

Further, it is important for voluntary agencies to strike a balance between qualitative and quantitative analysis of issues. When a group's focus is on material development, quantitative analysis will be more useful. Similarly when the focus is on people's growth and their organisation, the group will need to undertake qualitative analysis. As material development and the development of people's awareness of their rights and corresponding duties go hand in hand, it would be advisable to pay sufficient attention to both the qualitative and quantitative analysis. Every material gain for the deprived sections must also accompany the ability of the people to receive benefits and to increase their bargaining power. Often, voluntary organisations reject one aspect in favour of the other. But to be effective in the long-run, they need to have a balanced approach of combining gains in economic development with corresponding gains in the organisational power of the beneficiaries.

Activity 3

Imagine you are planning to start an environmental group which will get involved in recycling of waste material. What kind of waste material would you first collect? What will be your order of priorities if you are going to recycle three types of waste material? Write a short note on your plans.

28.8 LET US SUM UP

We started this unit with a discussion of the state as an association. The state was defined as a special category of association. Its characteristics distinguish it from other associations. This was followed by a discussion of the role the state plays in maintaining laws and order within a territory and in maintaining the general well being of its inhabitants. Then we examine the nature and role of non-state or other associations.

Differences were explained between voluntary and non-governmental organisations. We selected two areas, environmental movements and development of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, for illustrating the role of voluntary organisations. Then we discussed some of the problems facing voluntary bodies. Finally suggestions were offered to promote voluntary efforts in India.

28.9 KEY WORDS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Association | : An organisations of persons with a common interest. |
| Ecology | : A branch of science dealing with the interrelationship of organisms and their environments. |
| Participatory Democracy | : Active partnership of the common people in a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people. |
| Public Interest Litigation | : Intervention by a social action group to make judicial system or courts accessible to the deprived, the poor and victims of social oppression. |

- Voluntarism** : Intentions or motives of those who are assumed to act by their own will and not as determined by the social structure.
- Sovereignty** : An autonomous state, free from external control.

28.10 FURTHER READINGS

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28.11 ANSWERS TO CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Check Your Progress 1

- i) The state is not like other associations. It is a category by itself. It is because the state has certain characteristics it does not share with other associations. These are (i) territory, (ii) sovereignty, (iii) coercive power.
- ii) The state is found within a society and, therefore, the state is a narrower entity than a society. It is possible to find a state which encompasses several societies within its territory. Society is also taken as a concept which refers to the chain of relationships between individuals, between individuals and groups and between one group and another. In that sense, the concept of state refers to only particular types of relationships.

Check Your Progress 2

- i) A voluntary organisation seeking funds from foreign donors is the one which has no or little sources of income of its own. Such a body has to depend on funds from national/international donors. In the light of the globalisation of issues, particularly ecological issues, it makes good sense to pool both resources and efforts for creating a better ecologically balanced world.
- ii) It is neither proper to expect the state to solve all the problems of any group of society, nor it is possible for the state to solve all the problems of any group of society. In this sense, we do not find that the state has already solved the problems of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Their problems are many and they need to be solved by both the state and voluntary efforts.

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