



VANI
Celebrating 30 Years

VOICE OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

VANI

'VOICE' of the Voluntary Sector



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

2018-19

Annual Report 2018-19

Author: Voluntary Action Network India

Editor: Voluntary Action Network India

Cover & Design: Sri Balaji Arts Printer (sribalajiartsprinter@gmail.com)

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Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)

VANI HOUSE, 7, PSP Pocket,

Sector-8, Dwarka, New Delhi 110 077

Phone: 91- 11 – 49148610, 40391661, 40391663

E-mail: info@vaniindia.org

Website: www.vaniindia.org



@TeamVANI



@vani_info



@VANI India



@VANI Perspective



Mission

"Convene to defend and promote Civic Rights of Collectives and Voluntarism"

Vision

Works towards building a society where voluntarism and voluntary organisations play dominant and constructive role in social cohesion, economic empowerment and national building.

- We aim to facilitate the growth of the voluntary sector in India
- Be a catalyst for change through leadership, research and membership engagement
- Work with the government to shape policy on areas governing the space of voluntary organizations
- Provide platforms for members and other stakeholders to interact and network

Our Core Values

We are a values-led organization and thus believe in these core values.

Justice - To advocate on behalf of the voiceless and oppressed individuals and groups of people ensuring the access to needed information, services, and resources; equality of opportunity; and meaningful participation in decision making for all people.

Equality - VANI is committed to promote equality and respecting diversity. We offer opportunities and resources with shared cultural needs, preferences and beliefs to make sure that we deliver truly a person-centred working environment.

Dignity - We strive to uphold the dignity of every person and believe that each individual should be met with compassion and treated with dignity and respect.

Solidarity - VANI with its National, Regional and Global partnerships extends its solidarity based on collective – civic rights, advocacy and participation

www.vaniindia.org

ABBREVIATIONS

ADA	– Asian Development Alliance
AND	– Asia Democracy Network
BBIN	– Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal
BRICS	– Brazil, Russia, India China and South Africa
BIMSTEC	– Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
C20	– Civil 20
CEO	– Chief Executive Officer
CSR	– Corporate Social Responsibility
CSO	– Civil Society Organisation
FCRA	– Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act
FIDC	– Forum for Indian Development
GO	– Government Organization
GST	– Goods and Services Act
IBSA	– India, Brazil, South Africa
IFP	– International Forum of National NGO platforms
IMF	– International Monetary Funds
MEA	– Ministry of External Affairs
MoRD	– Ministry of Rural Development
RIS	– Research Information System
SDG	– Sustainable Development Goals
UN	– United Nations
VANI	– Voluntary Action Network India
VO	– Voluntary Organization
VDO	– Voluntary Development Organisation

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Foreword by the Chairman



The role of civil society organizations (CSOs) is dynamic in nature. The socio-economic context, extent and magnitude of vulnerabilities and various forms of distress, the power of voices of the marginalized section defines the role of CSOs. VANI plays a critical role in creating an environment so that those CSOs working on assertion of rights and entitlements are protected and social justice and affirmative actions are promoted. Civil Society is that ecosystem in a democracy that carries the power of people to influence change; it is an essential building block for social inclusion and social cohesion. Civil Society in India has always worked by filling in the space untouched by Government and the private sector. Undoubtedly, CSOs play multiple roles and are integral part of demand generation by the citizen and facilitating and interfacing with the State and its agencies including policymakers in effectively responding to those demands.

In India, for last three decades, VANI has been striving towards strengthening, promoting and protecting the voluntary sector. The network is representing responsible organizations that have been selflessly contributing towards nation building, upholding the Constitutional principles of justice, liberty and equality so that the process of economic and technological development does not leave behind its large section of disadvantaged population. Along with the national role, VANI has also built linkage with CSOs and their networks globally. The shrinking of civil society space has been a recurring theme voiced by many. Regulatory requirements are becoming harder and stifling. It has been noticed that the civil society sector faces high trust deficit among the stakeholders. VANI is concerned about these constraints and work towards maintaining the credibility and relevance of the sector before stakeholders like government, private sector, bilateral and multilateral development organizations.

During the reporting year of this Annual Report, in order to create an external enabling environment VANI along with the members in different regions conducted intensive consultations to analyze the regulatory framework and recommended for harmonization. Dialogues are held periodically on the need of synchronization of laws for 'Ease of doing Development work', articulation of agenda for development by building convergence (Agenda 2030) and civil society representation at the global level. As there is an internal demand of self-regulation of the CSOs, VANI has drafted and rearticulated 'Code of Conduct'. Based on dynamic accountability approach a tool on "Self-Certification" has been developed to help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the organisations and to help build credibility of the sector as a whole. Being a voice of the sector, VANI undertook number of initiatives to motivate grassroots organizations to document their success stories and challenges. There is a need for members to effectively use social media to communicate about the contributions of CSOs in vulnerability reduction and capacity development of communities in the process of recovery from distress and building resilience.

