

8. NGOs, SHGs and pressure groups

Voluntary organisations

1. How are VO's classified

1. They are **private**, i.e., separate from Government.
2. They **do not return the profits** generated to their owners or **directors**.
3. They are **self-governing**, i.e., not controlled by the Government.
4. They are **registered organisations** or informal groups, with defined aims and objectives.

2. Benefits of community participation

1. The participatory process ensures **congruence** between **objectives and community values** and preferences. By rationalising manpower resources utilization, the process reduces **project cost**.
2. **Any change** brought about through development is **more acceptable** to the community if the local people are involved, also, **mistakes are more tolerable** if these are made by people who have to live with them.
3. **Monitoring** is **better** and **sustainability** of the project is **more likely** even after the withdrawal of the external agent, be it government or NGO agency.
4. The community learns from its **own involvement** and from this point of view, participation is a **two way learning process** in which the administrator and the people become co-learners.
5. Active community participation helps rebuild **community cohesion** and **installs a sense of dignity** into the community. People gain in confidence and steadily emerge as real actors in the development process.

3. Critics of community participation

1. Participation **has popularity without clarity** and is subject to **growing craze** and a lot of lip service.
2. Serious analysis of local community life reveals **differentiation in terms of status, income and power**. Community mobilisation cannot correct the basic **social imbalances** that have their roots in deeper socio-economic layers of the society.
3. **Conflicts and rivalries are not uncommon** even among the poor and under privileged. So, the romantic vision of frictionless, **harmonious community** life does not match ground realities.
4. **External intervention** by **social workers** or political activists has been found necessary almost everywhere to **organise the local community** and mobilise the local people.
5. **It has not brought radical changes** in the life of **poor** and the **underprivileged** through autonomous local action only.

4. Profiling NGOs

1. It can be noted that a great **majority of the NGOs** are **small** and about **three-fourths of all NGOs are run entirely by volunteers**. About 13 percent of the NGOs have between 2 to 5 employees.
2. They also **enjoy income tax exemption**. Foreign contributions to NGOs are governed by Foreign contribution regulation act (FCRA), 1976.

5. Advantages of NGOs

1. Non-state actors and institutions **keep a watch on the state**, protest against its injustices.
2. NGOs supplement the efforts of the state in **developmental activities**. Ex: Poverty reduction, etc.

6. Key governance challenges facing NGOs

1. Some are big and some are **very small** thus **leading to asymmetry of power**.
2. Some of the dubious elements have quietly got into the system and in the name of opening such agencies, they have **siphoned funds** from the exchequer.
3. **Only about 10 percent** of the over 22 lakh NGOs file their annual income and **expenditure statements**, revealed by CBI.
4. **IB** report stated that the working of few NGOs in the name of protests against the government activities have become detrimental to the nation development. It led to loss of **2-3% of country's GDP**.
5. It is estimated that only about **1.5 percent of NGOs** actually undertake **developmental work**.
6. Some NGOs are involved in **political activism** with **foreign funds**. A large proportion of NGOs have actively taken part in **political campaigns**, including working as proxies for certain political parties.
7. Claiming **involvement in human rights** initiatives or social empowerment, these organisations are allegedly fronts for foreign supported extremist and secessionist groups.
8. A large part of these funds is also being used for **religious conversions**, which is forbidden under the FCRA.

7. Suggestions

1. All States must have adequate regulatory mechanisms to keep track of the money issued to the NGOs. **Establish a national regulatory agency** to oversee the working of NGOs.
2. Government should motivate NGOs to **voluntary adopt** the '**National Policy on Voluntary Sector (2007)**' for better regulation of sector.
3. Instead of blocking the foreign funds it is necessary for government to ensure further **transparency** in categorising the NGOs based on their funds

sources.

4. There is need to bolster **public confidence** in the voluntary sector by opening it up to greater **public scrutiny**. Making online disclosure of annual reports mandatory.

5. Strengthening of institutional mechanisms to verify **annual reports** and budgets. Encourage **social audits** to facilitate scrutiny by the beneficiaries themselves.

6. **Public donation** is an important source of funds for the NGO sector and one that can and must increase substantially. **Tax incentives** play a positive role in this process. At the same time, Government must ensure that these **incentives are not misused** by paper charities for private financial gain.

