

Fayoum University

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***The Role of Voluntary Associations in Achieving  
Sustainable Development Goals in Rural Egypt***

**Within the requirements to obtain a master's degree in social work**

**Industry Development and Planning**

by

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## **First: The Problem of study**

Sustainable development is of great importance at the level of the contemporary world because of its importance, as it includes the inevitable connection of environment and technology with economic and social transformations with a focus on a better life of high value for each member of society in the present and future, it aims to eliminate poverty and inequality and improve Health, education, creating decent job opportunities, providing clean energy, water and infrastructure, protecting the natural environment and biodiversity, and tackling climate change in an atmosphere of peace and justice.

Voluntary Associations are among the most important civil society organizations working in the development field in general and the field of sustainable development in particular, and it is one of the most important forms of non-governmental organizations in the Egyptian rural community as these associations embody an important principle of development, which is the principle of popular participation. Involving the largest possible number of people in development activities, so it has become one of the best non-governmental organizations that can achieve the goals of sustainable development in the Egyptian rural community.

## **Second: The importance of studying**

**The importance of the study is determined as follows:**

- 1- The close connection between resources and the human needs of the citizens in the countryside obliges the government to involve

- all actors, including civil societies, to develop an integrated social vision that contributes to satisfying the needs of citizens and solving their problems, which is what this study is concerned with.
- 2- This study contributes to clarifying the role of Voluntary Associations operating in the countryside in achieving the goals of sustainable development 2030 through active participation in implementing those development policies.
  - 3- The global, international and local changes that have occurred in the Egyptian context and their repercussions and impacts on the process of development and reform, which include the need for the participation of civil community organizations in achieving the goals of sustainable development.
  - 4- The knowledge need confirmed by previous studies in the field of sustainable development and the need for the participation of Voluntary Associations in achieving it in rural Egypt .
  - 5- The results of the study benefit decision-makers in reaching the activation of mechanisms to achieve Sustainable Development Goals in Rural Egypt (Egypt vision 2030).
  - 6- Enriching the theoretical knowledge building of the social service profession in the field of development policies in general and sustainable development in the countryside in particular.
  - 7- The researcher's specialization in the field of "development and planning" is concerned with everything that contributes to achieving social change and the development and development of the rural community. This is what made the researcher focus on modern issues related to sustainable development goals and their activation in the rural community.

### **Third: Objectives of the study:-**

- 1- **This study aims to achieve the main first objective of defining "the role of Voluntary Associations in achieving sustainable development goals in the Egyptian rural community"**

#### **A set of sub-goals emanates from this main objective, which are:**

- a) Defining the role of Voluntary Associations in achieving the social goal of sustainable development in the Egyptian rural community.
  - b) Defining the role of Voluntary Associations in achieving the economic goal of sustainable development in the Egyptian rural community.
  - c) Defining the role of Voluntary Associations in achieving the environmental goal of sustainable development in the Egyptian rural community.
- 2- **Second Main Goal** :Definingthe obstacles which limit the role of Voluntary Associations in achieving sustainable development in Egyptian rural community.
  - 3- **Third Main Goal** : Defining mechanisms to achieve the role of Voluntary Associations in achieving sustainable development in Egyptian rural community.
  - 4- **Fourth Main Goal**:Definingthe difference between the description of the study community in terms of (Associations - kind- age- qualification) and the horizons of sustainable development .

**Fourth: The questions of study:-**

1- **This study seeks to answer the following first main question:**

"What is the role of Voluntary Associations in achieving the goals of sustainable development in the Egyptian rural community?"

**From this main question emerges the sub-group of questions, which are:**

- a) What is the role of Voluntary Associations in achieving the social goal of sustainable development in the Egyptian rural community?
  - b) What is the role of Voluntary Associations in achieving the economic goal of sustainable development in the Egyptian rural community?
  - c) What is the role of Voluntary Associations in achieving the environmental goal of sustainable development in the Egyptian rural community?
- 2- **Second Main question:** what are the obstacles which limit the role of Voluntary Associations in achieving sustainable development in Egyptian rural community?
- 3- **Third Main question :** what are mechanisms to achieve the role of Voluntary Associations in achieving sustainable development in Egyptian rural community?
- 4- **Fourth Main question:** what is the difference between the description of the study community in terms of (Associations - kind- age- qualification) and the horizons of sustainable development ?

**Fifth: The concepts of the study:-**

- The concept of Voluntary Associations.
- The concept of sustainable development.

