The Role of Civil Society in Afghanistan

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Abstract

The formation and expansion of civil society reflects the solidarity and functioning of society with authoritarians, so the origin of civil society is in the general sense, the demands of civil society by civil society have been shown to be non-violent and organized in a way that distorts authoritarianism from the interests of society. And the country has responded quickly with civil society. This process makes the government accountable to the people and can convince the public of its decisions.

Keywords: Civil society, Election, Human rights and Women

Introduction

The concept of civil society, to the despite its ambiguity and controversy, had and continues to be a prominent and graceful place in contemporary and past political discourse, as a field of gathering and voluntary activities between family, society, and government. This concept has taken a new direction due to the fundamental changes in international politics, the end of the Cold War, and the adoption extension Western-style policy of democracy in the last decade of the 20th century, with dramatic changes in new meanings and a graceful role. In the process of transition to democratization, it has played and played a part in democracy.

Civil society is defined as a set of shared non-imposed actions, interests, goals, shared values. In theory, its institutional formats are different from government, family, market. However, in practice, the boundary between government, civil society, the family and the market is complex, unclear, and the subject of controversy. Civil society generally encompasses a diverse range of spaces, actors, and institutional frameworks that vary in degrees of formality, internal independence, and power.

In order to understand this change and the role that civil society can play in the process of democratization and democracy, it is clear to everyone that the law is a set of rules that regulate the relations of individuals in society fairly and with individual freedoms. Guarantees and safeguards and realizes the interests of the public, including the constitution, which is endorsed and approved by the competent and competent authorities of the genuine and elected representatives of the people. Which establishes and defines the form and content of a society's economic and political relations. The constitution is seen as a collective treaty and a covenant between the state and its citizens, and it forms the basis of a political system that extends to the want and will of the people and demonstrates its truth and legitimation in all aspects of society.

The true architect of civil law is one that is tailored to the specific needs and conditions of society, and man is thought to be the true source of civil law. The criterion of legislation is the pressing needs of society, the individual and the collective, which are based on human reason and rationality. The constitution's task is to clarify the structure of the state system and its key organs on the one hand, and on the other hand, to determine the authorities and competences of the state and the people, and thereby enabling both parties, and especially the government, to exercise their powers within the framework of the applicable laws. To moved front by relying on that to achieve its true goals.
Therefore, for the purpose of legislation, that is, of other civil laws, it is subject to the principles of the constitution which forms the basis of it. The purpose of the constitution is to establish and enforce legal standards in government and society to bring together the living conditions of individuals in the community, to regulate and realize social relations and relationships. In civil society, everyone enjoys equal law. The purpose of this study is to examine the role of civil society institutions in informing the public and the role of civil society in promoting human rights and women's empowerment. Civil society has played a constructive role in sections. that Detailed discussion has taken place.

Literature review

Toryalai gheyasi 2004

This article highlights the challenges of the mining community in Afghanistan today, and particularly in third world countries such as remote and remote Afghanistan, which are at a relatively favorable level of growth and development even towards our country. The idea of civil society has not yet come to fruition and there is no full awareness of this social phenomenon.

Orzalla Ashraf Nemat and Kirin Werner 2004 August

This report discusses the role of different sections of civil society in governance relations, how they interact and interact with government agencies at the national and local levels across different entities and groups, and details the complexities of defining roles over time. It argues that a structure simultaneously plays two roles related to governance and civil society

Javad Bahmani January 2016

This research focuses more on the dynamic role of civil society in countries that have civil society and legal support, allowing states and authorities to temporarily adopt the state in its own way, laws and procedures, and do whatever it takes. For the benefit of society or the country. A timely response from civil society prevents parties and the press from escalating corruption and drives the nation's drive for comprehensive progress. If development is not based on national interests or the tendency endangers national interests, independent civil society will prevent it by taking action.

