

Role of Civil Society in Promoting Peace and Social Harmony

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Why peace is important in society?

- **Peace** and security is an essential factor of human life.
- A **peaceful** and secure environment is critical to every **society** since it affects all aspects of economic and social development in a country, and is a necessary to the realization of human rights.

Social Harmony

- **Social Harmony** can be defined as a procedure of assessment, articulate, and encourage trust, admiration, peace, **harmony**, respect, generosity and equity upon other people in any particular society regardless of their religion, caste, gender, race, age and occupation etc. among other aspects.

Aim of Social Harmony

- The importance of **social harmony** is indispensable. It promotes equitable and rapid economic development.
- Secondly, **social harmony** improves peace and cohesion among the nation.
- Lastly, **social harmony** helps the citizens to abide by the law and respect rights and freedom of others as well as the Constitution.

Civil Society and Social Harmony

- Civil society has been broadly defined as the “area outside the family, market and state”
- Civil society as “all forms of social action carried out by individuals or groups who are neither connected to, nor managed by, the State”.

Civil Society and Social Harmony (Cont...)

- Civil society consists of a large and diverse set of voluntary organisations and comprises non-state actors and associations that are not purely driven by private or economic interests, are autonomously organised, typically show civic virtue, and interact in the public sphere.

Civil Society and Social Harmony (Cont...)

- **Civil society includes** charities, development NGOs, community groups, women's organizations, religious leaders/ organizations, professional associations, trade unions, social movements, online groups and activities including social media communities that can be “organised” but do not necessarily have physical, legal or financial structure.

Civil Society and Social Harmony (Cont...)

- **Civil society** occupies an important position in the development dialogue as it provides opportunities to bring communities together for collective action, mobilising **society** to articulate demands and voice concerns at local, national, regional and international levels

Civil Society and Social Harmony (Cont...)

- One of the key **benefits** of a strong **civil society** is that it can bring new information to decision-makers, whether through research, through close contacts with particular populations, or through bringing opinions that are born neither in the state nor in the private sector.

Suggested Readings

- https://www.daghammarskjold.se/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/DHF_DD63_p108-118.pdf
- <https://www.unaoc.org/2013/06/strengthening-the-role-of-civil-society-to-promote-intercultural-dialogue-diversity-and-inclusion-baku-2013/>
- <https://developmentfinance.un.org/promoting-peaceful-and-inclusive-societies>