**Sixth: The methodology of the study procedures:-**

**Type of study:-**

This study belongs to the pattern of descriptive analytical studies.

- **Type of study:** This study belongs to the type of analytical descriptive studies.
- **The approach used:** The researcher used in his study the descriptive approach
- **Study tools**
  - A scale for civil society workers
  - A measure of the beneficiaries of Voluntary Associations.
- **fields of study**

**(A) Spatial domain:** (8) Voluntary Associations in the Yusef Al-SiddiqCenter and the Abshway Center.

**(B) The human domain:**

- 1- For civil society workers: their number is (122) workers, on whom the study tools were applied
- 2- As for the beneficiaries of civil societies: (222)beneficiaries of the Voluntary Associations.

**(C) Time range:** the period from 15/7/2020 until 9/20/2020.

## **Seventh: Results of the study**

**The study resulted in a set of results, including: -**

- 1- The study resulted in an increase in the participation of females in the field of civil work and appointed them to work in projects submitted by Voluntary Associations in the countryside.
- 2- The results of the study showed that the beneficiaries of Voluntary Associations in the countryside are mostly females.
- 3- The study confirmed that most of the workers in civil societies are young people whose ages fall from (25 years) to less than (45) years.
- 4- The study showed that most of the beneficiaries of Voluntary Associations working in the countryside fall from 30 years old to less than 60 years old, and most of them are youth.
- 5- The study revealed that the most important educational services provided by Voluntary Associations working in rural areas to the people is the nursery house, which is one of the most important means of educational care for children of pre-school age that is provided by the Voluntary Associations, as well as the Voluntary Associations provide an office for memorizing the Holy Qur'an.
- 6- The study indicated that the most important health services provided by Voluntary Associations working in rural areas to the people are awareness campaigns about harmful health practices, implementation of medical convoys for the local community, implementation of seminars on the importance of family planning as well as health education campaigns for women, and parents' awareness of the importance of participating in vaccination campaigns children.

- 7- The study revealed that the most important rural services provided by Voluntary Associations working on empowering women are urging women to participate in community issues, educating women about their legal rights, and holding seminars to reject violence against women.
- 8- The study showed that the most important material services provided by Voluntary Associations operating in rural areas to the poor are providing monthly subsidies to poor families, assisting them in implementing their projects, and “training local community residents on some handicrafts that are commensurate with their abilities, as these projects and crafts contribute to an increase Their income and the improvement of their economic situation.
- 9- The study indicated that the most important services provided by Voluntary Associations to promote sustainable agriculture development in the countryside are “awareness of farmers about the importance of modern irrigation methods such as drip and sprinkler irrigation, the use of modern irrigation methods to preserve irrigation water, and the farmers’ awareness of good strains of seeds and seeds that are suitable for them.
- 10- The study revealed the most important income-increasing projects offered by Voluntary Associations to improve the standard of living in the countryside, which is the Ten Buffalo Project, as well as holding training courses on how to choose income-generating projects commensurate with the people in the countryside.



- 11- The study indicated that the most important services needed by the beneficiaries of the civil societies to achieve food security and eliminate hunger in the countryside are the Ramadan carton for poor families from the local community, as well as ready meals for poor families from the community, which provides a monthly food bag to the poor families of the local community.
- 12- The study indicates that the most important projects provided by Voluntary Associations to preserve the environment in the countryside are to contribute to cleaning projects such as garbage and waste collection, as well as educating citizens about the importance of rationalizing consumption and preserving the environment.
- 13- The study found that the most important clean and modern energy projects offered by Voluntary Associations in the countryside are to contribute to the delivery of electricity to deprived areas, as well as help in the delivery of biogas in homes, and contribute to the delivery of solar energy to regions and encourage farmers to use biogas to run irrigation machines. In this way, it meets the needs of the rural community
- 14- The study indicated that the most important projects of clean drinking water and sanitation provided by Voluntary Associations in the countryside are to extend the deprived areas with tractors and trucks. It also contributes to the delivery of drinking water to the homes of the families of the poor.

15- Among the most important obstacles (poor financial funding for associations – difficulty in obtaining foreign financial support – complexity and slowing down of routine procedures – lack of services in civil societies – fear of families to participate in services – lack of coordination and cooperation between the association and other governmental and civil bodies).

The study reached many recommendations and mechanisms that increase the activation of the role of Voluntary Associations in achieving sustainable development goals in the Egyptian countryside.