To enhance the effectiveness of CSOs and leadership, various consultations and workshops were organized in the country. Special attention was paid to collectivize the CSOs working in North East area of India. In this report the outcome of the Guwahati consultations received special mention. There are many other initiatives that have been reported in this report.

On behalf of all the members, I would like to express my sincere thanks to those who stood by us and supported VANI in its initiatives. Let us work together in building the credibility and relevance of the civil society by continuing our positive work in nation building with equity and justice.

Binoy Acharya

Chairperson, VANI

From the CEOs Desk

VANI as an apex body of voluntary organisations has always played a very decisive role in bringing forth the issues of legal framework, enabling environment and challenges faced by the voluntary sector. VANI's meticulous and consistent efforts have been very instrumental in providing information and capacity building to its members and the voluntary sector. VANI believes that for the just and equitable growth of the country, effective and vibrant voluntary development organizations (VDOs) are prerequisite. Hence, the dream of VANI is based on three pillars: first, positive enabling environment for VDOs; second, capable and effective Voluntary Sector, and third, effective partnerships and collaborations with government and private sector. The overarching strategy to achieve this objective is evidence-based advocacy, interactive educational events, and collectivization of sector, multi-stakeholder engagement and promoting positive narrative in public domain. This year many National and State level Round Table discussions were held to build a constructive dialogue towards Resilient and Vibrant Civil Society. During the South-South Civil Society Conclave the discussion revolved around having an effective representation of Civil Society Organisations in multilateral groupings. This year VANI rearticulated its 'Code of Conduct'. This is now a tool of "Self-Certification", based on the Dynamic Accountability approach and makes the VDOs accountable and transparent. VANI was also focused on promoting compliance and resilience hence VANI initiated the capacity building as well as epistemological intervention in this area. A strong effort was also laid in improving the public narrative of the sector as the sector continuously struggles with the information flow in the public domain. Being a voice of the sector, VANI undertook number of initiatives to motivate grassroots organizations to document their success stories and challenges. In this financial year 2018-19, VANI took an initiative to develop regional leadership and collective strengthening of Voluntary Sector in Northeast India. Consultations held in Assam and Guwahati emerged with several local level issues. It was also documented that the sector is garnering bad image due to lack of knowledge in maintaining proper financial accounts as the CSOs are unaware of many rules of accounting and taxation.



This year VANI also focused on collectivizing the sector at national level with its specialized forums like the CEO or Leader Forum, CFO Forum, and Women Leadership Forum at both National and Regional levels, to bring people together on a common platform. In 2018-19 VANI along with HelpAge India started a conversation around building a sectoral resilience through internal system strengthening by analyzing the current fiscal realities facing the sector. Similarly, VANI organised a round table meeting with the national and regional level women leaders where a need for a comprehensive mapping study to trace the status of women employment at different levels across the voluntary sector was proposed. For the regional level following recommendations were proposed - building a public narrative to sensitization of regional issues through success stories on social media, linkage with state and district level networks, identification and collaboration and inclusion of males in the initiative to bring about and encourage attitudinal change.

VANI is very fortunate to have a very conducive and productive relationship with our partners and funders. We are also thankful to various departments and ministries of government at national and state level for giving VANI and its member's space to raise the concerns of the sector. We extend a special gratitude to Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Prime Minister's Office. This year we are very proud of our association with Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) for giving us an effective platform for multi-stakeholder interaction on India's Development Cooperation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of VANI for his or her continuous support and guidance to the VANI team and also for keeping their trust in VANI. I am also thankful to our financial and technical supporters. We are highly grateful to Civic Engagement Alliance, Heinrich Boll Foundation, FORUS, Global Standard, and AFD in making this financial year successful. The working committee of VANI has also been very supportive through out the year, and we are very appreciative to their constant guidance and engagement. We are also grateful to Chairperson and Treasurer of VANI for creating mechanism for effective governance, management, and financial systems. For any organization, its team plays a very critical role in realizing its mission and mission therefore a huge thanks to the VANI team and its members spread all across the country.

The current Annual Report captures the status of the past one year activities and achievements. Numerous significant developments, indicates that VANI is undertaking its role in the advancement of the voluntary sector. We welcome the valuable comments and suggestions of our readers for strengthening VANI and providing future direction.

In solidarity,

Harsh Jaitli

**Chief Executive Officer
VANI**

VANI – Voice of the Sector

An Introduction

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), across the globe are currently facing challenging times due to rapid changes in the socio-political and economic landscape. The civic space is dwindling; regulatory requirements are becoming harder and stifling, frequent negative portrayal in the media is affecting their image, raising questions on their credibility. They are being subjected to increased scrutiny. All these are in-turn affecting their resource availability and sustainability.



