

## The Performance of Non-Governmental Organizations in Family Planning and MCH in Maharashtra State

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This paper presents the findings of an evaluation study of three projects on family planning and health undertaken by three non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Maharashtra State, namely the National Integrated Medical Association at Malegaon in Nashik district, the Centre of Matru Mandir at Oni in Ratnagiri district and the Yusuf Meherally Centre at Tara in Raigad district. The study identifies various factors which determine the performance of a particular NGO and highlights how voluntary organizations, in general, can play a useful role for the promotion of family welfare and maternal and child health programmes in India.

### Introduction

Voluntary Organizations can play a useful role in promoting family planning as a people's movement. In a number of developing countries, the family planning programmes have been organized and implemented by voluntary family planning associations, usually on a small scale, either acting on their own or with government support.

Although India was the first country to start an official programme for family planning in 1951 as an integral part of its socio-economic development plan, the intellectual movement to regulate fertility on the grounds of both the health of mothers and children was started as early as in 1920s. The term family planning emerged as a service to cover all measures conducive to better health and happiness of the family and the country. Some efforts in providing family planning services to the people were made by such pioneers as Prof. Karve, Dr. A.P. Pillai and Lady Rama Rau. There was growing interest among social workers and intellectuals in spreading the concept of small family norm among the masses which led to the formation of a voluntary organization, namely the Family Planning Association of India (FPAI) in 1949.