Human Resource Management in NGOS – A Case Study on TRF Foundation

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ABSTRACT

The effectiveness of an organization depends on its human resources and its qualities which organisation or any industry uses to the maximum. Non-Governmental Organizations(NGO) are not part of the government but they have significant role in pursuing the various activities like literacy development, environmental community support, health, women empowerment, employment, Animal Protection, Human rights and so on. These organisations have a legal status and are registered bodies under the specific Act of the government. Human Resource is an vital components out of all other resources for any organisations. Human resource management is the management of the people who work in an organization. Human resource practices focuses on the different aspect that can enhance the potential of an individuals like managers, employees, coordinators, project officers, field workers etc. Training and developing, performance appraisal, potential appraisal, career counselling, employee welfare, health and safety are few of the human resource management accomplish. This paper on TRF Foundation aims to explorethe role of human resource as an integrating factor to the service sector like NGO's. study tries to analyse the organisational structure and does the SWOT analysis. Today, fast changes in the business environment and the advances in technology, communication and consumerism, planning of human resources has become an incessant activity on the part of HR functionaries working in NGOs. In this pandemic can the NGOs survive with the constraints like fund management and resource scarcity in providing a better environment to the human resources in an organisation?

Key words: Management, Human Resource Management, Non-Governmental Organization, Talent Research Foundation

I. INTRODUCTION TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS:

Non-Governmental Organizations(NGOs) are involved very much in the socio-economic development of any country. These organizations can be found both national as well as in international levels. NGOs function as legal, nonprofit, non-political and are accountable of their all work in the society. In NGOs there are variety of organizations like charitable, associations, religious, research institutions, social organizations, community based organizations, civil society groups and so on. The word "NGO" came into effect in 1945 because of the need for the UN to differentiate in its charter between participation rights for intergovernmental specialized agencies and those for international private organizations.

Rajesh Kothari defined NGO as "an independent, autonomous and vibrant sector which can work on social and development problems of the country with the freedom that the government institutions do not have and a sense of commitment and concern for the people, that the business sector does not much care for"

Roles and functions of NGOs and changing needs:

The role of any NGO is to contribute to development of the nation through involving in various issues like- Education, Health, Livelihood, Micro-finance, Human rights and many more. It is up to the NGO to decide issues on which they want to work for. We can find several good NGOs in



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parts of India which are working not only on charity model but also on Rights based model. The charity model of NGO involves charity interventions like providing immediate relief to the community. It can be in form of Food, clothes, medicine, etc. While the Right based model involves building the capacity of local

communities to stand up for their rights and questioning the discrepancy in the system and keeping track of development as promised by the government.

Types of NGO and Their Development:

According to World Bank NGOs have been classified into four categories. They are:

Types of NGOs					Characteristics
1.	Charitable NGO	Os			Service oriented NGOs
2.	Participatory	NGOs	and	Class	Empowering NGOs
Organization					
3. Community Based Organisation			Community Development Oriented Organisation		
4. International NGO			NGOs which are working in more than one country		

NGOs in India

NGOs India is committed to social justice, sustainable development and human rights. The right to communicate freely is a basic human right and a necessity for sustainable development. Access to information is essential to informed decision-making at all levels. NGOs India is committed to the dissemination of information and promotion of sustainable development initiatives, in response to the needs of underrepresented and marginalised sectors of society. For bridging the data gap and improving information availability NGO network is committed to develop and establish an ideal medium for the Participation and exchange of a trusted and accurate source of quality information.

NGOs in Karnataka

Karnataka Non Profit Organisations/ Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs/ NPOs/ VOs) are part of social development and welfare of the state people. NGOs in Karnataka has been actively working for genuine social development programmes and welfare activities of urban and rural communities. Karnataka NGOs are participating in social development and charitable issues organised by government and welfare groups. Karnataka NGOs are always ready to com ahead to work for the upliftment and betterment of the children, women development, education, social awareness and other objectives.

Non-Governmental Organisations in Karnataka are functioning for Child education, child welfare, child rights, women development, women empowerment, old age homes for old age persons, physically and mentally handicap persons, and upliftment of slum children and women, NGOs are well organising education, health, social justice, disaster management, natural resource management, agriculture development, social awareness, betterment of backward and deprived

communities, poverty and distress relief programmes.

