1. Discuss the contribution of NGOs to social welfare services in India and also in promoting professionalization in NGO sector.

Ans: The emergence of organized Civil Society and of organizational manifestations of broader social movements have dramatically altered the broader social, political and economic landscape. Civil Society encompasses all the organizations and associations that exist outside the state (including political parties) and the market. It includes the gamut of organizations like interest groups, labour unions, professional associations (such as those of doctors and lawyers), chambers of Commerce, ethnic associations and others. It also incorporates the many other associates that exist for purposes other than advancing specific social or political agendas, such as religious organizations, students groups, cultural organizations (from choral societies to bird-watching clubs), sports clubs and informal communities, clubs. Such civil societies has emerged as an overarching concept linking democracy, peace and security.

NGOs contribute to a civil society by providing a means for expressing and actively addressing the varied and complex needs of society. NGOs promote pluralism, diversity, and tolerance in society while protecting and strengthening cultural, ethnic, religious, linguistic and other identities. NGOs advance science and thought; develop culture and art; protect the environment; and support all activities and concerns that make a vibrant civil society. NGOs motivate citizens in all aspects of society to act, rather than depend on state power and beneficence. NGOs create an alternative to centralized state agencies and provide services with greater independence and flexibility. NGOs establish the mechanism by which governments and the markets can held accountable by public.

In the emerging scenario where civil society is playing a proactive role for various development areas particularly women welfare, Women’s Studies Centre has initiated a novel idea of developing collaborations and networking with various NGOs involved in the field of women empowerment in the state of Punjab. Under this initiative, Women's Studies Centre propose to compile a video graphic profile of these NGOs and their activities focusing particularly on education, health, nutrition and general awareness of women and children.

Professionalization may be defined as one component of the adaptation of an NGO to the requirements related to its activities. Defined this way adaptation and professionalization become almost synonymous with a particular focus on the knowledge and skills of the organization and its members. We therefore suggest as a provisional definition adaptation as the process whereby an organization defines or redefines its strategic choices embodied in its mission. It thereby reacts to the changing environment in which it operates. Professionalization in contrast refers to the process of specialization and diversification of its members and its internal structure.

Or

Highlight the contributions of any two social reformers in India before and during Independence.

Ans: Raja Ram Mohan Roy

At the beginning of 19th century, India was plagued by various social evils such as Sati pratha, Caste system, Religious superstitions etc. Raja Ram Mohan Roy was the first person who recognized these inhuman practices and decided to fight against the same. He is considered as the architect of Indian Renaissance and father of modern India.

Ram Mohan Roy was born on 22 May 1772 in Radhanagar, Hugli district of Bengal. His father was Ramakant Roy and mother Trivani Devi; father was at a very good position in the court of the then Nawab of Bengal. He got his education at Patna and Varanasi. He also worked in the East India Company from 1803 to 1814. Belonging to a traditional Brahmin family, Roy was married off at a very young age and before attaining the age of ten he was married thrice.

He died of meningitis in Bristol, England on 27 September, 1833.

Work and Reforms:

Raja Ram Mohan Roy was very open minded and was of very questioning brains. He was very much influenced by western progressive thoughts. He was also well versed in the teachings of various religions. He was influenced by monotheism of Islam, Mysticism of Sufi philosophy, Ethics and morals of Christianity and Vedanta philosophy of Upanishad.

His main focus was towards the evils which had surrounded the Hindu society of the times, such as:

- He criticized idol worship of Hindus and tried to prove his point through the verses of Vedas.