Lucian W. Pye March 1, 1965

This paper emphasizes a concluding overview of the underlying dimensions of the concept of political development that has been pre-sent, with three common features of political development: concern with equality, the capacity of the political system, and differentiation or expertise in public organizations. These three characteristics are generally related to certain aspects of political development: equality with political culture, capacity issues of credible government structures, and the problem of differentiation with unauthorized structures. This provides a conclusive analysis of the problems surrounding political development centered around the relationship between political culture, authoritarian structure, and the overall political process.

Michael Bernhard, Eitan Tzelgov, Dong-Joon Jung, Michael Coppedge and Staffan I. Lindberg

Department of Political Science University of Gothenburg January 2015

In this article, we examine the types of Democracy (V-Dem) Core Index of Civil Society (CCSI), an index that seeks to capture the strength of civil society among a large number of states for the period 1900-2012. It begins by discussing the importance of civil society as a concept in comparative politics and the difficulty of testing general propositions about it because of the existing data environment. It then discusses the conceptualization and operation of CCSI. After completing these principles, he then performs a series of credentials and demonstrates the usefulness of these measures by reusing the discussion of post-communist civil society power.

Aershad Khatibi March 2002
This article emphasizes the position of civil society in Afghanistan, which is about to be consolidated. Civil society institutions can be identified in partnership with Afghan-based roles and positions. In other words, there is a civil society watching in Afghanistan right now and you can give it a go. But civil society has a long way to go to consolidate its position in the country.

Najibullah Joya 2009

This study focuses more on the impact of civil society in Afghanistan on how effective the creation of civil society in Afghanistan is, and to what extent its impact on growth and development in the current situation can be. In all of these models of assessment and the calendar of democracy, the role of civil society and the level of freedom of civil society institutions to work for the benefit of the people in the process of transition to democracy, and to continue to accept the military as democratically important. Implement new developments at national, international and regional levels in close cooperation with civil society organizations or NGOs and external actors.

Ab. Ghafor Nazeer Saighani 2009

This article further highlights the role of civil society organizations in Afghanistan's elections. The role of civil society organizations in the whole political process is prominent and important in all areas of political development. The first role for civil society in the field of elections is to raise public awareness, thereby raising the level of political consciousness in society and making public participation more accurate and effective.

Ab. Ahad Bahramy

This article explores the role of civil society and the role of youth in the development of Afghanistan by educating young people, who mainly live in urban areas where they are now in a position to make their voices heard by their peers. To force leaders to adopt new standards to meet people's expectations. And civil society organizations are also a good mirror for reflecting on the key positive and negative issues in the country and providing a forum for the public to engage in dialogue.

**Definitions of civil society**

Man in all stages of historical evolution, there is always as a wise, thoughtful and intelligent design has been your own being as a social person and pluralistic as though the presence of others in shaping and formulating socio-political affairs is accepted. The being social of the human being is not a phenomenon that encompasses only special section of his or her life but the temporal game of life and death (life-death).

At this point in time, a sense of belonging of human beings with other human beings groups are associated with continuity. the sociality and continuity of the human feeling of belonging to the others make the social relationship and relationship among the human community formed and the different beliefs and identities experienced. so what we know as society is because of the structure and dependence of humans on each other that has witnessed dramatic changes over long period.

Civil society is also the product of the intrinsic evolution of human societies and the result of intellectual growth and human rationality. The human transition from this stage and step into the new age provided the necessary context for the conceptual and substantive transformation of civil society. The Renaissance is a period of healing for new concepts and ideas and new phenomena that have never been experienced before. The phenomenon of civil society also jumped out of the monopoly of philosophers and entered the public arena in a new era.

In other words, civil society in the modern era came not as a specialty of philosophers but as an exhibition of citizens' presence and the exercise of citizenship rights and responsibilities. However, civil society is a term used by Aristotle, the famous Greek philosopher. But in his view civil society is a political society and there is no distinction between government and civil society. The distinction between the civil and political spheres is the product of political developments and the collapse of totalitarian and autocratic governments and governments. The formation and emergence of liberal ideas led to the emergence of two other phenomena, the liberal government and the free market, which paved the way for the demarcation of civil society and political society. Civil society in this sense refers to the field of civil rights and individuals and groups and the field of human rights.
However, civil society can be viewed from four different perspectives and as a result, different definitions can be presented from different perspectives. The first set of definitions examines civil society in its general sense. The second group has a philosophical approach to it, and the third and fourth groups have looked at civil society in legal and sociological terms, and have offered relevant definitions.

