

Adapting the Concept of Community Foundation to the Indian Situation

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Abstract

The paper explores emerging opportunities for deepening social democracy and social justice work, together with a proposed rationale for adaptation and viability of the community foundation concept in India.

In his paper, Partha Rudra, Director (Programs), National Foundation for India, begins with the understanding that although it may have originated in the United States, community foundations now constitute a global movement with a wide variety of forms, and structures. In examining the US model, he argues that community foundations in the United States have played a useful role in serving the disadvantaged at the local level, while building endowments from individual donations, bequests and corporate donations.

Using this example, Rudra argues that India needs to establish many community foundations or community foundation-like organizations to accelerate the process of economic development and strengthen social justice. Like their counterparts in the US, Rudra argues that community foundations in India have to play a strategic role in mobilizing people, raising resources from diverse donors, bridging gaps in local programs, promoting institution building and serving as nodal point for multi-sectoral partnership. With a mature civil society sector, a favorable legal and fiscal climate, and a rich body of work that has already strengthened community-level institutions, the paper argues that the community foundation movement in India has a strong base on which to build.

To request the full version of the paper, please click [here](#)

