

Philippine Politics and Governance

Second Quarter – Module 2

Civil Society and Social Movement



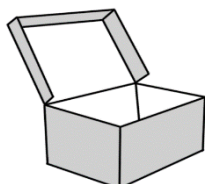
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Lesson: (14) CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MOVEMENT



What I Need to Know

In this lesson you will understand the main role of the Civil Society Organizations in the Philippines, and as part of the discussion on political interaction; this section presents yet another manifestation of state-society interaction, the relationship between civil society and social movements, and the Philippine state. This section thus highlights another aspect of group politics, but its focus is on actors outside the government. This part assesses the roles taken by the civil society in Philippine governance and development.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

MELC: Explain the concept, role, and contributions of civil societies and Social movements to the Philippine democracy.

At the end of the lesson, you should be able to:

1. discuss the concepts of civil society and social movements;
2. explain the contributions of civil society organizations and social movements to Philippine democracy;
3. evaluate the role of civil society organizations and social movements; and
4. present challenges to civil society and social movements in the country (enrichment).



What I Know?

Modified True or False

Directions: Write TRUE if the given statement is correct. If incorrect, replace the underlined word/s to the statement correct.

_____ 1. New social movements typically comprise young, better educated, and relatively affluent members.

_____ 2. Civil society is a counterweight to the oppression characterizing totalitarian regimes.

_____ 3. People's organizations are bona fide associations of citizens with demonstrated capacity to promote the public interest and with identifiable leadership, membership, and structure.

_____ 4. Informal institutions are those based on laws enforced by the state.

_____ 5. The three branches of government fall under the category of formal institutions.

_____ 6. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) can be defined to include all non-market and non-state organizations outside of the family in which people organize themselves to pursue shared interests in the public domain.

_____ 7. Civil society organizations are associations that are established independently of and operate outside of the state and market.

_____ 8. The green movement is an example of a traditional social movement.

_____ 9. Civil society is an example of a formal institution.

_____ 10. Social movements do not stand for the status quo.



What's In?

Defining Civil Society Defining Civil Society

Read and analyze the major role and functions of the civil society organizations (CSO) in the Philippines.

If political parties here in the Philippines have unsuccessful to grasp their primary goal of articulating and aggregating interests given the problems and real life situations in our country presented in the previous module, it is factual to ask—have

civil society and social movements taken the place of political parties in the prospect of development and governance? You have learned in the previous module that political parties serve as links between individuals and the government. Are civil society organizations and interest groups and movements now in the process of replacing political parties as crucial links between the government and society?

As being part of the dialogue on political interaction, this section presents yet another indicator of state-society interaction, that is, the relationship between civil society and social movements, and the Philippine state. This section thus highlights another aspect of group politics, but its focus is on actors outside the government. This part assesses the roles taken by the civil society in Philippine governance and development.

Defining the Civil Society Organization (CSO), the United Nations refers to civil society as the “third sector” of the society, along with government and business. The civil society is considered a social sphere independent from both the state and the market. It comprises of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations.

The term civil society organizations (CSOs) refer to those non-state, nonprofit, voluntary organizations in this social sphere. Thus, CSOs include a wide array of organizations, networks, associations, groups, and movements that sometimes come together to push for the advancement of their common interests by means of collection action (WHO 2015).

Non-governmental organizations, on the other hand are nonprofit and voluntary citizens groups, which are organized on a local, national, or international level. They perform service and humanitarian roles, bring citizen concerns to governments, advocate and monitor policies, and encourage participation through information dissemination. Similarly, they provide analysis and expertise on specific issues on the environment, health, and human rights (NGO Global Network 2016).

The following are considered key characteristics of successful civil societies (Ghaus-Pasha 2004):

- Separated from the state and the market
- Formed by people who have common needs, interests, and values



- Developed through a fundamentally endogenous and autonomous process that is not easily controlled from the outside.

The civil society can have a positive influence on both the state and the market. The civil society has become increasingly important in the promotion of good governance, effectiveness, and accountability. Ghaus-Pasha (2004) highlights the ways by which the civil society can further good governance.