VANI's National Consultation held at Delhi

In India's context, the Voluntary Sector has played a rather significant role in India's development since independence. Over the years organisations working within the sector have witnessed a substantive growth in size, number as well as nature of work. There has been emergence of several new entities in the form of Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Social Movements, Social Entrepreneurship Initiatives, Corporate Foundations, Network Bodies, Theme Based Groups, on the horizon. However, along with growth, ominous developments in social sector landscape are being witnessed in recent time.

There is enhanced scrutiny from multiple quarters, retaliatory backlash as a repercussion to questioning the status quo, stifling of fundamental freedom. Thus, there is an urgent need for setting of strategic priorities for the sector, to explore

possible synergies and interactions within CSOs, in order to build resilience and ensure long-term sustainability. Here comes the role of Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) who is on a mission to strengthen the voluntary development organisations. VANI provides a common platform to dialogue and discuss the pressing needs of voluntary organisations. These views and suggestions are then used for evidence-based policy making with the government, policy makers and donors to bring their attention to these issues. Not only this, VANI also focuses on building capacities of voluntary organisations on the inward mechanisms of associations and organisations for producing optimum impact.

30 YEARS OF VANI

VANI is an apex body of voluntary organisations in India. Set up in 1988, the network was envisioned to build a society where voluntarism and voluntary organisations play a dominant and constructive role in social cohesion, economic empowerment and nation building.

Key Achievements

Some out of many of VANI's achievements on regulatory framework, internal system strengthening and leadership in the international arena are enlisted below:

- VANI played a critical role to advocate for and widely disseminate Model Bill for Society Registration among the state level networks.
- The Indian Voluntary Sector, through VANI, proposed the historic Alternative National Budget, an unfathomed move amidst TINA campaign (There Is No Alternative) of the government. This was later acknowledged by the then Prime Minister of India Mr. P V Narisimha Rao.
- Advocacy initiative under Lokpal Bill resulted in relaxation in government's ask for personal information disclosure of governing board members and their family members

Building Compliances

- After the amendment of FCRA act, VANI conducted FCRA Clinics around the country to de-mystify law, create awareness and prepare the voluntary organisations (especially grass-root level organisations) about the changed requirements and their adherence.
- VANI was closely associated with Planning Commission to develop and disseminate the National Policy for the Voluntary Sector.

Global Initiatives

VANI has played an important role in establishing global footprints of the Indian VDOs on global development discourse.

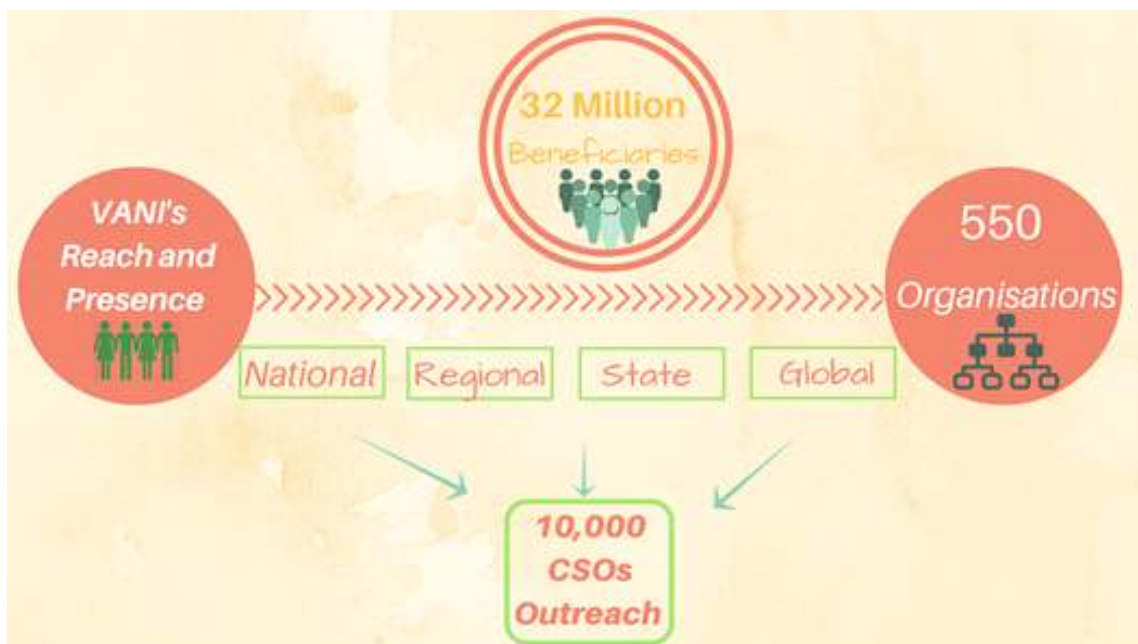
- Civil Society (which are primarily issue focused) to involve seriously in the monitoring of implementation of SDGs.