7. The Government should encourage all relevant Central and State Government agencies to **introduce training modules on constructive relations** with the voluntary sector. These could cover registration, income tax clearances, financial assistance, etc.

8. There must be a **formal system for registering complaints** and for redressing grievances of NGOs.

9. **Selective handling** of those agencies which are creating **engineered dissent**.

10. Bring all **NGOs** through which **government programmes** are being outsourced and implemented, directly under the purview of the **RTI Act**.

8. Relationship between the Indian state and NGO

1. In India **state policies** have significantly **influenced the formation of NGOs and their activities**. Government provides **financial assistance to NGOs** to support implementation of social development projects.

2. **Ninth five-year plan** proposed that **NGOs** should play a role in development on the **PPP model**. The **agricultural development** policies of the government and its implementation mechanisms **provided scope** and space for NGOs. A case in point is the **watershed development** program, which has led to the growth of NGOs working for rural development.

3. **A Civil Society Window** was started in 2004, in the hope that it would **enable people** to engage with the **Planning Commission** and offer the benefit of their field experiences.

4. During the **11th Five Year Plan** process a **regional consultation** was organised to get civil society **feedback**.

5. Government has brought a **national policy on voluntary sector** to strengthen, promote and develop such institutions.

6. **Successes: Operation flood**, which was a collaboration between **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and Amul** was a resounding success.

SHGs have been at the forefront of facilitating institutional credit to rural poor

along with NABARD.

7. **Failures:** Acharya Vinoba Bhave's **Bhoodan** and JPN's **Gramdan** movement was not backed up by effective **land reform** legislations. Various CSI oriented provisions such as **RTI**, **citizens charter**, social audit etc., are afflicted by problems of **corruption**, bureaucratic **red-tapism** etc.

8. The partnership is yet to achieve its **full potential** due to issues like **political patronage**, lack of workers, **red tapism**, suspicious **vested interests**, demands for bringing political party under RTI.

9. National Policy on the Voluntary Sector, 2007

1. It **aims** to **strengthen**, **promote** and **develop** Voluntary sector. VOs include community based organisations (**CBOs**), **NGOs**, **charitable organisations**, support organisations and **professional associations**.

2. To **identify methods** by which **Government may work together with VOs**, on the basis of the principles of mutual trust and respect, and with shared responsibility.

3. It recognises the importance of **independence of voluntary organisations**, which allows them to explore alternative models of development.

4. To **enable VOs** to mobilise **financial resources** from India and abroad.

5. To **encourage VOs** to adopt **transparent** and **accountable** systems of governance and management.

6. It highlights the need for Government to **encourage all central and state Government agencies** to introduce pre-service and in-service **training modules** on constructive relations with **voluntary organisations**.

10. Various measures to enhance relationship

1. The **2nd ARC** had recommended setting up a **National Accreditation Council to devise an accreditation system** for voluntary organisations obtaining **funds** from government.

2. Encouraging the extension of **SHG movement** to **urban and peri-urban areas**.

3. Government should **give airtime**, **ad-spaces for NGOs**, more **tax incentives**, funds for training of frontline workers. Also, FCRA can be moved to under Finance Ministry and Government can make a provision for **including the leading NGOs** in bodies like **NHRC**, Committees, etc.

4. To **improve women group's financing**, the operations and capital of the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh should be enhanced.

5. Encouraging **CSI participation in self regulatory authorities** such as UGC, BCI, MCI etc.

11. How NGOs are better than state agencies

1. **State agencies** are often **too large** and spread widely to solve problems and

satisfy needs of the local community at the **grassroots level**. This gap is often filled by non-state actors such as **NGOs, Civil society organisations** and SHGs.

2. **Due to their non-state nature**, they are capable of **experimenting freely** with innovative approaches. They are generally not bound by **strict procedures**.

3. Moreover, they are very **specialised** in nature, such as some Bachpan Bachao Andolan (rescuing children from labour), **Akshay Patra (providing nutritional food)**, Goonj (channelling donations), etc.

4. Some NGOs also have **dedicated personnel** who voluntarily join the organisation. So, commitment and dedication would be more from their side than from Government officers.

5. NGOs also have access to **philanthropic donations** from rich persons which are not that easily available to State agencies.

6. Even **Government directs its agencies** to **involve NGOs** in the implementation of projects. For instance, **state governments** partner with **Akshaya Patra** Foundation to implement the **Mid-Day meal** Programme.