NGO has been implementing the programmes related to employment, female feticides, rain water harvesting, animal welfare, science and technology, sports, development of art, craft and culture, heritage protection, conservation of historical places, the issues like conservation and protection of environment, human rights, social equality, drinking water issues, legal awareness and aid, nutrition, right to information, rural and urban development, forming and supporting Self Help Groups, research and development are main part of the major active NGOs in Karnataka.

Human Resource Management

HRM generallydenotes to the whole of the HR task, replacing the previous term 'Personnel Management' (PM). The rich and continuing supply of qualified manpower is essential in an organization. Human Resource Development viewed as a sub-set of HRM, dealing specially with its developmental objective – the enhancement of effectiveness in the personorganisation fit. True HRD is possible only when the organisation as a whole is constantly reexamining its jobs, positions, structures, and systems from periodic assessment.

Evolution of Human Resource Management

The personnel purpose in India originated in 1920s with the concern for labour welfare in factories. The Trade Union Act of 1926 gave formal recognition to workers' unions. The Royal Commission of Labour 1931 recommended the appointment of labour welfare officers and the Factories Act of 1948 laid down the duties and qualifications of labour welfare officers. Further, the Indian judiciary played an important role in expounding the correct scope of the protection envisaged to the working class by the legislation

Volume 5, Issue 3 March 2023, pp: 1856-1865 www.ijaem.net ISSN: 2395-5252

that was enacted in several spheres of IR as per the spirit of the Constitution. Consequent to the passage of a number of labour and industrial relations laws, personnel managers began performing industrial relations as a very significant role. The IR role of personnel managers formed such an important part of their work that they came to be known as children of the Industrial Disputes Act 1947 (IDA). All these developments formed the foundation of the personnel function in India (Balasubramanian, 1994; 1995) and paralleled the initial developments of the British personnel function.

The importance of Human Resources (HR) in a non-governmental organisation (NGO) as a means of ensuring sustainable growth for an organisation cannot be overemphasized, as it is the fundamental strength upon which people; strategies, processes and operations are based. Effective employee management should be on top of the list of priorities for progressive improvement of an organisation. A NGO must strive to attract, develop and retain qualified and enthusiastic employees as they are the key to the success of one's business. HR in a NGO is no different to HR in any other sector, but the problems that HR professionals face within the NGO sector are quite unique.

Main problems concerning HR in the NGO sector today:

The first is the high unemployment rate which causes an exceptionally high number of under qualified job seekers to stream into the NGO environment, the reason for this can also be attributed to an industry that does not have the competitive advantage when it comes to salary benchmarking. This leads to shortages of qualified skilled employees in the industry; and the second is retaining highly skilled and qualified people and them motivated. keeping Learning development are central to both the performance and development of employees. It can be beneficial for an organisation to offer employees equal and full access to learning and development opportunities that are aligned to their career development, well the skills and as as competencies required to meet business performance and growth objectives.

The challenges for managing HR in a NGO arena are kind of unique, wherein you struggle to get a job-ready-talent and once someone is ready, the next challenge is to retain that talent. The evolving economic and political scenario also has added to the volatility this sector already had, making it further difficult to attract

good talent & keep them committed to the cause as part of the workforce.

Introduction to TRF

Talent Research Foundation (TRF) is one such NGO, which within a very limited period has made rapid progress towards addressing the issue of Muslim education and employment.

Talent Research Foundation, set up on 25th December 2005 with the objective of empowering Muslims in education, employment, besides strengthening communal harmony, has already carved its niche through its unique programmes. The organisation was established with the initiative of Mr.RaufPuthige, a renowned social worker and entrepreneur. At present, this Mangaluru-based organisation has 13 dynamic young leaders striving to achieve the lofty goals of the organisation. TRF also setup an advisory panel consisting of expert academicians and renowned Scholars.

The one flagship programme of the TRF over the past eight years has been the "BACK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN" targeting young and not-so-young school dropouts and bringing them back to the world of knowledge and thereby to the arena of progress and empowerment. Through back to school campaign nearly 132 drop outs centers have been opened all over Karnataka, of which 1897 students attempted for exams and results was tremendous SSLC 37 percent, PUC 70% percent respectively.

