaries – NGO board	1.000	-4.846	2.397	No significant difference
	Beneficiaries - NGO staff	1.000	-5.096	2.147	No significant difference
	Beneficiaries – Government	1.000	-3.931	6.536	No significant difference
	Beneficiaries – Civil society	1.000	-4.051	6.416	No significant difference

	NGO board – NGO staff	1.000	-5.047	4.547	No significant difference
	NGO board – Government	1.000	-3.579	8.633	No significant difference
	NGO board – Civil society	1.000	-3.699	8.513	No significant difference
	NGO staff – Government	1.000	-3.329	8.883	No significant difference
	NGO staff – Civil society	1.000	-3.449	8.763	No significant difference
	Government – Civil society	1.000	-7.300	7.060	No significant difference

**Source:** Field survey, 2014

Impact is known as the output of NGO. The study also evaluated the impact of NGO in the Karnali Zone. The analysis of survey data presented in table no. 4 shows that there was no significant difference between the respondents regarding the impact of NGO. It is interesting that the P value of each relation was found equal ( $P = 1.000$ ) which is greater than .05. The result accepted there was no significant difference between the respondents.

Table no. 5: Respondent wise Sub group of main elements of NGOs

Main Element	Sub-Elements	F Value	P-Values	Remarks
Structure		3.582	0.007	Significant
	Breadth of citizen Participation	3.881	.004	Significant
	Depth of citizen participation	3.964	.004	Significant
	Diversity of civil society participants	2.132	.076	Insignificant
	Resources	3.177	.013	Significant
	Level of organization	.305	.875	Insignificant
	Inter relations	2.740	.028	Significant
Environment		0.941	0.44	Insignificant
	Political context	2.037	.088	Insignificant
	Basic freedom & rights	2.134	.075	Insignificant
	Socio-economic context	1.144	.335	Insignificant
	Socio-cultural context	.005	1.000	Insignificant
	Private sector civil society	1.960	.099	Insignificant
	Legal environment	.700	.592	Insignificant
	State civil society relation	.782	.537	Insignificant
<b>Values</b>		0.977	0.420	Insignificant



	Democracy	.490	.743	Insignificant
	Transparency	1.884	.112	Insignificant
	Tolerance	.770	.545	Insignificant
	Non-violence	1.265	.283	Insignificant
	Environmental sustainability	1.377	.240	Insignificant
	Poverty eradication	.749	.559	Insignificant
	Gender equity	1.195	.312	Insignificant
<b>Impact</b>		0.829	0.507	Insignificant
	Holding state & private sector	1.279	.277	Insignificant
	Influencing public policy	.700	.592	Insignificant
	Responding to social interest	.151	.963	Insignificant
	Empowering citizens	1.372	.242	Insignificant
	Building social capital	1.596	.174	Insignificant

**Source:** Field survey, 2014

From the above table no 5 under the structure, there are six components. Out of six, four components observed significant. Breadth of citizen participants F value is 3.881 and P-value is 0.004, Depth of citizen participation F value is 3.964 and P-value is 0.004, Resources F value is 3.177 and P-value is 0.013 and inter relations F value is 2.74 and P-value is 0.028 Out of six two components are insignificant, diversity of civil society participants F value is 2.132 and P-value is 0.076 and level of organization F value is 0.305 and P-value is 0.875

And other three main components environment, values and impact of the nineteen components are not significantly difference observed within respondents.

## Discussion

The study found the significant difference on structure of NGO from the perceptual analysis of respondents. Under the structure of NGO, there was significant difference on the depth of citizen participation, mobilization of resources and inter relations which determines the social status of NGO and its effect on development. The beneficiaries, civil society and NGOs staff had different perception on volunteering, charitable giving, NGO membership, collective action under and the financial, human and technical resources as well as level of communication and cooperation of NGOs in the districts. Many previous literatures has accepted NGO as a development partners. Lenihan, Eoghan Walsh and Helena has stated that NGOs are significant players in the development field (2006, p. 422). In the Nepalese context, the role of NGOs and Civil Societies are still service and development oriented. Civil societies play important roles in the changing of individuals' lives by bringing together diverse groups of people to solve social problems (Bhandari, 2014, p. 177).

From the perspective of respondents of all five districts, there was no significant difference on environment, values and impact of NGO. Environment wise, there was no association in political context, basic freedom & rights, socio-economic context, legal environment and state civil society relationship in these study areas. Though, it was acceptable that all the NGOs of different districts were providing their services to the community. According to Yap, Nonita also, there are NGOs which define their mandate as helping to remove the stumbling blocks to development: some pursue this objective through the delivery of relief and social welfare services; others do it by helping to organize communities or sectors (1989/1990, p. 77).

Values of NGO talk about the democracy, transparency, tolerance, non-violence, environmental sustainability, poverty reduction and gender equity. All these variables were insignificant with the perception of respondents in Karnali zone. There was no relation between the respondents but independently all these factors were working in the study areas. The previous study showed that in modern development discourse, one area that has gained considerable currency has been the impact delivered by NGOs, mainly because their work is understood to have direct and obvious effects on the lives of poor and marginalized people (Linda Kelly, 2004, p. 696). The NGO sector is hugely diverse, ranging from small CBOs dealing with local community issues to larger, nationally based NGOs, which mostly address social or economic needs (Mercer, 1999, p. 249).

Impact of NGO explained about the holding state & private sector, influencing public policy, responding to social interest, empowering citizens and building social capital in this study. These factors were also found insignificant differences from the perspective of respondents. The contributions of NGO in these sectors were found meaningful in their particular context and it was also reported in the previous studies. Nusrat Jahan Chowdhury has stated that both national and international policy-making institutions have acknowledged the contribution of NGOs in alleviating poverty, through empowering the poor and continuing to support their endeavors (Chowdhury, 2008, p. 117). Characteristics of the Process of Development with Equity it is important to appreciate the full significance of the point that the right to development associates development with equity and justice (Sengupta, 1999). NGOs have done much to address the needs and issues of the 'poor across the world. However, much remains to be done with regard to understanding the effects that NGOs and their multiple approaches and agendas have on wider sociological processes such as the building of social capital and social organizing (Abom, 2004, p. 342).

Presence of NGO also plays the role to create the positive relationship between the different key stakeholders. From the study showed that there was no association between the various activities of NGO in Karnali zone from the respondents perspective though independently their status was meaningful. Lawrence T. Woods showed the important of NGO by stating that the ability to

foster mutual understanding among peoples and states and between people and states is considered vital by most NGOs (1995, p. 824).

## Conclusion

The study was focused to identify the status; structure, environment, value and impact of NGOs in Karnali zone with the perspective of different respondents NGO board, NGO staff, Beneficiaries, Government agencies and Civil Societies. The findings showed that there was significant difference in structure. The perspective of beneficiaries and civil society, NGO board and civil society had different perception in breadth and depth of citizen participation; inter relation and resources of the NGOs. It could be assumed that because of the geographical differences, involvement of human resources, basic infrastructure, access on communication and technologies and perception on NGOs activities are the major factors which made the perceptual difference among the respondents. Similarly, the findings showed that the rest major three elements; environment, values and impact had no significant difference. From the respondents' perspective, the status of these three elements was similar in all five districts. Normally, it could be observed that the contribution of NGO in promotion of political awareness, transparency of their work and empowering citizenship were more or less in the same level in all five district so response of participants became similar. The study found the similar response of respondents in environment, values and impact of NGO so it is necessary to identify the locally reliable and related indicators of NGO to assess the NGO's status and their performance.

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