Role of Civil Society in Good Governance

- Key agent in policy analysis and advocacy
- Regulates and monitors state performance and behavior of policy officials
- Builds social capital and enables citizens to identify and articulate their beliefs, values, and ideas
- Mobilizes particular constituencies—especially the marginalized sectors of the masses—to participate in public and political affairs
- Participates in development work to improve the well-being of its own and of other communities

What's New?

Read and analyze the basis of the civil society organizations (CSO) in the Philippines.

The basis for civil society in the Philippines comes from the Filipino concepts of *pakikipagkapwa* (holistic interaction with others) and *kapwa* (shared inner self). Voluntary assistance or charity connotes for Filipinos an equal status between the provider of assistance and the recipient, which is embodied in the terms *damayan* (assistance of peers in periods of crisis) and *pagtutulungan* (mutual self-help). The Western notion of *kawanggawa* (charity) may have been introduced to the Philippines by Catholic missionaries.

During the Spanish colonial period, the Roman Catholic Church and the religious orders established the first welfare organizations in the Philippines. They founded parochial schools, orphanages, and hospitals that were mostly reserved for the local elite. The church also established foundations and *cofradías* (brotherhoods), which encouraged neighborly behavior, such as visiting the sick and helping with town fiesta preparations. (Civil Society Briefs – ADB)

REFLECT UPON

Why do you think people join voluntary organizations or movements? What do people get from these organizations?



What is It?

Civil Society in the Philippines

According to the Asian Development Bank (2007), civil society organizations in the Philippines are seen as among the most vibrant and advanced in the world. The country has the largest number of NGOs per capita in Asia, and several key international NGOs and networks are based in the Philippines and are headed by Filipinos. There are several types of CSOs that exist in the country, but three types are considered more important ones.

The first are people's organizations, which represent marginalized groups and are often organized based on sector, issue, or geographical area. The second are development NGOs, which are intermediate agencies that operate with a full-time staff and provide a wide array of services to primary organizations, communities, and individuals. Finally, cooperatives are an association of persons who voluntarily joined to make equitable contributions to the capital required, patronize their products and

services, and accept fair share in risks and benefits of the project (ADB 2007). CSOs in the Philippines are involved in a broad range of activities, including:

1. Education, training, and human resource development
2. Community development
3. Enterprise development and employment generation
4. Health and nutrition
5. Law, advocacy, and politics
6. Sustainable development

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) take a variety of forms. Nonetheless, the AUGUR project, a research project co-funded by the European Commission, lists five main types of CSOs and two hybrid organizations (civil organizations but are not completely separated from states or business firms, such as business CSOs and government-oriented CSOs). While not all inclusive, the list presents a good categorization of CSOs.

Table 11.1 Types of CSOs

Types of CSOs	Characteristics
Religious CSOs	These CSOs do not necessarily promote worship of a religion, but they are more or less linked to a given religion and they act following a religious precept. Their fields of intervention include education, health, emergency relief, and basic needs assistance.
Community-based CSOs	These are, most of the time, local CSOs based on solidarity, resource sharing, and community building. They are primarily focused on development (e.g., Grameen Bank), housing (e.g., the Urban Land Reform Task Force in the Philippines), social services, civil and legal assistance, and culture and recreation.
Philanthropic CSOs	These are organizations that serve a cause without any religious affiliation. They are based on values such as generosity and humanism. They include private and business foundations and independent NGOs (e.g., Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation).
Expert CSOs	They act in new fields that require some scientific knowledge (e.g., environment, finance). They are not exclusively composed of experts

	and scientists but they claim to have an expertise unit and they publish some technical reports (e.g., Greenpeace International).
Trade Unions	These are labor and worker associations which promote workers' interests. The Philippines is also home to trade unions. The Trade Union Congress of the Philippines is the biggest confederation of labor federations in the country, with almost 30 federations representative of sectors and industries from agriculture to manufacturing to services (www.tucp.org.ph).
Business CSOs	These include business and industry NGOs (BINGOs) which defend a given firm's or industry's interests. These developed in Anglo-Saxon countries, particularly the United States. They are different from business lobby/interest groups, which generally promote employer or corporate interests. Larger corporations often have lobbyists who will monitor and promote various laws and programs for the specific interests of the corporation. Companies and organizations also come together in larger groups to work for general business interests (Boundless Political Science 2016). There are also business lobby groups in the Philippines such as those in the sugar and tobacco industries.
Government oriented CSOs	Government-oriented NGOs (GONGOs) are independent civil organizations, which are more or less influenced and controlled by national authorities. These developed in industrialized Asian countries, particularly in China.