Talent Research Foundation Objectives

- ✓ Upliftment of Muslims through education empowerment and communal harmony.
- ✓ Empowerment of Muslim women through programmes for girls' education.
- ✓ Providing modem and technical education to Moulavees of Deeni Madrasas and thereby trying to make them eligible for governmental facilities.
- ✓ Self-employment training program for the women.
- ✓ Motivating school drop-outs to pursue education through "Back to school campaign".
- ✓ Training women in home and cottage industry.
- ✓ Guidance and help in securing various government scholarships to the deserving students
- ✓ Training programmes for graduates to face competitive examinations such as IAS, IPS, KAS and KPS.
- Career guidance programmes for high school and college students.



Volume 5, Issue 3 March 2023, pp: 1856-1865 www.ijaem.net ISSN: 2395-5252

✓ Felicitation programmes to young achievers in order to turn them into role-models for the rest of the community.

TRF Empowerment programmes:

- ✓ Back to school campaign
- ✓ Graduates meet
- ✓ Computer training
- ✓ Mobile phone/electronic gadgets training for youth
- ✓ Home science training for women
- ✓ Orientation Training Programme for "Dropout school" teachers/faculty:

- ✓ Self-employment Training for ladies / house wives
- ✓ Personality development
- ✓ Career guidance
- ✓ Felicitations
- ✓ Future Plans
- ✓ Agricultural development
- ✓ TRF Events Communal Harmony
- ✓ Educational awareness programme
- ✓ TRF Events Health Awareness

The Outcome of Humble Effort Till Ramadan 2014

e Outcome of Humble Effort 1 in Kamadan 2014			
Back to the school campaign	Total Centers	Total Students	
	130	1978	
Self employment training for	Total Batches	Total Beneficiaries	
Youth & Women	18	656	
Scholarship drive	Total Amount allotted to Students	Total Beneficiaries	
	through Q or Service	4930	
	3.65 Crores		
Marriage of women crossing the	Total Assistance	Total Beneficiaries	
age of 30 Years	36 Lakhs	74	
Distribution of note books	Total Books Worth	Total Beneficiaries	
	26 Lakhs	11800	
Housing for the destitute	Total Expenditure	Repair/Newly Built	
	15.74 Lakhs	16	
Financial aid for deprived families	Total cost	Total Beneficiaries	
	4.60 Lakh	113	
Salutation for Talents Achievers	Total Award	Total FeKcHations	
	8	Conferred	
		1017	
Assistance for Physically	Total Disbursements of	Total Surveyed	
Challenged people	Assistance	144	
	3.21 Lakhs		
Competitive exams training	Result (Cleared in Preliminary	Beneficiaries	
	Exam)	174 Students	
	6		
Petty shop & cycle for depressed	Total Cost	Total Beneficiaries	
families	1.5 Lakhs	14	

(Source: Annual report)

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

NGOs have to adopt good HR practices to provide quality work to the society and as an employer have to take care of employees' health and welfare(Divya M.S &T.N.Sreedhara, 2014)Human Resource Management role within the non-government organisation (NGO), volunteer and not-for-profit sector and its capacity to positively commit to volunteer well-being and build healthy communities has become topical among governments, professionals, management practitioners, scholars and communities across different national settings(Timothy Bartram).

The human resources within the country show a major part in its development. Human Resource Development is concerned with developing skills, knowledge & competencies of the people. It is people-oriented concept. Human Resource Development can be applied both at the national & organizational level. In society, people need competencies such as knowledge, attitude, values, and skills to perform various tasks (Dehkar R.G 2020).

The human personnel comprise permanent personnel, circumstantial partners and volunteers. Citizens and especially those that have expertise in the areas they operate in, are eligible

Volume 5, Issue 3 March 2023, pp: 1856-1865 www.ijaem.net ISSN: 2395-5252

to become members of NGOs, in order to help promote their goals. In the globalized reality, which leads to increased competitiveness, proper management of human resources is particularly important for all the executives of NGOs(Aspridis, George).

Need for the study

There are various studies are done on Management, financial management, General Management and Human Resource Management but few studies are done on Human Resource Management in NGOs. At the same time, NGOs has a limitation for the effective utilization of human resource in the organization. So there is a need for the study.

Objectives of the study

- 1. To know the role of Human Resource Management in NGOs
- 2. To understand various HRM tools of Human Resource Practices in NGOs
- To study Human Resource practices in TRF Foundation.

