

The Relationships Between Democracy and Civil Society

1. History of Civil Society:

Hegelian View:

Hegel believed that civil society is a group of social activities that happen between families and the government. He thought these activities are shaped by capitalism (the economic system where businesses are privately owned).

Marxian View:

Marx saw civil society as a place where exploitation happens. He thought it was the real stage where history unfolds, meaning important events and changes occur here.

Gramscian View:

Gramsci viewed civil society as part of the state's way to control people's ideas and beliefs. He believed it helps to keep capitalism in place.

2. Operational Definition of Civil Society:

Civil society can be understood as having three main parts:

Institutions: These are established organizations or systems that help society function, like schools or hospitals.

Organizations: These are groups formed by people to achieve common goals, such as non-profits or community groups.

Individuals: These are the people who make up civil society and participate in various activities.

3. Measurable Characteristics of Civil Society:

Civil society has certain features that can be measured:

The Commons: Shared resources that everyone can use.

Office: Positions of responsibility within organizations.

Associations: Groups of people who come together for a common purpose.

Trusteeship: The responsibility to manage and care for resources or organizations.

Sovereignty: The authority of a group or organization to govern itself.

Accountability: The obligation to explain actions and decisions to others.

Equity: Fairness and justice in treatment and opportunities.

Justice: The principle of fairness and moral rightness.

Reciprocity: Mutual exchange and support among individuals and groups.

5. Civil Society and Democratic Transition in Pakistan:

- **Role of Civil Society:** Includes non-governmental groups that work for the public good.
- **Support for Democracy:** Encourages citizen participation in political processes (e.g., voting).
- **Promoting Accountability:** Monitors government actions and reports issues like corruption.
- **Encouraging Participation:** Motivates people to engage in community discussions and activities.
- **Challenges:** Faces obstacles like restrictions on free speech and government opposition.
- **Conclusion:** Civil society is crucial for fostering a stronger, more democratic system in Pakistan.