Dialogue on advancing the role of Indian CSOs in achieving agenda 2030

- VANI is a member of international Networks like Forus (formerly known as International Forum for National Platforms (IFP), CIVICUS, Affiliation Group of National Associations (AGNA), Asia Development Alliance (ADA), Asia Democratic Network. It has partnered with International Civil Society Centre, Accountable Now and few other global networks to draft Global Standard for CSO Accountability.
- VANI is the founding member of Forum for Indian Development Co-operation (FIDC) for exploring the various facets of development co-operation. VANI partnered with FIDC and organised CIVIL BRICS.
- In addition, VANI has been drawing attention of the voluntary sector to monitor social implications of international development partnerships including BBIN, BIMSTECH, and Blue Economy.

Creating Impact since 1988



Strengthening external enabling environment

VANI believes that for the just and equitable growth of the country, effective and vibrant voluntary development organizations (VDOs) are prerequisite. The state, VDOs and private sector are the essential pillars for such growth and mutual partnership. This can only happen if there is enabling external environment for VDOs to function and VDOs are capable, efficient and supported. **Hence, the dream of VANI is based on three pillars: first, positive enabling environment for VDOs; second, capable and effective Voluntary Sector, and third, effective partnerships and collaborations with government and private sector. The overarching strategy to achieve this objective is evidence-based advocacy, interactive educational events, and collectivization of sector, multi-stakeholder engagement and promoting positive narrative in public domain.**

a) Harmonizing Regulatory Framework: To bring in the desired coherence amongst the different laws affecting the sector and enhanced compliance, VANI, as a Sub-Group Member, has been constantly holding debates for the need for synchronization of Law for 'Ease of doing Development work' especially with Government of India's Think Tank i.e. Niti Aayog.

b) Promoting inter-sectoral linkages: VANI promotes participation and collaboration between multiple stakeholders including Government, Corporate and VDOs. VANI has put in efforts towards building convergence through a common thread - Agenda 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals). It came out with a comprehensive report on SDG 17 as a vehicle for promoting partnerships at the local and national level. VANI will take forward this agenda of bringing together the three pillars in the coming years more strongly (given the fact that India presents its Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report at United Nations in 2020).

c) Promoting Global Development: Premised on effective and inclusive South-South Cooperation principles, VANI has contextualized Civil Society inclusion in India's Development Cooperation, based on its seminal research- 'India's Global Footprints'. India's bilateral partnership in the South-Asian neighborhood has been studied through a 'development lens'. VANI is a founder member of FIDC (a Ministry of External Affairs led forum) where it represents CSO aspirations. For meaningful representation of its members, VANI actively participates in global civil society alliances such as FORUS (global network of national



VANI's study on "Enabling space for Voluntary Sector in India" is presented to Ms. Anne Kuik, Member of Parliament, Netherlands.

platforms), CIVICUS (global network of CSOs) and Asia Development Alliance (network of Asian national platforms) and is part of European Commission's Policy Forum on Development and Partnership Forum.

Collectivizing Voices



In order to take forward the agenda of collectivization of the sector, VANI is fostering linkages to bring in synergy, learning and sharing between diverse stakeholders. In the year 2018-19 many joint Forums, bringing together CSOs- Corporate and Government were held to create a collective force to attain social transformation.

National level

This year VANI organised various consultations, meetings, dialogues and round tables on pertinent national issues affecting the sector. These discussions witnessed the participation of diverse stakeholders and groups with the objective to discuss voluntary sector issues and concerns that were commonly affecting Non-Profits in general.

Round Table Discussions



Discussions like National Registration Law and self Certification of Voluntary Organizations; "Harmonizing Regulatory Framework" of Civil Society Organisations; A dialogue towards Resilient and Vibrant Civil Society; Strengthening CSO's Government Relationships; were held in New Delhi to have a dialogue about the voluntary sector issues, self-regulation, harmonizing regulatory framework of CSOs; building effective partnerships for inclusive development, and understand the current challenges faced by the Civil Society Organisations.

National Consultations

Civil society consultation: India-ASEAN Strategic Partnership & Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank was held in New Delhi to build a partnership between ASEAN and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and promote the role of Voluntary Sector.



Pratibimb: Reimagining Voluntary Sector was held in Delhi with the objective of looking at its strategic role towards strengthening the sector and its constituents.



South - South Civil Society Conclave – the discussion revolved around having an effective representation of Civil Society Organisations in multilateral groupings such as BBIN, BIMSTEC, SAARC, and ASEAN and seek opportunity for increased participation.



State Level Meetings/Workshops

Several workshops and discussions took place in 2018-19 in the states like Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, and Assam.



Bolstering Sector From Within

Promoting accountability and transparency

In the era when space for voluntary action is being redefined globally, India is no different. On one hand the regulatory environment is becoming more complicated and traditional windows of partnerships are being replaced with new spaces. The strategy for resilience by the VDOs differs due to their location, size, strategies and themes.

