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Increased Scrutiny on the Non-Governmental Organization in Pakistan

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Nowadays, the term Non-Government Organizations, commonly referred to as NGOs, or INGOs in case of international ones, are the highlights in many news channels and newspapers whereas at the same time the international observers have regarded Pakistan as one of the most charity giving nations. As much as many of the diehard patriots do not wish to see Pakistan’s reliance on the international NGOs, it is a bitter truth that Pakistan needs foreign assistance which usually comes

through such humanitarian channels to assist in overcoming the prevailing issues directly impacting the lives of the common masses who mostly belong to the underprivileged class. There is no denial to the fact that in the past many of the INGOs have been found involved in dubious activities where the sovereignty of the state was at stake, however, this only happened due to the existing security loopholes. The government's decision to send many of the INGOs home is based on justified evidences but at the same time, we need to realize that not all INGOs come to Pakistan with the same intention; many of the INGOs have been working on pure principles of establishing resource centers in Pakistan in collaboration with the government bodies, employing only Pakistanis thus contributing towards reducing unemployment and giving relief to Pakistanis especially in the sectors of poverty and malnutrition.

If we take the example of Sindh government, the INGOs and government has been working on mutually beneficial bases to address the prevailing concerns especially in the interior regions of the province. They have been successful in developing a model where transparency is of utmost significance meanwhile much of the population is employed in the humanitarian sector. The presence of such INGOs are often seen collaborating with the local NGOs, which certainly contributes to their capacity building through excessive interaction with international experts. Keeping in view the stated facts, should we wish a complete extinction of INGOs in Pakistan may not be wise, rather increased scrutiny to ensure optimum transparency especially in the source of their funding must be maintained. INGOs which have the

policy of act local should be given preference rather than making space of expatriates to fill in the positions nationally and at last but not the least, two-way communication between such organizations and government should be made easy so that exchange of information is made possible on regular bases.

The effectiveness of the operations of such organizations is still a question yet to be answered. It has been observed that the NGOs/ INGOs have not been able to bring lasting changes among the masses. The core principle of such organizations is to involve the community and bring behavioral changes so that living a life under limited resources can be managed in the most effective and efficient manner. For instance, during the times of drought water conservation techniques are taught to ensure survival under water shortages which is actually becoming a reality, but in Pakistan we are still struggling to develop such habits; many believe that the lack of education and exposure is the main reason but that is again debatable as there are an array of NGOs/INGOs working the educational sector and a lot is yet to be achieved.

Many changes have been introduced in the recent past to ensure proper regulation of NGOs/INGOs, but keeping in view that the fundamental humanitarian and developmental issues have been continuing since the independence, it is time that more efforts should be pooled in instead of seeking more funds. Every rupee invested should give double or triple benefit out of it, which means we need optimum and efficient project management which should not rely on traditional means which is usually based on silos rather innovation and amalgamation in each

proposed project must be made mandatory which may be able to bring a lasting change. Having said all this, there is a lot more to discuss as the world of NGOs and INGOs is becoming more demanding and complex keeping in view the surge in humanitarian crises across the globe.