Civil society and Good governance

- An independent and effective civil society is one that is outside the realm of government and markets-so they are without vested interests and thus can act as effective pressure groups
- How an independent and effective civil society helps in achieving good governance?
 - Help identify the gaps in governance and work towards filling it
 - Eg: Akshaya Patra tries to bridge the nutrition gap by providing nutritious food complementing Mid Day Meal Scheme
 - Pressurise the Govt. to be more transparent
 - Eg: Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS) and its role in getting the Right to Information (RTI) Act passed
 - Instilling accountability in governance. Eg: Social audits
 - Helps in representing the weaker voices of the society and thus be inclusive
 - Eg: Safai Karamchari Andolan's work in eradicating manual scavenging
 - Ensures sustainable governance
 - Eg: Narmada Bachao Andolan's work in environmental sustainability
 - Act as a watchdog against violation of human rights
 - Spread awareness about new legislations

Challenges that prevent civil societies from reaching their potential

- Lack of resources – financial, funds etc. – compared to the Government
- No legal mandate unlike statutory bodies- hence not included in all policy deliberations
- Tight regulatory framework as seen in the recent regulation of NGOs
- Tend to be narrow in focus
- Many NGO's act as front for malafide activities- terrorist financing, money laundering etc

An independent and effective civil society can bring in the much needed citizen perspective into governance, can contribute a lot in empowering citizens and in making the governance process inclusive, sustainable and transparent– thus they should be promoted through an enabling regulatory framework so that they can reach to their full potential

SHG

1. **SHGs are informal associations** of people who choose to **come together** to find ways to improve their **living conditions**. They **help to build social capital** among the poor, especially women.
2. **Benefits of SHG**
 1. **Women became more vocal** and assertive on social and **family issues**. It also enhances their **self esteem**.
 2. The SHG programme has contributed to a **reduced dependency on informal money lenders**. SHGs also **improve relations of debtors with credit delivery institutions**. To **encourage habit of saving** among members and facilitate the accumulation of their own capital resource base.
 3. It promotes the concept of **group accountability** ensuring that the **loans are paid back**. The SHGs enables the members to **learn, cooperate and work** in a **group** environment.
 4. SHGs supports people in rural areas in **setting up micro enterprises**. Ex: Personalised business ventures like tailoring, grocery, and tool repair shops.
 5. SHGs create a team of **local resource** persons. Because NGOs support often consists of **training people** on how to manage bank accounts, how to assess small business potential of the **local markets** and how to upgrade their **skills**.

6. The **financial inclusion** attained through SHGs has led to reduced **child mortality**, improved **maternal health** and the ability of the poor to combat disease through better **nutrition**, housing and health and especially among women and children.

3. Weakness

1. Majority of the group are **unaware of the schemes of assistance** offered to them.
2. Contrary to the vision for SHG development, **members** of a group do not come necessarily from the **poorest families**.
3. **Strong members** try to earn a **lion's share** of the profit of the group, by exploiting the ignorance and illiterate members.
4. Most of the activities undertaken by the SHGs are still based on **primitive skills** related mostly to primary sector enterprises. There are lack of qualified **resource personnel** in the rural areas who could help in skill upgradation of new skills by group members.
5. The SHG model has led to definite social empowerment of the poor but the **economic gains are not adequate** to bring a qualitative change in their life.
6. **Non-cooperative attitude** of the financial institutions.

4. Suggestions

1. All the members in the SHGs may not have same expertise. So, NGOs can **identify the inefficient members** of the group and can impart **proper training** to them.
2. Frequent **awareness camps** can be organised by the **Rural Development** department authorities to create awareness about different schemes.
3. **Financial assistance** to the SHGs should be strictly on the basis of their **actual performance** without any discrimination on the basis of **caste**, religion or **political affiliations**.
4. There is need for **transparency** in the functioning of SHGs.

Budget 2019-20

To encourage women enterprise,
women SHG interest subvention
programme to be expanded to all
districts

Every verified women SHG member
having a **Jan Dhan Bank Account**, to
be allowed an overdraft of 5,000

One woman in every SHG to be made
eligible for a loan up to 1 lakh under
the **MUDRA Scheme**

SHG vs PRI

1. **PRIs and SHGs have overlapping aims** from **poverty alleviation to enhancing participative democracy**. The two institutions sometimes **compete** with each other for space in development administration and political processes. SHGs are then seen as undermining the constitutional roles of PRIs.
2. **Friction**
 1. SHGs are becoming a **conduit for routing number of development schemes**.
 2. **Alignment of interests of MFIs, NGOs, corporations and donors** with that of **SHGs**. They have been increasingly involved with SHGs rather than PRIs in capacity building.
 3. Some states have mandated **inclusion of SHG members** in **various**

committees of the PRI.