VANI keeps its commitment of strengthening the voluntary sector in the center while implementing all its interventions. In such a regulatory environment, it becomes necessary for the VDOs to become accountable and transparent. In such environment, it becomes very difficult for donors to identify and support good and genuine organizations. With the strong base of 550 members and with outreach of thousands, VANI started working on methods, methodology and instruments to highlight such organizations. The role as a knowledge creator about the sector was further strengthened to design instruments for showcasing good and genuine organizations. Building on data collected through various educational events and its partnership with global project on reference standards, VANI rearticulated its 'Code of Conduct'. This Code of Conduct not only has variable indicators but also was produced from extensive conversations and consultations. This is now a tool of "Self-Certification". It is based on the Dynamic Accountability approach. It encourages organisations to seek feedback from all its different stakeholders, work on it and go back to the stakeholders with the status update. This improves the efficiencies of organisations and helps build credibility. VANI has stated and shall continue building the capacities of Indian Civil Society on the need for adopting and internalizing such practices.



Promoting compliance and resilience:

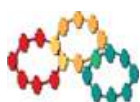
We live in challenging times where laws are becoming complicated and single act of non-compliance can attract heavy penal action. VANI develops tools complemented with on-ground training to handhold organizations to be on the right side of law. Most of the organizations are facing resource crunch due to frequent change in fiscal and regulatory policies. On one hand many large organizations have tuned their financial and management systems but numerous smaller organizations are facing the threat to their existence. Based on its studies and feedback from stakeholders, VANI worked towards strengthening the organizations in coping up with this challenge. Various studies have shown that there is gap between available resources and expectation from the field. This year VANI initiated the capacity building as well as epistemological intervention on this area.



Narrative of the sector:

There is very less information in public domain about the challenges and achievements of the voluntary development sector. In last decade or so, we have made our language so complicated with jargons that people on the street don't understand the nature, functions and challenges of the Voluntary Development Sector. Being a voice of the sector, VANI undertook number of initiatives to motivate grassroots organizations to document their success stories and challenges. The emergence of social media should be seen as an opportunity to further this objective.

Enhancing Capabilities



This year several workshops and meetings were held at national and state level.

Dialogue on Dynamic Accountability for Enhancing CSO Effectiveness

Workshops on CSO Accountability were held in Nagpur, Maharashtra and Raipur, Chhattisgarh. It saw the participation from the states like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal and Delhi. The consultation was organised with the objective to re-orient VANI members and non-members (especially small and grass root level CSOs) about the need for having as well as implementing accountability standards within their organisations. Therefore, the emphasis of the discussion revolved around strengthening the organizations, focusing on the organizations working on the grassroots, by adopting best practices to deal with external difficulties



Developing Regional Leadership and Collective Strengthening of Voluntary Sector in Northeast India

As a part of VANI's initiative to collectivize the CSO working in North East area of India, consultations were held in Assam and Guwahati. Various local level issues emerged like - need for building an independent Civil Society Organization Network that can leverage on local concerns and issues like scanty penetration of CSR funds to eastern region, innocuous violations leading to harsh treatment of voluntary organizations, non-participation of voluntary organization in state level policy decisions, harassment by state authorities and problems with state disbursements. Further, it was recognized that lack of knowledge in the area of

proper maintenance of accounts has created bad image for many NGOs in northeast. The voluntary Sector is not aware of many rules of accounting and taxation; therefore, the need for capacity building for the sector was also recognized.



Building Resilience of Voluntary Sector of Jharkhand

In this workshop; organised by LEADS and VANI, it was recognised that as a group there is a need of forming a body to facilitate communication between the Voluntary organization and Government of India, a structure to ease the operations. Moreover, it was deliberated that a people's manifesto should be formed to create a state level alliance. It was also suggested that the organization should work more on the thematic and intervention area.



VANI Forums & Regional Hubs

In order to collectivise the sector, at national level, VANI has set up specialized Forums like the CEO or Leader Forum, CFO Forum, and Women Leadership Forum at both National and Regional levels, to bring people together on a common platform.

CEO/Leadership Forum

It is an umbrella body for the Chief Executives and senior leaders of the Indian Civil Society. The key purpose of the Forum is to facilitate interaction and cooperation across the full range of issues around regulation, governance, sustainability, way forward and so on.

Chief Executives' Forum/ CFO Forum

The CFO Forum is a high-level discussion group formed and attended by the Chief Financial Officers of Indian Civil Society with the aim to influence development of financial reporting, value based reporting, dialogues & technical support on drafting government petitions and related regulatory developments for Indian CSOs. The Forum provides a platform and opportunity for CFOs and controllers to exchange ideas freely, dissect problems and discuss important issues with peers.

In February 2018 VANI along with HelpAge India hosted a conversation on building sectoral resilience through internal system strengthening. The conversation was weaved around analysing the current fiscal realities facing the sector in the wake of systematic attempts to squeeze the sector financially. The dialogue aimed to examine Strategic Financial Management as a transformational process, to improve long-term financial resilience and enable choices for an enhanced impact within organizations.

