

The Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Registration and Control) Ordinance, 1961

(Ordinance NO. XLVI OF 1961)

An Ordinance to provide for the registration and control of voluntary social welfare agencies.

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WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the registration and control of voluntary social welfare agencies, and for matters ancillary thereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, in pursuance of the Proclamation of the seventh day of October, 1958, and in exercise of all powers enabling him in that behalf, the President is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance:-

**Short title,
extent and
commencement**

1. (1) This Ordinance may be called the Voluntary Social Welfare Agencies (Registration and Control) Ordinance, 1961.

(2) It extends to the whole of ²[Bangladesh].

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint in this behalf.

Definitions

2. In this Ordinance, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,-

(a) “agency” means a voluntary social welfare agency, and includes any branch of such agency;

(b) “governing body” means the council, committee, trustees or other body, by whatever name called, to whom, by the constitution of the agency, its executive functions and the management of its affairs are entrusted;

(c) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under section 19;

(d) “register” means the register maintained under section 4, and “registered” shall mean registered under this Ordinance;

(e) "Registration Authority" means an officer authorised by the Government, by notification in the official Gazette, to exercise all or any of the powers of the Registration Authority under this Ordinance;

(f) "voluntary social welfare agency" means an organisation, association or undertaking established by persons of their own free will for the purpose of rendering welfare services in any one or more of the fields mentioned in the Schedule and depending for its resources on public subscriptions, donations or Government aid.

**Prohibition
against
establishing
or
continuing
an agency
without
registration**

3. No agency shall be established or continued except in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance.

**Application
for
registration,
etc.**

4. (1) Any person intending to establish an agency, and any person intending that an agency already in existence should be continued as such, shall, in the prescribed form, and on payment of the prescribed fee, make an application to the Registration Authority, accompanied by a copy of the constitution of the agency, and such other documents as may be prescribed.

(2) The Registration Authority may, on receipt of the application, make such enquiries as it considers necessary, and either grant the application, or, for reasons to be recorded in writing, reject it.

(3) If the Registration Authority grants the application, it shall issue, in the prescribed form, a certificate of registration to the applicant.

(4) The Registration Authority shall maintain a register, containing such particulars as may be prescribed, of all certificates issued under subsection (3).

**Establishment
and**

5. (1) An agency not in existence on the coming into force of this Ordinance shall be established only after a certificate of registration has

**Continuance
of agency**

been issued under sub-section (3) of section 4.

(2) An agency already in existence shall not be continued for more than six months from the date on which this Ordinance comes into force, unless an application for its registration has, within thirty days of such date, been made under sub-section (1) of section 4.

(3) Where an application as aforesaid has been made in respect of an existing agency, and such application is rejected, then, notwithstanding the period of six months provided in sub-section (2), the agency may be continued for a period of thirty days from the date on which the application is rejected, or if an appeal is preferred under section 6, until such appeal is dismissed.

Appeal

6. If the Registration Authority rejects an application for registration, the applicant may, within thirty days from the date of the order of the Registration Authority, prefer an appeal to the Government, and the order passed by the Government shall be final and given effect to by the Registration Authority.

**Conditions
to be
complied
with by
registered
agencies**

7. (1) Every registered agency shall-

(a) maintain audited accounts in the manner laid down by the Registration Authority;

(b) at such time and in such manner as may be prescribed, submit its Annual Report and audited accounts to the Registration Authority and publish the same for general information;

(c) pay all moneys received by it into a separate account kept in its name at such bank or banks as may be approved by the Registration Authority; and

(d) furnish to the Registration Authority such particulars with regard to accounts and other records as the Registration Authority may from time to time require.

(2) The Registration Authority, or any officer duly authorised by it in this behalf, may at all reasonable times inspect the books of account and other