

The
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POST GRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP
DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT
STUDIES

MDE 518: NGOS & SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DATE: 9TH APRIL 2026

DURATION: 3 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 60

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **FOUR (4)** questions.
4. Question **ONE is compulsory**.
5. Answer any other **TWO** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **30 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided**

QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

INTRODUCTION TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

The origins of organizations resembling modern NGOs can be traced back to religious orders, missionary societies, and charitable groups that have operated for centuries. For example, the Ladies of Charity, founded by St. Vincent de Paul in 1617, focused on alleviating poverty in France and remains active today. In the 18th and 19th centuries, organizations like the Anti-Slavery Society (1839) emerged, aiming to address social injustices such as slavery, and religious missionary societies contributed to education and healthcare worldwide. These early groups laid the groundwork for the diverse range of NGOs we see today.

NGOs have played a critical role in challenging conventional development paradigms by advocating for human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. Their work has contributed to the emergence of new frameworks such as the rights-based approach and the sustainable development goals (SDGs). By highlighting issues like social justice and community resilience, NGOs have pushed governments and international organizations to adopt more inclusive and holistic development policies. Major milestones in the history of NGOs that shaped their current global presence.

Major milestones include the establishment of the Anti-Slavery Society in 1839, which mobilized volunteers to advocate for global abolition, and the founding of the International Red Cross in 1863, which shifted focus toward humanitarian aid in crisis situations. The growth of NGOs accelerated after World War II, with organizations like Save the Children (1919) and Oxfam (founded during World War II) responding to specific crises and setting the template for modern humanitarian NGOs. By the

late 20th century, NGOs had become central actors in global development, human rights, and social justice movements.

NGOs are often seen as practical implementers of development theories, especially those emphasizing grassroots participation, empowerment, and sustainable development. Unlike traditional state-led or market-driven approaches, NGOs typically adopt participatory development models that prioritize local knowledge and community involvement. This approach aligns with theories such as participatory development and sustainable livelihoods, which emphasize bottom-up solutions and long-term social change.

Religious orders and missionary societies played a foundational role in shaping early international NGOs by pioneering models of organized voluntary action, cross-border humanitarian work, and community development. Beginning in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, these groups—such as the Baptist Missionary Society (1792) and the London Missionary Society (1795)—mobilized lay volunteers and raised funds to address social issues, spread education, and provide healthcare in distant regions. Their work was not limited to evangelism; over time, these societies expanded their focus to include education, medical missions, and social reforms, especially in the context of movements against slavery and for human rights.

These early organizations operated through voluntary subscriptions and member involvement, creating a template for the mass mobilization and participatory approach that would later be central to modern international NGOs. Missionary societies, for example, published newsletters and letters from the field to inform and engage supporters, much like modern NGOs use communication to build networks and sustain donor interest. By the mid-20th century, as secular development aid emerged, missionary societies were among the first institutions to partner with new governmental donor agencies, thereby helping to bridge the gap between religious and secular humanitarian efforts. In summary, religious orders and missionary societies provided the organizational structure, volunteer ethos, and practical models for international

humanitarian and development work that are now characteristic of NGOs. Their efforts in education, healthcare, and social reform not only addressed immediate needs but also laid the groundwork for broader, more inclusive approaches to global development

Required:

- a) From the case above, discuss the earliest known forms of organizations that resemble modern NGOs, and describe the role they play in society. **(10 Marks)**
- b) Examine the major milestones in the history of NGOs that shaped their current global presence.
(10 Marks)
- c) Explain how NGOs relate to major development theories, and what unique perspectives do they bring to development practice.
(10 Marks)

QUESTION TWO

- a) Discuss the complementary role of NGOs Alongside Governments in Achieving Social Development Goals **(9 Marks)**
- b) Analyze the impact of NGO interventions on health and education outcomes in rural areas.
(6 Marks)

QUESTION THREE

- a) Explain any four innovative methods for supporting citizen participation.
(9 Marks)

- b)** Examine three models of microcredit organizations involving NGOs and the private sector. **(6 Marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

- a)** Describe what should be included in an NGO's basic governance documents **(7 Marks)**
- b)** How has the relationship between NGOs and businesses evolved in recent years? Discuss. **(8 Marks)**