4. **Political prejudice** due to social compositions of PRIs and SHGs has weakened the relationship.
3. However, there are number of **successful examples** where **SHGs** and **PRIs** working in **tandem** have effected a **positive change** in the rural society. The **Indira Kranti Patham Yojana** by Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) in Andhra Pradesh is very active in improving the **livelihoods** of rural poor families.
4. Some **SHGs** work under the Panchayat system for distribution of **pensions, wage labour** under MGNREGA, etc. **Kudumbashree**, a women based participatory poverty eradication programme, is an SHG movement into which there has been **integration of Panchayat tiers**.
5. The nature and mandate of both these institutions requires that they **operate in coordination to utilise resource** efficiently and produce better outcomes. A linkage with the SHGs will **enhance responsiveness**, accountability and transparency in PRIs.
6. While at the Gram **Panchayat** level **SHGs** could be **implementing, monitoring and evaluating agencies**, at the Block and District levels, they can act as a **pressure** group, provide feedback and act as watchdogs. However, it is imperative that the capability and capacity of the SHGs and the PRIs be strengthened for a symbiotic relation.

Donors and Charities

1. **India has had strong philanthropic momentum in the recent past**. While the government continues to be the largest contributor to social sector funding in India, hovering at about 6% of GDP, private philanthropy is expanding and has outpaced public funding growth.
2. **Donors** can be **individuals** and **organisations** that **give away funds and expertise for development**. They can be **international** i.e. like the British DFID and **Indian aid in Africa**, Agencies like ADB and **World Bank**, philanthropists like **Bill and Melinda Gates** through their foundation and **corporates** like the Times Foundation.
3. **Significance of Philanthropy**
 1. **Donation is untied contribution** towards development. The **donor** expects no benefits in return.
 2. **Philanthropists can partner with the government** or itself enter into

a contract with a service provider (NGO) to commission certain social outcomes. Ex: Bill & Melinda Gates funding of **sanitation start-ups**.

3. **Impact investing** with the **intention to generate social or environmental impact**. healthcare, education, livelihoods, clean energy, water etc. for the last two decades. Ex: Reliance industries and Azim Premji foundation.
4. There are **small donors** contributing to social justice campaigns such as the India Against Corruption campaign, campaigns against tribal atrocities etc.
5. It helps in augmenting resources in **addition to the government allocations**.
6. It helps in shaping public infrastructure, **bridging the gaps in the state's delivery system** and **modelling** innovative solutions for the state to scale.

4. **Factors holding back philanthropy**

1. **Excessive form of state control:** Many of the legislations went for widespread governmental controls. The **legal measures include power of enquiry** and investigation, **cancellation** of registration and consequent dissolution, **modify a decision** of the **governing body** and even its supersession and appointment of administrator.
2. **Multiplicity of laws and jurisdictions:** **Diversity of laws across the states** has given rise to emergence of **non-uniform practises**. If an institution registered in one state **desires to expand its activities** to any other area, it needs to comply with a different set of legal requirements.
3. **Lack of confidence in NGO's:** **There is a shortage of NGOs that are efficient and credible**. Trust deficit exists in relation with corporate philanthropists as well.
4. **Attitudes of wealthy people:** **Many believe that their CSR investment is sufficient** and there is no further need of philanthropy.
5. **Lack of philanthropy infrastructure:** There is **no proper infrastructure/mechanism where donors are put** in touch with credible NGOs. Further, there is also lack of trust between wealthy people and social activists.
6. **Human resources:** **There is a lack of talented people to staff foundations**. There isn't an adequate pipeline of talent to help

drive the foundations and charitable institutions.