Source: AUGUR European Commission-European Research Area, Seventh Framework Programme, available at http://www.augurproject.eu/IMG/pdf/cso_note_provisional_draft5_june_2012.pdf

Civil society organizations also employ a number of tactics and strategies in the pursuit of their interests and goals. To influence national policy formulation, CSOs use education, persuasion, collaboration, litigation, and confrontation (Covey 1994 in Ghaus-Pasha 2004). The following table summarizes the tactics and skills required in the realization of these strategies.

Table 11.2 Some of CSO's Strategies and Tactics

Strategies	Tactics	Skills
Education	Meetings, media, workshops, conferences, commissions	Research, information, analysis, dissemination, communication, and articulation
Collaboration	Building relationships, links, and cooperation with government and other CSOs	Communication, organization, mobilization, networking technical capability, transparency, openness, and effectiveness
Persuasion	Meetings, workshops, coalition, lobbying, media, demonstration	Organizing, communication, motivation, negotiation, commitment, and vision
Litigation	Use of courts	Legislation and communication
Confrontation	Demonstration, public gatherings, speeches	Mobilizing, communication, motivation, and leadership

Source: Ghaus-Pasha (2004), available at

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/un/unpan019594.pdf>

What Are Social Movements?

A social movement is a collective body that has a high level of commitment and political activism, and is not necessarily based on formal organization (Heywood 2013). Social movements are attempts to change society through collective action. They transpire when large groups of individuals or organizations work for or against change in specific political or social contexts.

They are non-institutionalized, because just like CSOs, they occur outside of governmental institutions. On the other hand, new social movements (sometimes referred to as “new politics”) are those that attract the young, better-educated, and relatively affluent individuals, including the post-material orientation and commitment of these individuals to new forms of political activism (Heywood 2013).

The legal framework for civil society in the Philippines is provided in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, including, but not limited to:

Article II, Section 23: “The State shall encourage non-governmental, community based, or sector organizations that promote the welfare of the nation.”

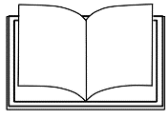
Article XIII, Section 15: “The State shall respect the role of independent people’s organizations to enable the people to pursue and protect, within the democratic framework, their legitimate and collective interests and aspirations through peaceful and lawful means.

Article XIII, Section 16: “The right of the people and their organizations to effective and reasonable participation at all levels of social, political and economic decision-making shall not be abridged. The State shall, by law, facilitate the establishment of adequate consultation mechanisms.”

What Have I Learned So Far?

How do social movements become a vehicle of political participation for an ordinary individual?