In the general sense, civil society is rooted in the terms civilization and , and is a combination of the two terms "society" and "civil" that expresses the descriptive state of society. So, to understand civil society, we need to understand constructive words. In this combination, society is a group of individuals who communicate through the implementation of rules and regulations and have a sense of solidarity and collective conscience. That is to say, society or social formation involves the existence of human beings, the relationship between them, and the rule of law or custom over relations between individuals. The word civil is attributed to Medina, which is an organized gathering or social organization with the description of civilization and civilization and the characteristics of being civilized.

The second definition of civil society is the philosophical definition that Plato spoke of in "Republic" and Aristotle in "Politics". In their view, civil society is a society composed of citizens of the utopia. European philosophy, the Renaissance and religious reform, see civil society as a new utopia based on rationality, reason, consensus, council, agreement, tolerance and respect for human beings and the rule of law.

From a legal perspective, the most important feature of civil society is the institutionalization of law in society. That is to say, in the legal definition, a social organization is appropriate if civil society is to be recognized as the rule of law over the relations between individuals in society and the people and the state. The hallmark of this definition is the legality of the relationships between individuals and the state, meaning that the state and all power authorities derive their power from the law and must obey the law. In short, from the legal point of view of the law of Medina is the same as civil society.

In the sociological definition, civil society is the part of society that is referred to as non-governmental organizations. In this definition, civil society is the middle and mid class, through the institutions, organizations, social, educational, professional, cultural and subordinate institutions and people's demands for government and the mutual constraints and priorities between public and private sector Its transmits to the people.

A brief overview of the definitions presented by civil society explains the importance and necessity of civil society and makes the importance that clear. Regarding the importance of civil society, it can be said that a functioning civil society with a functioning government and market is an essential element of any free country. Civil society has fundamental role to identifying and eradicating injustice, the rule of law, good governance, defending the rights of the deprived and minorities, defending the legal equality of citizens, and protecting individual freedoms. However, based on the definitions provided by civil society, it can be said that civil society needs freedom of thought, freedom of expression and assembly, or in other words, all the freedoms guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (Training handbook on joint responsibilty of the civil society and provincial council, 2014)

Historical background of civil society in the world

Some civil society records date back to three thousand years BC and say that the first civil societies within the Sumerian council community in Mesopotamia came about with the birth of the first Polis, a Persian translation of the state-city. Others believe that Plato (347-429 BC) was the first to mention civil society and named it Utopia. Another group argues that Aristotle coined the term civil society for the first time, and referred to civil society as a state in front of the family. Some say that Aristotle, like Plato, called civil society its own utopia. From another opinions, Hegel, after calling intermediary groups between the state and the people a civil society, claimed that between civilizations of ancient, eastern and western did not have essentially, but civil society rather a product of civilization after the 12 and 13 centuries. Some of the earliest modern civilizations date back to the 16th and 17th centuries, believing that Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) and John Locke (1663-1704) predicate the civil society to the state, a state that has gained based its social contract on power. After Hobbes, Ferguson the Scottish (1723-1816) Adam Smith and Row (1712-17 78) call civilized society versus primitive society or the natural situation a civil society Subsequently, Hegel (1770- 1831) put forward her famous theory of civil society. Following her, Alexei de Tocqueville (1805-15 59) separated civil societies from political organizations and spoke of cultural associations, charitable foundations, and etc civil society. Then Karl Marx (1818-18 83) and Engels took civil society from Hegel, but limited it to private ownership and market relations. After her, Antonio Gramsci (1821-1937), the founder of the Italian Communist Party, believed that all groups and organizations, whether economic, cultural, political, or trade, formed civil society. (seminary)
History of Civil Society in Afghanistan

Civil society in Afghanistan is a new phenomenon. This phenomenon should be considered as a phenomenon introduced it is imported in our country. In Afghanistan, the view of the general public, and even some of the educated, is that every imported phenomenon is destructive, but this is not in reality. Of course, this is a fact that some of the imported phenomena are not useful for the country, but some phenomena can also be found which have had good effects in recent years by entering our land, one of which is civil society.