Research Methodology

This paper concentrates on the case study of TRF, an NGO functioning in Mangalore. The human resource management data were gathered from discussions with the manager. The annual reports which are of secondary data and at the same to understand the existing research in the field. Thus books, journals and magazines are referred.

III. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS:

NAME	TRF
	3
Address	Vishwas building KankanadyMangaluru
Name of the founder	Mr. Abdul Rauf Puthige
Year of Establishment	2005
Registration Detail	11/2006-07
Taluk / Districts -Locations	1
Branches of the organisation	Single location

(Source: Survey Data)

Table 1.2 Progammes and Special focus areas

PROGRAMMES	TRF
Related to Education	1
Awareness programmes on Health	5
Self employment& Vocational training	2
Sanitation & Hygiene	4
Women Empowerment	3
Awareness on human rights	8
Girl child Safety	6
Service for the old aged	7
Agriculture - support systems	9
Natural resource management	10

(Source: Survey data)

Observations and interpretations:

The above table describes on the TRF organization doing a yeomen service to humanity. It is found that they are more involved in uplifting human lives, empowering, and supporting in sectors like education, agriculture, self-employment/vocational training, and sanitation found to be of top priority. While women empowerment, girl child safety, natural resource management, awareness on human rights and

services for the old age are also taken up in right earnest.

TRF: Education, Self-employment and Vocational training, Women Empowerment, Sanitation and Hygiene and Awareness programmes on Healthand importance they give for Education, Women empowerment, agriculture support and support for self-employment and thereby to achieve one great agenda of uplifting the recipient's economic status and self-respect.



Volume 5, Issue 3 March 2023, pp: 1856-1865 www.ijaem.net ISSN: 2395-5252

What this study has found different as a priority when having discussion on issues of priorities with leadership at **TRF**, they said it is mainly Education. They provide scholarships from primary to higher education. They help people to get government supported benefits for education of minorities- Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains. They provide training on career development to students and have a well-equipped

library with books related to career and personality development. They have special unit in their premises, which imparts education-supporting activities only for Muslim women -free of cost, like- younger women get English speaking skills and others vocational and job oriented trainings. They also provide coaching to all groups of people on -'how to face competitive examinations'.

Table 1.3 Organizational Structure and Style

	TRF
Organisational structure	Functional
Leadership style	Paternalistic
Performance Report To	Government
	Founder of the NGO

(Source: Survey data)

TRF are formed under the trust act and are governed under the Indian Trust act. Hence, they

report to government agency like Income tax department and donors get 80G benefit.

Table 1.4 Functioning of the Organization

Table 1.4 Functioning of the Organization		
TRF		
Daily		
1		
4		
3		
Rs. 15,000 & Above		
Rs. 10,000 & Above		
Rs. 5,000 & Above		
Personal Contact, by Mail, Newspaper,		
Posters, Announcement at the Mosque		
Yes		
Yes		
Less than one week		
Less than one week		
Less than one week		

Qualification of the employee	
Top	
Middle	Post Graduation
Lower	Graduation
	Graduation
Age group of employee	
Тор	
Middle	30-40
Lower	30-40



Volume 5, Issue 3 March 2023, pp: 1856-1865 www.ijaem.net ISSN: 2395-5252

	20-30
Type of Recruitment	Personal Recommendation
Religion Considered for Recruitment	Yes
Gender of the candidate	No
Number of Staffs	09
Male	5
Female	4
Hindu	-
Christian	-
Muslim	9

(Source: Survey data)

Observations and interpretations:

Table shows the different styles of functioning of three NGOs. **TRF** plans daily, **CODP** fortnightly and **SKDRDP** once a year. As mentioned in the literature review on functional planning though day to day is preferred as operational as done by **TRF** it is impractical as the decisions here are taken by the Founder and if he is unavailable the meeting or decision taking is impossible.

In this study it has mentioned as:

Top level employees-it represents management staff who are in positions such Director in CODP(1) programme coordinators(6) and In TRF President(1) and In SKDRDP –Manger (1) project manager (1)

Qualifications - Top level- Post graduates

Remuneration- 15,000 and above

Age group- 30 to 45 years

Duration of Training: Less than 1 week.

Middle level: Receptionists, accountants, field

staff, coordinators of activities.

Qualifications - Middle level- Graduates

Remuneration- 10,000 and above

Age group- 20 to 35 years

Duration of Training: Less than 1 week.

