



## Social Work and Charity

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**Abstract:** There are huge number of NGOs in world and a very large percentage of work force is in Social Work. Charity is also widely present. However there is need for charity to go international for its benefit to reach the poorest.

I have always been an NGO sector person. I believe that what governments can do is often overestimated and what NGO sector can do is under estimated.

An NGO - Non Governmental Organization - is an organization that is independent of Government and engaged in humanitarian social work. NGOs are engaged in education, orphanage, disabled care, environment, old age care, woman's issues, healthcare issues. NGOs get funding from the government, corporate and individuals.

Here are some statistics about NGO sector:

1. There are 10 million NGOs in World
2. The number of people donating to NGOs increased from 1.2 billion to 1.4 billion.
3. One of 10 employees in the USA works in NGO sector. There are almost 1.5 million NGOs in USA and NGOs contribute 5.3% to USA GDP.
4. Almost 12 million Americans work in NGO sector in the USA on full time basis.
5. Around 60 million Americans volunteer total of 7 billion hours to NGO sector and that is about 180 billion dollars. That would almost amount to 4 million full time employees.
6. Thus the number of employees for NGO sector in USA at 16 million is comparable to number of employees in USA in government jobs at 21 million.
7. India has 3.3 million NGOs and that is almost 1 Ngo for 500 people
8. There are 600,000 employees in NGO sector in Australia and they make 8% of work force.
9. 85% of Canadians donate to NGOs and that is almost 10 billion dollars.
10. NGO sector in Kenya is 300,000 full time employees and 80% are under age of 24.
11. 3/4 of employees in NGO sector are women but leadership is held by men.
12. There are 130,000 nonprofit foundations in Europe and these donate around 53 billion Euros per year.

The fact that in the USA there are almost as many NGO Sector employees as Government employees after converting volunteers into full time employees proves how strong and large the NGO sector in the USA is.

Honestly, if governments around the world did their jobs properly NGO sector would not have to exist. NGOs step in due to government failure.

Of course, the government has a known source of funding and that is taxation, apart from public sector profits and payment for services. Essentially the biggest source of revenue for the government is Taxation. Similarly, obviously the biggest source of charity for NGOs is Charity.

In the USA the total charity is around 400 billion dollars and that is 2% of GDP. Individuals give 280 billion dollars accounting for 70% of all giving. Giving by bequest rose to 35 billion dollars. Foundations gave 66 billion dollars. Corporations gave 20 billion dollars. Thus individuals gave almost 70% of all charity.

Charity in Europe is far less than Charity in the USA. For instance, UK charity is at 51 billion Euros which is about 0.2% of UK GDP. Germany's charity level is even less at 20 billion dollars which is 0.1% of GDP. And charity levels in France is even less at less than 10 billion dollars which is less than 0.5% of French GDP. Total

charity in Europe is just 120 billion dollars and that is around 0.6 % of Europe's GDP. Japan's charity levels are also very low at 0.16% of Japan's GDP. India's charity levels are increasing and retail giving is at 20,000 crore rupees which amounts to 0.1% of GDP. Giving by Ultra High Net Worth Individuals is 0.15% of GDP which is less 1% of GDP charity levels in the USA. CSR giving has grown at a 15% rate from 12% of total giving to 23% of total giving in 2021. CSR contributions are expected to reach 32% of total giving.

All this proves that there is enough good in the world even as there is enough evil in the world. Yes, there are corrupt politicians. And yes the giving is not adequate. But there is good in the world and that good can be increased.

One problem however is the lack of internationalization of charity. In the USA for instance, almost 95% of charity stays at home. The internationalization of charity makes sense. Because European and American nations have per capita incomes that are almost 30 to 300 times the per capita incomes of poor nations in Asia and Africa. Just imagine if charity were to get globalised even 50% level. Then if half of the American charity of 400 billion dollars were to go to poor nations that would be 200 billion dollars. And then can increase per capita incomes of 1 billion poor people by 200 dollars per person, which is sufficient to eradicate poverty. Alternatively, look at it this way - the world's richest 10 million - 1% of the population has 200 trillion dollar wealth. Even if 0.1% of this goes to the charity that would be 200 billion dollars and that can increase per capita income of the world's poorest 1 billion by 200 dollars per year or a 50% increase in their incomes. Thus the richest 10 million with 0.1% of their wealth can remove the poverty of the poorest 1000 million. Makes a lot of sense, one would think.