What's More

Activity: Inquire and Discover

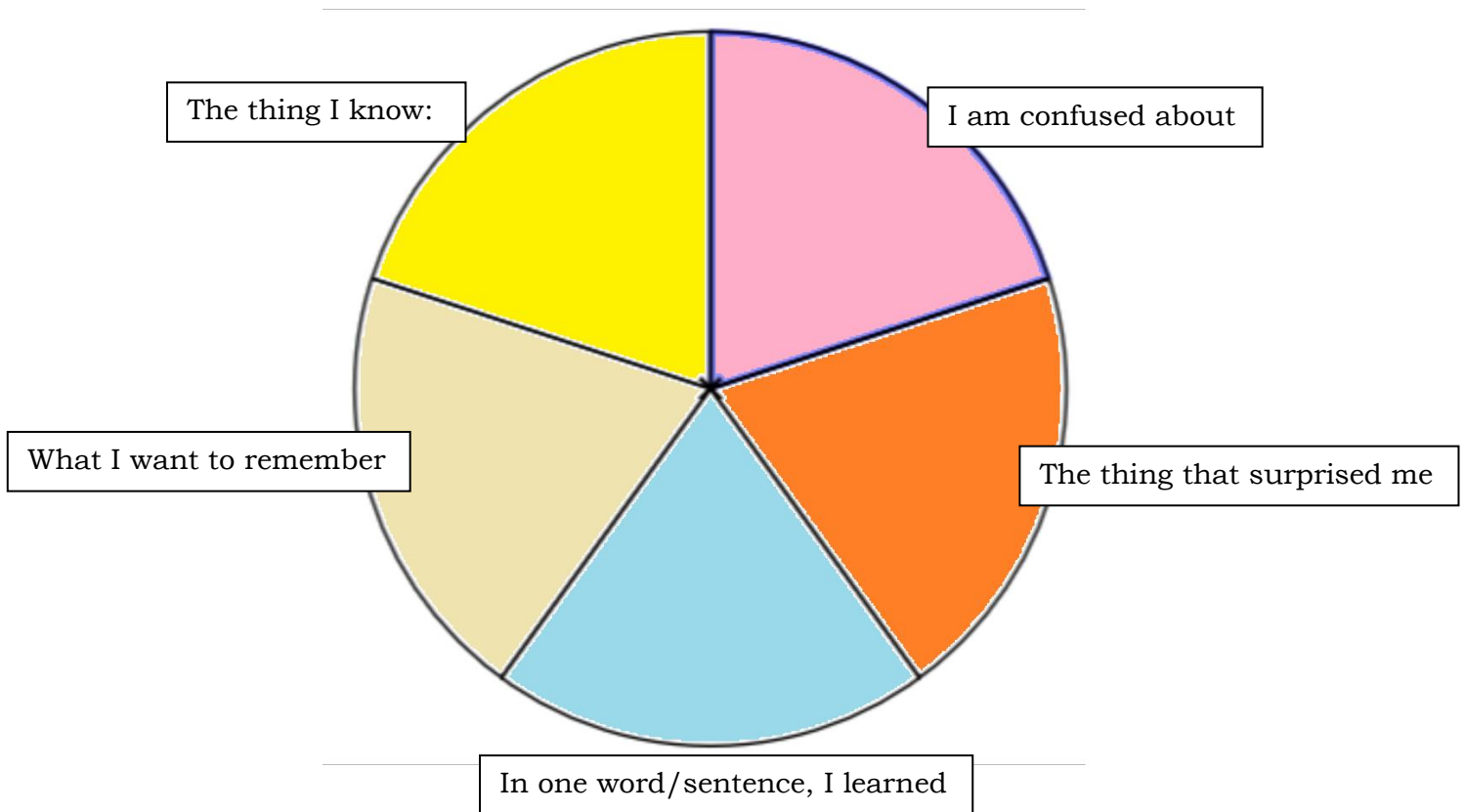
1. How do social movements become a vehicle of political participation for an ordinary individual?
2. Can you name/identify a CSO or an NGO, describe how it has functioned. How has it contributed to our country?
3. Looking at the CSO or NGO that you have identified, what do you think are the values or characteristics that allow it to function properly or have allowed it to become successful?
4. Do you think we should continue to promote and support CSOs and NGOs? Why or why not?

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What I Have Learned ?

Directions: Generalize what you have learned by answering the wheel of learning.





Assessment

I. ESSAY

Directions: Answer the real-life questions provided to you. No wrong answers just give your best!

In the past events and part of our history, what propels an individual to join a social movement against a powerful dictator?

Rubric for checking the essay:

Criteria	3	2	1
Manner of answering	Delivery, Content and idea to the question	In 3-5 sentences, the student answered the question directly, but not thoroughly and coherently.	In 3-5 sentences, the student answered the question indirectly, but leading to the closest answer.
Relevance	Critical thinking skills	The specific concept is stated and directly connected to the answer	The specific concept is stated but is not directly connected to the answer.

Answer Key

What I know Pre-assessment	What's In Activity	What's New Word Game	Assessment
1. FALSE 2. TRUE 3. TRUE 4. TRUE 5. TRUE 6. TRUE 7. TRUE 8. TRUE 9. FALSE 10. FALSE	Essay	Essay	Essay



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