

WRAP Exams · wrapexams.com

Prelims PYQ, Mains model answers, and copy evaluation. Write to the desk for this paper, a doubt, or the AI waitlist.

ask@wrapexams.com · +91 85951 84903 · wrapexams.com

Q6(b)

Discuss the role of NGOs in the socioeconomic and political development of weaker sections and the manner in which they facilitate other stakeholders

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2025 · Anthropology GS 2 · 15 marks · Social change and contemporary tribal societies

7.2 Social change and contemporary tribal societies: Impact of modern democratic institutions, development programmes and welfare measures on tribals and weaker sections.

Core demand of the question

- **State what NGOs do among weaker sections:** socio-economic and political
- Show how they facilitate the state, Gram Sabha, courts and markets
- Give tribal, Dalit and minority examples
- Add a critical note on accountability, **FCRA** and substitution of the state

Revision summary

NGOs run last-mile services and translate FRA, PESA, scholarships and health camps for ST, SC and minorities.

Politically they support Gram Sabha, RTI and PIL; Niyamgiri-type cases show them beside, not above, the village.

They broker schemes, banks and CSR.

- **Risks:** donor capture, **FCRA** chill, elite contractors, substitution of the state.

Xaxa's measure is whether the hamlet still decides.

Introduction

Non-government organisations among weaker sections are neither a fifth pillar of the Constitution nor a conspiracy. They are **associations that deliver services, translate law, and sometimes speak for people who cannot reach the collector**. The question asks for socio-economic and political work, and for how they join other stakeholders.

Body

Socio-economic work

NGOs run schools, hostels, SHGs, sickle-cell camps, legal-aid clinics, forest-rights filing, and watersheds. In tribal belts, groups have helped **FRA claims**, seed banks and **Van Dhan** value-addition alongside government. Dalit organisations have pushed scholarships and atrocity-case support. Minority bodies have run madrasas-plus-modern schools and skill centres after **Sachar** named the development gap.

They facilitate **banks and CSR** (NABARD SHGs, company-funded hostels) and **line departments** that lack last-mile staff. A good NGO is a **broker of schemes**: PM-JANMAN,

MGNREGA, scholarships, not a parallel raj.

Political work

They train Gram Sabha members under **PESA**, help file RTI, support **public interest litigation**, and document displacement. **Niyamgiri** and many FRA cases had civil-society lawyers and local associations beside the Gram Sabha, not instead of it. Student and church bodies in the North-East play a similar political role without always wearing the NGO label.

- **Facilitation of stakeholders:** they convene **sarpanch, forest officer, women SHG, and MLA**. They can also capture that table if they become the only English voice.

Limits

Xaxa and parliamentary **FCRA** debates noted both **missionary and corporate NGOs**. Foreign-funding rules (**FCRA** amendments) shrink advocacy more than wells. Some NGOs replace the state and leave when the grant ends. Some are contractor wings of local elites. **Accountability** to the hamlet, not only to a Delhi donor, is the anthropological test.

The Republic's duty remains with **panchayat, collector and court**. NGOs are useful when they thicken those, not when they become a substitute sarkar.

Flow diagram

NGO -> Gram Sabha
NGO -> Schemes banks
NGO -> Courts PIL
NGO -> Departments
Gram Sabha -> People

Conclusion

NGOs among weaker sections deliver services, translate FRA and PESA, and open doors to banks, courts and departments. They fail when they speak over Gram Sabha or live only by **FCRA** cycles. Their job is to facilitate other stakeholders, not to replace them.

Facts & figures

FCRA

Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, used to register and restrict foreign-funded associations, with a sharp effect on advocacy NGOs.

Sachar Committee 2006

Mapped Muslim development deficits and became a reference for minority-oriented NGO and state programmes.

FRA facilitation

Many community forest claims were filed with help from local associations because forms and maps are hard without a broker.

WRAP Exams · Write. Read. Analyse. Practice. · <https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-2/2025/discuss-the-role-of-ngos-in-the-socioeconomic-and-political-development-of-weaker-sections-and-the-manner-in-which-they-facilitate-other-sta/> · ask@wrapexams.com · wrapexams.com

WRAP Exams