Women Leadership Forum

The Women's Leadership Initiative (WLI) was ideated in 2017 to address the issue of lack of presence of women at leadership positions (as CEOs and Members of Governing Board) in the Indian Civil Society. The Initiative offers female senior managers working in Civil Society Organisations a unique opportunity to develop their leadership, enhance their visibility and to enable them to network and influence the wider external environment, to increase the representation of women in senior positions, particularly at chief executive level and in boards.

Round table of women's leadership forum

VANI organized a round table meeting with the national and regional level women leaders on 11th December 2018. This meeting was conducted as a way forward of the meeting, which was held in February 2018, who's agenda was to view the women's representation at the managerial level. At the end of this meeting, as recommendations, it was proposed that at the National level there is a need for a comprehensive mapping study to trace the status of women employment at different levels across the voluntary sector, institutionalizing the process of agenda setting, mentorship to prepare second line leadership. For the regional level following recommendations were proposed - building a public narrative to sensitization of regional issues through success stories on social media, linkage with state and district level networks, identification and collaboration and inclusion of males in the initiative to bring about and encourage attitudinal change.



Regional Hubs

We have state champions nationwide supporting the state networks of VANI. Our four state networks are -

Uttar Pradesh Voluntary Action Network (UPVAN) - 75 Members

Jharkhand Voluntary Action Network (JHARVAN) - 48 Members

Chhattisgarh Voluntary Action Network (CHAGVAN) - 100 Members

Maharashtra Voluntary Action Network (MAHAVAN) - 150 Members

They facilitate the Civil Society Organizations of these regions in providing the support and bridging the functional/operational gaps.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

As of 31.03.2019

Extracted from Audited Statement of Accounts 2018-19

INCOME	In INR
Grant Foreign Source	1,42,26,837.00
Other Income	25,25,472.10
Total Income	1,67,52,309.10
Expenditure	
Programme	1,42,83,299.00
Administration	37,05,288.05
Depreciation	23,729.13
Total Expenditure	1,80,12,316.18
Excess / (Deficit) of Income Over Expenditure	(12,60,007.08)



Workshops/Training participation by VANI staff in 2018-19

VANI strategic meeting

VANI's team went on a four-day strategic retreat, on 29th October to 1st November 2018, to Jim Corbett, Uttarakhand. This strategic meet highlighted various Organisational areas of operation. This retreat was organized to have an overview of the organization's working in the Internal Environment, where a few of the discussion points included dialogue on shrinking space, regulatory laws, funding sources, accountability, transparency, partnership etc and External Environment; which included discussion on enabling environment, participation on global platform and forums and bringing recognition to the sector. This excursion was an opportunity for the team to introspect at organizational development goals.

TRAVEL DETAILS

PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL EVENTS
• May 11, 2018: Fund Raising programme at Vishwa Yuva Kendra (VYK)
• September 28, 2018: Training Programme on NGO Management at VYK
PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS
• April 8-10, 2018: Round Table on Project management Institutes for NPOs, USA.
• May 29- June 4, 2018: Affinity Group of National Associations (AGNA) AGM at Georgia Tbilisi.
• June 25-27, 2018: East Asia Democracy Forum at Taiwan
• August 6-7, 2018: C-20 at Argentina
• September 4-9, 2018: International Forum of National NGO Platform (IFP) in collaboration with ACCION, to attend strategic week of IFP at Santiago
• 29-30 November, 2018: Towards an Advocacy Strategy for Defending Civil Society's Right to Access to Resources, NED Meeting in Washington DC
• 5-7 February, 2019: Accountable Now, to attend Global Standard Project Partners Meeting in Berlin, Germany
• 18-19 February 2019: SASAKAWA Peace Foundation in Tokyo, Japan
• 26-27 February 2019: Asia Democracy Network (ADN) and Asia Development Alliance (ADA) Meeting in Mongolia

Building Partnerships

VANI was formed in the year 1988 with the mission to promote voluntarism and create space for the voluntary sector by fostering value based voluntary action. Since then, using advocacy as its principle instrument to catalyze change, VANI has taken up a series of advocacy initiatives at global, national, and state level. Being an apex body of voluntary organizations, VANI works as a catalyst between the Indian voluntary sector and other actors like central and state governments, bilateral and multilaterals.

Eligibility for becoming a VANI Member

- Voluntary development organizations including women's and youth organizations (excluding religious and political organizations, corporations [local and foreign], government agencies, funding agencies, family trusts and international organizations);
- Organizations that regularly publish/print annual and audit reports;
- Legally registered and democratically functioning organizations working for the promotion of development;
- Individuals with a track record in voluntary action and currently not working with any voluntary organizations (maximum 15 % of the total existing membership base).

Types of engagement with VANI

VANI has three ways of association with organizations and taking up membership.

1. Individual Membership:

Individuals who believe in voluntarism and are engaged in practicing the objective, principles and values of VANI as defined in VANI's "Statement of Purpose", and who are committed to work for achieving the objectives of VANI.