The term civil society in Afghanistan, in its western sense, goes back to 2001 in the wake of the US military intervention to destroy al-Qaeda and the Taliban in the shadow of which the Karzai government has implemented a state-building program in partnership with Afghan civil society. The liberal kind of western democracy began. And to this day it has had significant activities in various sectors. (DAWOD, 2014)

The role of civil society institutions in informing people about elections

The role of civil society organizations in the whole political process is a prominent and important role that should be taken into account in all areas of political development. The first role that civil society organizations can play, and of course play a very important role, is the role of public awareness, which increases the level of political consciousness in society and makes their participation in elections more accurate and effective. Secondly, the election is not only an engagement or a political action, but also an engagement and a civil action.

A democratic society, as it cannot exist without elections, cannot exist without civil society. Accordingly, civil society is essential in encouraging people to participate in elections and in promoting the role of people in elections and in raising public awareness of citizenship responsibilities and promoting and institutionalizing citizenship responsibilities in relation to elections. In the current process, to the best of my knowledge, not only the IEC works to raise public awareness, but also a large number of civil society organizations working to raise public awareness and encourage and mobilize people to participate in elections.

Another element that civil society can take into account is to contribute to the transparency of free and fair elections. In Afghanistan, fortunately, many civil society organizations have set up an organization called the Afghanistan Free and Fair Elections Foundation, which has been involved in all aspects of registration, voting card distribution, voting day and election day. Voter turnout is monitored to ensure that there is no fraud and manipulation in all these processes and that fair and transparent elections are held.

It can be said that elections in no country can be a free, fair and democratic election without the very close and active participation of civil society organizations. The fairness, democraticity and transparency of elections, especially in government-held countries, are achieved through the role of civil society organizations. Given the comprehensiveness and succinctness of civil society institutions, these institutions that are formed from the context of society, the masses, and the different classes are very effective and valuable in resolving regional, rural, local and urban problems.

Based on what we have said, it can be concluded that civil society institutions are moving the society towards progress and excellence and have a particular impact on the process of public awareness in all areas and in elections which are among the most important principles. Democracy is a concern of civil society, that mainly for the purpose of raising awareness among all segments of society and working is on it. (Ayub, 2009)

The role of civil society in strengthening human rights

The generalization and promotion of human rights values cannot be assessed outside of the important role of civil society in society. the rights Citizenship is the essence of the value of contemporary civil society, intertwined with the civil liberties of citizens. Legal scholars and anthropologists believe that civil society and its prominent role in society form the basis of the legitimacy of the system. Not only does civil society promote human rights values, it also reinforces the legitimacy of the system.

These two principles are inextricably linked to the rule of law, which in turn give rise to areas of accountability and transparency in the system. Another important point is that civil society plays an important role in enhancing citizens' political participation. This role, on the one hand, reinforces the legitimacy of the system and, on the other, reinforces the democracy in the structures of the system, so civil society reinforces the values of the system.

When it comes to discussing the role of civil society in strengthening human rights, the philosophy of civil society discourse and the need to build civil institutions occupy the human mind. Scholars believe that when a person stood up and said that this land was mine, civil society was formed. It expresses the individual's position on the right to property and access to property, the rights freely express one's opinion and to determine
the individual's right to and from the government. This individual position reflects the transition from the normal to the social contract. Human beings need a political agent, that is, the government, to protect and protect their social rights and contracts. The experience of authoritarian and tyrannical governments has led nations to think of mechanisms to control and control tyrannical power to bring tyrannical powers to transparency and accountability. One of these mechanisms is the creation and strengthening of civil society institutions.