7. **Regulatory issues:** Government crackdown on foreign donors and international NGOs supporting/working on sensitive social issues.
8. **Lack of tax incentives:** The wealthy have no particular incentive to give unlike in the US, where government taxes money if they do not contribute to philanthropy initiatives.
9. Charities may sometimes used for political and commercial self interests. The Gates foundation has been accused of furthering the agenda of pushing Microsoft in developing nations. It may even be used as a front for money laundering. So scrutiny of donations, particularly foreign, is necessary.
5. Charities in India have been successful in bringing reforms in wide ranging sectors. It is necessary that they become more accountable and government provide them right environment to carry their activities.

Pressure groups

1. **Interest group** is an organisation of people who share a common interests and work together to promote their interest by influencing the government. The pressure groups includes churches and charities, businesses and trade and professional associations, think tanks, etc. Interest groups vary greatly in size, aims and tactics.
2. **Major types**
 1. **Economic association**, such as chambers of commerce, trade unions.
 2. **Professional association**, such as that of architects, doctors, lawyers.
 3. **Public interest group (PIG)**, such as friends of environment who aim to benefit people beyond their membership.
 4. **Special interest group (SIG)**, a subgroups formed within the framework of a main group to focus on a very narrow area of interest.
3. **Reasons for formation of pressure group**
 1. The rise in benefits provided for by the welfare state is leading interest groups to form to protect and extend those rights to their group members.

2. **Increased leisure time**, both in terms of the **shorter working week and more early retirement**, has increased the number of people with time to devote to such activities.
3. Higher **educational standards** have increased the numbers of people with the **organisational skills** to contribute to pressure groups.
4. **Changes in gender roles** have removed many of the **barriers to participation by women** in pressure group activity.
5. **Membership of political parties has declined**. It has been argued that this reflects the failure of the political parties adequately to reflect the needs of different groups of people in society, and that **cause groups offer a more promising route for bringing about political change**.
6. **Globalisation** has strengthened pressure groups in a number of ways. In particular, there is general agreement that **business groups have become more powerful** in a global age. This is because they are able **more easily to relocate production and investment**, so exerting greater leverage on national governments.

4. **Key features**

1. They **exert influence from outside**, rather than to win or exercise government power.
2. Pressure groups **do not make policy decisions**, but rather try to **influence those who do**.
3. They typically have a **narrow issue** focus. In some cases, they may **focus on a single issue** (For instance opposing a planned steel plant development).
4. Members are **united by a shared belief** in a particular cause. People with **different ideological** and party preferences may thus **work happily** together as members of the same pressure group.
5. They try to follow **modern means of exerting pressure**, without fully giving up the **traditional** or old ways of operation. They adopt techniques like **financing of political parties**, keeping the **bureaucracy satisfied**, etc. Their **traditional means** include exploitation of caste, creed and **religious feelings** to promote their interests.

5. **Role/function of pressure group**

1. **Representation:** Pressure groups **provide a mouthpiece for groups and interests** that are not adequately represented through

the electoral process or by political parties.

2. **Political participation:** Pressure groups have become an increasingly **important agent of political participation**. Of UK citizens, 40-50 per cent belong to at least one voluntary association. Interest groups may attempt to **influence elections** in order to get people who support their issues elected. Techniques include **giving money to candidates, endorsing candidates**, etc., are performed.
 3. **Lobbying government:** It include **contacting members of parliament, ministers and bureaucrats** to disseminate information about the positive or adverse effects of proposed legislation. Ex: **FICCI** lobby Government to bring tax reforms which suit industry.
 4. **Educating public:** Interest groups work hard to **educate the public at large, government officials**, their own members, and potential interest group members. They use **sources** like communication medium which include **TV advertisements**, sponsored news paper articles, social media, etc.
 5. **Mobilising public:** The interest groups not only create public opinion but sometimes **draw the general masses into agitational and protest politics**. If they want to set an industry in a particular area, they **create the necessary climate** and make the people of the area demand for the industry.
 6. **Policy formulation and implementation:** In particular, pressure groups are a **vital source of information and advice to governments**. Many groups are therefore regularly consulted in the process of policy formulation, with government policy increasingly being developed through policy networks. An example of such group is **Observer Research Foundation**, which works on policy issues primarily related to Foreign affairs.
6. **Role in policy making**
1. Before independence, **business groups presented Bombay plan** as model of development for free India. Now also they can help in designing models like **renewable energy policy in recent time**.
 2. They can **accumulate pressure on Government** by placing their demands and expressing their concerns on lack of business opportunities. Ex: Before budget, they started to write **articles about rationalising inverted duty**, removing tax on ESOP, which

was eventually followed in budget.