Lower level: Drivers, Sweepers, attendees,

Kitchen staff, gardeners

Qualifications - Lower level- SSLC & PUC

Remuneration- 5,000 and above

Age group- 20 to 35 years

Duration of Training: Less than 1 week.

Observations and interpretations

NGOs convey the messages to the recipients of their services and it is done through:

- By person personal awareness talks/ through group talks
- Through Local Newspapers
- Announcement at religious centers: Through temple, church or mosque announcements
- Through posters /banners/pamphlets/booklets
- Through Website
- By inviting other NGOs to address or form a common forum to address a issue.

Every NGOs target audience is poor and the needy. Hence, staff /leadership should listen more, be empathetic towards them, and be flexible and responsive to the needs of the poor. The staff that is closest to the poor, those at project operational level, to guide the organization in its programme design and implementation to allow the needs of the poor to be identified and met. They bring thoughts, feedback and identify problems and they need to be in a written documentation for further action.

Staffing:

Observations and interpretations

It is observed that the NGO follow a common pattern like- personal recommendations and walk – in interviews. TRF recruits candidates of Muslim origin only.



Volume 5, Issue 3 March 2023, pp: 1856-1865 www.ijaem.net ISSN: 2395-5252

SWOT Analysis

Table: 1.5 Strengths

	14010110011000110110
TRF	
\rightarrow	Excellent Team work
\rightarrow	Committed Staff
\rightarrow	Visionary Founder
\rightarrow	Focused on timely help

(Source: Survey data)

Observations and interpretations:

Above table on strength's- suggests that the NGO having committed staffs that are focused on the recipients of the programme benefits. They make them aware of the benefits, prepare necessary papers, fill them listening to recipients, and follow up on government schemes. It found them work as a team, collaborating and

cooperating with each other. What it found amazing is the staff's willingness to listen and their patience to deal with most of poor and low-income group of individual recipients. **TRF** it found people have great admiration towards the Founder and they are motivated by his involvement and praise they receive.

Table: 1.6 Weakness

TRF	
\rightarrow	Delayed decision Process
\rightarrow	Disagreement between the members
\rightarrow	Lack of fund
\rightarrow	Govt intervention
\rightarrow	Gender Bias

(Source: Survey data)

Observations and interpretations

TRF talked about limitation to funds as recipients look for help or loans. Many a times the fund crunch never allows them to expand their activities and this curtails their reach. Further, they talked RBI regulations on fund transfer, which has kept many donors away. It also talked about government interference in NGO activities.

It has been reported in economics times Dt 18th April 2015, under the heading- "The NGO –Govt Showdown" The report talks about Action against – Green Peace India and an imminent crackdown on Ford foundation and Teesta Setalvad's NGO In Gujarat. It also reports that Union Home ministry issuing show cause notices on organisations receiving foreign aid and on filing returns and their foreign contribution regulation act (FCRA) licence cancellation etc. Also Deccan Herald Dt. 19th April 2015- reports about Green Peace India facing governments wrath. TRF talked about not having great linkage with government

agencies. Government agencies do not disclose full details on schemes & programmes, which can benefit poor or target recipient for whom these schemes are drawn up. TRF conveyed the constraint of taking decisions on urgent issues as they are dependent on their founders, the decisions are delayed, and recipients may not get help when needed. It also talked about employee Attrition. Qualified employees look for better wage and growth opportunities. NGOs are having fund crunch may not be able to attract talent to remain with them as they cannot pay salaries what other commercial organisations pay. In addition, they cannot expand as funds are a problem and people will not get promotions easily. Female employees talked about gender bias as far as involving them in decision-making process. It is observed this need to be addressed immediately by all NGO managements as today women are equally competent and found to have multiple skills when compared to men.



Volume 5, Issue 3 March 2023, pp: 1856-1865 www.ijaem.net ISSN: 2395-5252

Table: 1.7 Opportunities

TRF
Enough local demands
Cooperation
Support from religious communities
To conduct group activities
Govt benefits to students

(Source: Survey data)

Observations and interpretations

TRF says that there are enough local demands and they need to cash on them and make good of this opportunity. They feel that they find a great cooperation from their target recipient groups and this itself is a great opportunity for them to think innovative project for them in future also find great support coming from their religious communities

and found they are ready backup for furthering the projects and asking them to bring innovation in their projects. **TRF** find new government initiatives and funding plans for agriculture and education sectors and they plan to mobilise their target members and create greater awareness in them to secure these facilities and get benefitted out of it.

