

Analysis 1

Brief overview

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As mentioned earlier, we selected the social workers to be profiled, based on their work, besides a couple of other factors. Having profiled them, we decided to look at the diversity, through various aspects such as gender and region.

The following tables present an easy-to-assimilate overview of the analyses we have done in the following three chapters.

Gender diversity

Men	18
Women	4
Total	22

Regional diversity

North	3
West	3
South	5
East	3
Central	4
Northeast	4

Religious diversity

Muslim	4
Christian	3
Hindu	15

Educational qualification

Less than graduation	1/22
Graduation and or above	21/22
Postgraduate studies and professional qualifications	10/22
Medicine	2/22

Economic background of parents

Higher middle class	None
Middle class	18
Lower middle and indigent	4

Profession of parents

Salaried job in the government	6
Teaching	4
Salaried job in private sector	1
Self-employment / business	3
Farming and farm labourer	2
Politics/social work/preaching	3
Other	1
Lost earning member during early childhood	2

Profession of spouse

Social work or related profession	7
Other than social work	15

Prior experience of working with NGOs before starting own NGO

No prior experience	4
Worked for some years with other NGOs	18

Focus of activities of the NGOs covered in the study

Agriculture, water and livelihood creation	8
Organising and empowering marginalised	4
Health and wellbeing	4
Mental health issues	2
Urban poor	1
Digital divide	1
Runaway children	1
Supporting role to NGOs	1

A quick overview of all the above tables indicate that all the social workers come from backgrounds like the rest of us, had no special privileges while growing up, most of them cut their teeth on the job, working with some NGO and getting introduced to the world of social work. Aspects such as geographical and religious diversity and socioeconomic background of the social workers clearly demonstrate that they are not barriers when there is an inner urge to do something for the society. While we have made categories of core activities of the NGOs under headings such as livelihood and health, in most of the cases, these categories are not strictly water tight compartments. Those working in the field often work on several issues simultaneously. For example, somebody working on promoting livelihood is also engaged in organising and empowering women that is the basis of the subsequent livelihood promotion work.

In the next chapter, we have discussed their journey in detail and the lessons one can draw from them.