3. Give **scathing criticisms against Government** and opposition for lacunae in promoting business environment. Ex: **FICCI, CII came in open support of GST** and criticised opposition for their adversarial politics.
4. They **present data and research work**. For example, **NASSCOM** has been in active **support for growth of Startups** in India which later led to launching of Startup India mission.
5. In bilateral relations between nations like **India-USA or in international events** like in **Davos**, these groups work with government to **attract business** and investment for India.
6. They are **running engine of economies** and their **concerns are bound to be taken seriously** for continuous growth of nation. Ex: ATUFS launched recently is another example of ongoing pressure from such groups.

7. Positives

1. Pressure groups have become an increasingly important agent of **political participation**. They seek to exert **influence by mobilising popular support** through activities such as **petitions, marches, demonstrations** and other forms of political protest.
2. They keep governments more **responsive to the wishes of the community**, especially in between elections.
3. Pressure groups are able to express the **views of minority groups** in the community who might not otherwise receive a hearing.
4. Pressure groups **compile data** and provide specific information to **policy makers**, thus they work as an informal source of information which is separate from that coming from the public service. Many groups are therefore **regularly consulted** in the process of policy formulation.
5. The role of some pressure groups extends beyond trying to **shape the content of public policy** to playing a role in putting policy into practice. Not only do such links further blur the distinction between groups and government, but they also give the **groups in question clear leverage** when it comes to influencing the content of policy.

8. Negatives

1. Pressure groups in India tries to influence the government mainly through various **unconstitutional method** as **strikes, agitation,**

demonstration, lockouts etc.

2. Pressure groups at times gets influenced by their **sectional and local interest** more as compared to their common interest as seen in **Jallikattu** ban case in Chennai.
3. At times they hinder **development**. In case of protests against **Kudankulam** nuclear power project, people were mobilised on propaganda of safety issues.
4. Pressure groups may represent a **powerful minority force in society** and exert political influence to the detriment of the majority of society. Ex: Anti-tobacco lobby.
5. Some Pressure Groups could be accused of **holding the country to ransom**. Many NGOs have been accused of misappropriation of funds.

9. Limitations

1. In India, **organised groups** largely **influence the administrative process** rather than the formulation of **policy**. This is dangerous as a gap is created between policy formulation and implementation.
2. Furthermore, these groups **vary in their possession of resources** needed to give them influence. Consequently, the **playing field** of these competing groups is far from equal.
3. Many of the groups have a very **short life** because of the lack of resources.
4. In a country like India the **tendency to politicise every issue**, whether it has social, economic, cultural import, restricts the scope, working and effectiveness of pressure groups.
5. Instead of the pressure groups exerting influence on political process, they become **tools** and implements to serve **political interest**.
6. Regardless of which groups are most powerful, pressure group influence is exerted in a way that is **not subject to scrutiny and public accountability**. Pressure groups usually exert influence behind closed doors.
7. The **leadership** of these groups tends to lack **democratic organisation**. Therefore, they may not actually present a true of picture of public opinion, but instead may demonstrate the **desires of the leader** who articulate the groups policy interests to government.
8. Most pressure groups except business groups and big community

groups do not have **autonomous existence**. They are unstable and lack commitment, their **loyalties shift** with political situations which threatens general welfare.

10. **Political party and Pressure group**

1. There are several reasons why political parties are often confused with the pressure groups. Firstly, many **small political parties resemble** pressure groups in that they have a **narrow issue** focus. For example, the British National Party (BNP) is primarily concerned with issues of race and immigration.
2. Secondly, some pressure groups **use elections as a tactical weapon** as a means of **gaining publicity** and attracting media attention, with little expectation of winning the election, still less of winning government power.
3. The **relationship** between the pressure groups and political parties is also an **interesting one**. A pressure group with a close relationship to a political party may work to its advantage. But this **can be harmful at times** especially when the **opposing party comes to power**, the pressure group's influence is bound to decrease on policy.
4. While some pressure groups are linked to particular political parties, there are many which have **no linkage** to any political party.