2. Organizational Membership:

Organizations that believe in voluntarism and are engaged in practicing the objective, principles and values of VANI as defined in VANI's "Statement of Purpose", and who are committed to work for achieving the objectives of VANI.

3. Associates:

Organizations that believe in voluntarism and are engaged in practicing the objective, principles and values of VANI as defined in VANI's "Statement of Purpose", and who are committed to work for achieving the objectives of VANI.

Benefits

- **100% compliance achieved by trained voluntary organisations**
- **99.99% organisations have not faced FCRA, IT problems after workshops**
- **550 organisations made sustainable, activated and resilient**

Rights and Privileges of the Members

- To work actively to fulfill the objectives of VANI and to make its programmes effective.
- To be a part of all the General Body meetings of VANI
- To receive minutes of the General Body meetings
- To contest elections for the Working Committee
- To encourage new social development organisations and individuals to apply for VANI membership

Membership Entails

- Immediate access to updated Membership databank, Research and Studies done by VANI
- Opportunity to participate and vote for becoming governing board member
- Priority given during workshops and events
- Get a chance to feature in VANI's Communication system
- Receive reliable solutions to all your compliance issues

Roles and Responsibilities of Members

1. VANI members will always conduct themselves in an ethical, responsible and respectable manner in all circumstances, and not engage in or write offensive action/material on behalf of the network, as in alignment with VANI's vision, principles and values.
2. Submit its annual and audit report to VANI secretariat so that database of CSOs could further be strengthened

3. Sign and follow VANI's "Declaration for Responsible Governance and Management of Voluntary Organisations
4. VANI members do not represent VANI members will not act as official representatives, nor speak of and/or in the name of VANI network unless otherwise stipulated in writing by the board or secretariat
5. Pay Annual fee on time

How to Apply?

VANI's membership process is very simple and user friendly. Membership can be availed in two ways -

(a) Through the online process -

Please visit the link here <https://www.vaniindia.org/membership-form.php>

(b) By using the registered post method

Organisations/individuals who are sending the application via registered post are requested to do the following –

1. Send all the required documents
2. Make a Cheque or DD in the Name of – Voluntary Action Network India. Post it to VANI's Office in New Delhi.

Address: VANI HOUSE, 7, PSP Pocket, Sector 8, Dwarka, New Delhi-110077

Phone: +91-11-49148610, 40391661

Email: info@vaniindia.org

Way Forward

Way Forward VANI aims to be the leader of the Indian Civil Society. The feedback received by VANI from its different stakeholders' points towards VANI performing the following role:

Voice / Amplifier to the voice of sector

There is an urgent need for the sector to get together and put forth an amplified collective voice concerning the issues around organisational civil rights including that of forming association, assembly and freedom of expression.

Thus VANI, being an apex body of Voluntary Organizations aims to become the Voice of the Indian Civil Society when it is threatened. Harmonization of Law is another issue that VANI aspires to undertake in the coming years.

Needless to say, the situation created by CSR and FCRA is complicated and geared differently in its application for local and foreign grants.

VANI intends to undertake an in-depth analysis and recommend relevant changes to the concerned line departments and ministries. It is intended that we would like to form a taskforce to guide this comprehensive examination and subsequent processes within the scope of this endeavor.

Building a positive public narrative of the voluntary sector is another major area, which VANI aims to undertake. VANI shall create a repository of success stories, best practices from within India and outside, to showcase contribution of the sector to different stakeholders.

Congregator for collectivising the sector

VANI intends to collectivize the sector at two levels - regional and national. It aims to promote leadership, bring together different Organisations and Bodies including CSOs, Activists, Thematic Groups, Thought and sector leaders, Thematic experts, Social Movements and Groups, Corporate Foundations, Institutions. This shall strengthen the power of people to organise, mobilise and take collective action. In order to collectivise the sector, at national level, VANI has set up specialized Forums like the CEO or Leader Forum, CFO Forum and Women Leadership Forum at both National and Regional levels, to bring people together on a common platform

Convener

VANI firmly believes in healthy society, where people have multiple opportunities to come together, participate, deliberate and act for common good. VANI has been and shall continue to provide multi sectoral platform for dialogue to key stakeholders by way of holding, facilitating and organising Consultations, Conclaves, Workshops, and Trainings, formal and informal Discussions. These shall range on themes on which VANI already has an established expertise like governance, compliances, accountability, transparency, and fundraising. Also, VANI shall undertake research on different issues, analyse and convene to generate and share knowledge and take action to strengthen the civil society.

Aggregator

VANI is a representative body of the voluntary sector, which is big and has diverse information needs. There is thus a need to provision voluntary organizations with time saving solutions to meet their everyday operational needs and enhance their efficiencies and effectiveness. These information needs could be basic and simple like provision of name/s of credible voluntary organisation working on a particular thematic area or in a specific geography, reliable accreditation agency, monitoring and evaluation expert/s, academic and research organisations, media experts, thematic experts or credible agency providing services of professionals like Chartered Accountants, Legal or financial experts. The information could also be on theme-based studies. VANI therefore envisions to perform the role of an aggregator with the help of establishing a robust Information Hub to cater to the information needs of its multiple stakeholders and general public at large.