Table:1.8 Threats/Challenges

TRF	·
\rightarrow	Opposition
\rightarrow	Government interference
\rightarrow	Fund Crunch

(Source: Survey data)

TRF feels a great opposition usually comes from the political class as many of their activities are for upliftment of poor and making them aware of their rights and seeking government intervention to alleviate their problems and the political class becomes the target of few protests undertaken. Like best example now Indian Government Vs the farmers of India on Land acquisition bill. Itfeels RBI regulations on fund transfer, which has been keeping many donors away and it has hit them badly in their fund collections. It also talked about government interference in NGO activities as reported in several newspapers at all India level; they feel government interference can come in the way of their growth and activities.

TRF is increasing their numbers and range of activities, their donor's number is remaining almost same, and they find crunch in funds, as there is more competition for funding too. If a NGO is over dependent on government aid or funding they find it difficult to speak out on issues which not so popular at local level and spearheaded by governments, hence they run the risk of losing legitimacy and Donors may held them accountable for such actions. TRF in my study they face fund crunch and that does not allow them to expand their activities, grow faster and add new branches, which gives promotional chances for existing employees. Additionally they

cannot pay higher salaries even though people have better qualifications.

Major Findings and Suggestions

- The Study reveals that, TRF NGO is a competent organisations and are driven through a vision and had a great resolve towards their mission.
- TRF has own strengths and weaknesses and they are found to be competing to mobilise the funds to provide good services to the community.
- TRF makes strategies different from the others since their focus on community development and self-sustainability. Study found is the satisfaction of recipient target group and effort from all three NGOs in their respective area of —Special focus is commendable.
- The study observed like other any organisation, NGOs also handle all the organisational resources. Hence, the basic principles of management are also applicable to NGOs. However, NGOs are not corporate and do not have organisation structure, that fixes authority-responsibility and relationship. members work voluntarily independently on the principle of affiliation and are flexible. NGOs are people's initiative for the purpose of social service for empowering society and building social



- capital. Unlike corporate, NGOs work in competition free environment. However, like corporate, NGOs too have vision, mission and objective. Application of concept of management is essential for accountability and good governance. Many NGOs also have a combination of paid staff and volunteers, making this a more complicated issue for human resource management as well. We all seem to agree about the high level of complexity of NGO management and need to have the principles of management applied for its functioning!
- NGOs as observed few are well organised as they have an international support system in place and the management style and functioning is transparent, as they have to follow the system and policies laid down by their supporting organisation. The scale and varieties of activities undertaken by the TRF NGO in this study indicate that they need to be monitored well to achieve better results and they have paucity of funds, probably because of that, they have been using paternalist decision process.
- Study observed they need to decentralise the decisive powers to few chosen supervisors after a thorough training to tackle localised issues. However, they can centralise decision on fund allocation through meetings conducted on a quarterly basis at the NGOs head quarters. An issue gender bias was observed, study suggests that the organisations should implement inclusive strategies and equal importance need to given to employees of opposite sex and they need to included in the strategic planning and decision-making processes.
- It is a fact that every organisation including an NGO needs a strategy, if they have to effectively achieve their mission for which they are created. The senior leadership of the organisation including the visionary leaders should own the responsibility for creating and managing effective organisations. They need to develop clear concepts, principles and framework and effective models that their employees can use to formulate and deploy strategy throughout the organisation. There need to be better coordination in the internal activities and there should be better

- communication and alignment with the external environment, which includes of recipients benefits, donors and governmental agencies. I feel all the three NGO need to embrace strategic planning tool as a tool for organisational change. They need to identify long-term goals and direction for the organisation.
- The study suggests that it is not only important to have a strategic plan but it is also important that it should be implemented. All people involved in the organisation do the implementation of strategy and they need training on processes and concepts, people orientation, governmental procedures, communication skills and team skills for performance improvement.

IV. CONCLUSION:

A strong organisational strategy that shows how to gain competitive advantage should address all four elements of the SWOT analysis. It should help the organisation to determine how to use its strengths to take advantage of opportunities and neutralise threats. Finally, a strong strategy should help an organisation avoid or fix its weaknesses. If an organisation can develop a strategy that makes use of the information from SWOT analysis, it is more likely to have high levels of performance.

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