

## ABSTRACT

**Title: Civil Society: Emerging Strength of Indian Democracy**

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Civil society is the western term which is developed with no complication since western society has little variety as compared to Indian society with its caste systems, linguistic and cultural diversities, religions amongst others that make it problematic to bring all citizens on a single platform. The purpose of the research is to understand civil society's influence on Indian Democracy. Since it has been observed historically and theoretically that civil society has been seen as driving force in promotion and sustenance of democratic values. The democratic values include freedom of expression, equality, justice, tolerance and people's participation in the political system and voluntary association. Over time, civil society has been an important factor in the development of democracy and has played a crucial role in the formation of a democracy worldwide. The effect of civil society in a developing country like India with myriad contexts and cultures therefore becomes significant.

Structure of thesis is designed in the theoretical way for understanding the development of civil society in relation with democracy. Descriptive and observation methodology is used for accomplishing the objectives of the present research. Facts are developed on the basis of observation and descriptive study of literature. The conclusion is drawn out with the help of studying and analyzing existing literature on civil society and democracy. The study has sought to examine the relative importance of civil society in relation to Indian democracy. Regarding the definitional aspects it was observed that civil society is understood as a voluntary association. Throughout the research it was seen that NGOs and social movement occupy space for the development of civil society. However, all organizations and social movements are not part of civil society as some manifest a violent nature and pursue their narrow interest rather than of the society at large.

On the positive perspective, civil society in India has puts effort in the decision making process as well. Resident welfare association in urban area and panchayats in village area have been successfully able to access common people's voices and issues. Since, it is essential to demonstrate liberal civil society wherein citizens are involved in governance and collaborate with the state to implement policy action. It was noticed the remarkable efforts were made by civil society actors in RTI, NREGA, RTE.FRA and many other acts. Thus, this study on civil society and democracy in India proved the hypothesis that civil society is an emerging strength of Indian Democracy. Though, civil society has not yet developed like in western society but in future gradually it would reach at that point. As, it has been found that one of the major reason behind the stability in Indian democracy has been the involvement of civil society in public sphere.

In sum, it can be suggested that the further study needs to incorporate a wide range of analysis, including CSOs, NGOs, social activism and other form of digital participation as well. Since the media, internet, social networking sites have been seen very effective in conveying messages and information of civil society associations during the agitations and mass mobilizations. However, civil society successfully maintained its autonomous space from the state. Even though Indian civil society has its own challenges like hierarchy and hegemony of ideas which could only be controlled by the interference of the state. Hence. It can be said that state and civil society both are complementary for each other.