Annexure I – VANI Team

Name	Designation
Apurva Ajmani	Programme Officer
Arjun Phillips	Programme Manager
Dheeraj Kumar	Facility Supervisor
Harsh Jaitli	Chief Executive Officer
Mamta Soni	Programme Secretary
Nivedita Datta	Programme Manager
Ravi R Rawat	Accounts Officer
Raj Kumar Sharma	Admin Assistant
Ram Lal Mehra	Office Assistant
Shruti Sharma	Programme Officer
Syed Abdul Rafey	Secretariat Support
Vanshika Bhatnagar	Programme Officer



The vibrant and energetic team of VANI

Annexure II - Board of Directors

General Body - is the supreme body comprised of all members of VANI (networks/federations, organisations and individuals).

Governing Body - makes decisions on behalf of the members and is composed of 16 elected members from the General Body, which also elects two office bearers, the Chairperson and Treasurer. The Working Committee has four subcommittees namely: Programme, Networking, Membership, Finance and Management Committees.

Secretariat - is headed by a Chief Executive Officer appointed by the Working Committee, and is an ex-officio member of the Working Committee. The Secretariat has programme units, each led by programme officers/managers with their respective professional and support staff. The CEO liaises between the Secretariat and the Working Committee for planning, implementation and monitoring of the organisation's activities.

Governing Board of VANI

S. No.	Name	Gender	Occupation	Position in the Board
1	Binoy Acharya	M	Director, Unnati-Organisation for Development Education	Chairperson
2	Harsh Jaitli	M	Chief Executive Officer, VANI	Member Secretary
3	Anuja Bansal	F	Executive Director, Plan India	Treasurer
4	Gargi Banerji	F	Founder, Pragya	Member
5	Saradindu Banerjee	M	SHG Promotional Forum	Member
6	Raju Kumar Narzary	M	Executive Director, NERSWN	Member
7	Hemal Kamat	F	Director & Secretary Concept Society	Member

S. No.	Name	Gender	Occupation	Position in the Board
8	G. Placid	M	Director, SAHAYI – Centre for Collective Learning and Action	Member
9	Puja Marwaha	F	Chief Executive, Child Rights and You (CRY)	Member
10	K. Panchaksharam	M	Secretary & CEO, Federation of South India Producer Association (SIPA)	Member
11	Basant Yadav	M	President, Sahabhagi Samaj Sevi Sanstha	Member
12	K.N. Tiwari	M	Director, Disha Social Organisation	Member
13	Sunil Kaul	M	Director, The Ant	Member

Annexure III – Research Publications (2018-2019)

Study	Objective
Sustainability in the Context of Indian Civil Society Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assesses the different existential challenges faced and documents successful Sustainability Strategies/models adopted
Study on Capacity Building and need Assessment of Voluntary Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to make organizations healthy and strong to counter external forces at the time of crisis
Financing Sustainable Development- Civil Society Perspective on Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the role of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in galaxy of diverse Multilateral Development projects across the world
India's Development Cooperation with ASEAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate India-ASEAN partnership from a civil society perspective
C20 Engagement Strategy for India's Civil Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage the Indian Civil Society in a debate on development issues taken up by G20 for effective policy decisions

PS – For more publications please visit the link here - <https://www.vaniindia.org/details.php?id=167>

About Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)

VANI is a national network of Indian Voluntary Development Organizations (VDOs). Currently VANI has 540 members with an outreach to around 10,000 VDOs across India. The membership of VANI ranges from grass roots to the national organizations. The members work on a range of priority development issues of the government including education, health, nutrition, integrated child development, livelihood, skill development, environment, natural resource management, climate change, water and sanitation, emergency response and preparedness, agriculture, poverty and so on, in some of the most remote areas of the country. In the year 2017-18, our network collectively reached out to over 32 million people belonging to vulnerable and marginalized groups including children, disabled people, women, elderly, farmers, dalit, tribals, disaster survivors, unemployed, youth, LGBT, sex workers etc. VANI through its efforts and strategies aims to build a strong civil society sector not only at national but regional and local level as well.

VANI was set up with the mission to promote voluntarism, create space for the sector by fostering value based voluntary action. VANI's interventions are focused to strengthen the external and internal enabling environment. To ensure the external enabling environment, VANI conducts evidence-based advocacy which includes regulatory frameworks and resource generation. In order to achieve this VANI works with the government, private sector, bilateral, multilaterals and other stakeholders. For strengthening the internal enabling environment, VANI works towards building resilience and promoting accountability, transparency and compliance through the interactive educational events and information dissemination. VANI strives to become a resource centre by conducting evidence-based research; publishing studies, articles and reports not only at state level but national and global level as well.



Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)

(An Apex Body of Voluntary Organisations)

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Sector-8, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110 077

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