11. **Pressure group vs Political party**

1. Pressure groups and political parties greatly resemble each other. Both of them are **channels through which public can communicate with the government**. Prima facie, both of them carry out **representation**, facilitate political participation and contribute to the policy process. However, in reality, groups and parties are very different from each other.
2. Pressure groups work for their **own interests** while Political parties work for national interests.
3. Political parties can combine **heterogeneous interest** to secure majority in the election. While, pressure groups has people with homogenous interests.
4. Pressure groups may be **ad-hoc** or permanent depending on their objectives and goals. **Political parties are permanent** and are recognised by Election commission.
5. Political parties **contest elections** while pressure group just

influences the political party in the power. While pressure groups influence **public policy**, political parties create public policies.

6. Political **parties follow constitutional methods** while pressure groups may resort to legal methods like lobbying and illegal methods such as **strikes**.

12. Directive principles and pressure groups

1. **Art 38** mentions about a just socio-economic order. This is where various **trade unions** such as CITU, AITUC affiliated to various political parties influence policies like **minimum wage** (Art. 43), **workers participation in management** (Art. 43A) etc.
2. Organisations such as legal aid, **NALSA** group offer **free legal aid to poor** thus fulfilling objectives of **article 39A**.
3. Environment protection groups like **Narmada bachao andolan (NBA)**, **green peace**, **blue cross** etc., fulfill the objective of a **Article 48A**.
4. **IDSIA help in track II diplomacy** in ensuring a peaceful and cooperative international order (Art 51).
5. **Fair trade organization (FTO)** help in promotion of cottage industries (ART 43).
6. Organisations like **SEWA**, Mahila sashaktikaran andolan, etc have helped formulate various legislations like new **maternity benefit**, criminal law amendment, **IPC 498A** (domestic violence). Similarly **bachpan bachao andolan (BBA)** have made changes in national child policy, new labour reforms, **POSCO** etc fulfilling objectives of Article 46.
7. Organizations like **Akshaya patra** ensure **nutrition** via mid day meal scheme, fight substance abuse etc (Art 47).
8. Organizations like Bhartiya kisan sangh, RKSS, **shetkari sangathan**, help in **fighting for farmers rights** and also in technology dissemination to fulfill objective of scientific farming and animal husbandry (Art 48).
9. Organisations like **National federation for women (NFIW)** have stood against regressive personal laws like **triple talaq**, **polygamy** to ensure uniformity in personal laws in order to enforce a **uniform civil code (UCC)** which bore fruit when SC ruled triple talaq as unconstitutional (**Article 44**).
10. However the negative influence of pressure groups can be felt when some vigilante groups like **Gau Rakshan** samitis become

anonymous empires to prevent cow slaughter as seen in recent **lynching cases** (Art 48), try to influence policy for narrow gains help in concentration of wealth (FICCI, CII) etc.

13. **Indian vs Western pressure groups**

1. **American pressure** groups are regarded as the **fourth organ of the government** but the Indian pressure groups are not yet able to play such significant role in politics.
 2. **In India**, the **cabinet and civil service** are the **main targets** of pressure groups for lobbying purposes rather than the Parliament. However, the **targets of American pressure groups** are the **Congress and its committees** rather than the President for lobbying purposes.
 3. In India pressure groups based on **caste, religion**, region, etc., are more **powerful than** the modern groups like **business organisations**.
 4. A significant feature of American pressure groups is that in the USA pressure groups take **interest in foreign policy issues** while in India pressure groups do not seem to have interest in foreign policy matters. Comparatively, the **Indian pressure groups are** concerned more with **domestic policy** issues and problems, and less with foreign policy matters.
14. In a democracy wants people to express their views and interests. Pressure groups provide means to this.

Caste based Pressure groups

1. **Examples**

1. Harijan Sevak Sangh.
2. Creation of caste based development corporations. Ex: NSCFDC.
3. Political empowerment: Marwari Association in Rajasthan.
4. Increasing self-identity: Celebration of Bhima-Koregaon battle.
5. Political parties: BSP.

2. **Negative fallouts**

Negative fall outs:

- Identity politics- caste based politics. Likelihood of minority castes being left out.
- Fragmented society- reinforcing caste consciousness. Ex: Lingayats in Karnataka.
- Increased social unrest where people fight each other. Ex: caste based violence bhima-koregaon.
- Law and order issue with their agitation turning violent. Ex: Jats for reservation, karnisena (padmavat).
- Violent protests obstructing development through protests.
- Political class agreeing to illegitimate demands. Ex: reservation for Marathas when they do not meet the criteria of socially-educationally backward class.