As civil society is formed and strengthened in the context of a democratic state, democratic elections, the separation of powers, the commitment to values such as human rights, democracy, transparency and accountability for governments are essential. Governments that are not committed to these values will gradually become authoritarian states, if they succeed through elections. (Rights, 2016)

### Civil society institutions in defense of human rights

The AIHRC, as a national human rights body, has a specific human rights mission and has so far played a good role in understanding and improving the human rights situation of citizens. On the other hand, the AIHRC has now become a database on the human rights situation, the protection and protection of which is a must for any human rights defender. To be clear, civil society institutions and the Independent Human Rights Commission are co-ordinating bodies that need more practical coordination. Although efforts have been made in this area, these efforts must be defined within strategic frameworks, as we are a common human rights center or family in Afghanistan. Each member of this family has responsibilities to the rest of the family. As a member of this family, the Civil Society and Human Rights Network calls for more support for the human rights family in Afghanistan.

The Afghan Civil Society and Human Rights Network, as an umbrella body for civil society organizations working for human rights and currently has been 95 member institutions, believes that the role of the Independent Human Rights Commission in improving the activities of civil society organizations in the country is important And maker. Civil Society and Human Rights Network, with its clear strategy, mission, key areas of work and clear structures, recognizes the AIHRC as its strategic partnership, and believes that these two credible institutions can work in greater coordination with each other. Civil society has done valuable work in raising public awareness and shaping a strong human rights movement, improving policies and laws, and creating effective civil mechanisms to monitor the human rights situation, and has been instrumental in improving the human rights situation of its citizens. (Rights, 2016)

### The role of civil society organizations in women's empowerment

Traditional culture in traditional societies such as Afghanistan has separated men and women and discriminated against them. Gender discrimination in traditional societies is one of the most prominent social problems facing women. Afghanistan has a number of important international instruments on women's rights and the elimination of inequalities and discrimination against women, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Declaration of the Elimination of Violence against Women, and the General Convention. Has signed and approved forms of discrimination against women, etc. Article 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), which Afghanistan in (1983) has acceded, states: "States Parties to the Covenant undertake to ensure the equality of men and women in the exercise of the civil and political rights provided for in the Convention. This covenant provides.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), in its second article, "Establishing legal protection of women's rights on the basis of equality with men and ensuring the effective protection of women against any form of discrimination by the competent judicial authorities and other public authorities" and It also cites the obligations of member states to "take the necessary measures, including the introduction of laws to amend or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs or practices that are discriminatory against women."

also the Afghan Constitution also states in Article 22 that: "Citizens of Afghanistan, both men and women, shall have equal rights and responsibilities before the law." Afghanistan's national development strategy also emphasizes gender equality and considers it a common and significant issue in all areas of security, governance and development in different fields. The government's vision is to have a progressive, peace-loving nation where men and women have equal security, rights and opportunities in all areas of life.

The process of creation of these CSOs after the year 2001 it was almost the same, and every year a number of new civic bodies are added to them. According to a report by the Independent Human Rights Commission, about 26 percent of them were created before 2002. 29.5 percent of them are created from 2002 to 2005. Nearly 28 percent of them were created from year 2006 to year 2009, and the other 13 percent were created after year 2010.
Due to the efforts made so far, the situation of women today has improved significantly compared to ten years ago, and Afghanistan has made great strides in this regard. Some of the most important of these achievements are:

1. Extensive participation of women in the country's presidential and parliamentary elections
2. The presence and participation of women in government departments
3. Active participation of women in cultural activities
4. Outstanding presence in civic institutions and social activities
5. Attend Parliament and Provincial and Local Councils
6. Finding a large number of girls in schools, universities and institutions of higher learning in the country
7. Adopt a new constitution and a law against non-violence against women and create legal protections for their equal citizenship rights
8. The presence of women in the Loya Jirga Peace Consultation

However, women still face numerous problems within the context of society and are still victims of numerous forms of violence, discrimination, deprivation, and inequality. These problems are rooted in the bad habits of society and the low level of awareness among people, especially women themselves.

In addition, women still face gender inequalities in the structure of government and participation in social and political activities. Women are also more vulnerable to adverse security conditions than men, and the deteriorating security situation it has made the field more narrow for them.

Afghan women although prominent in parliamentary activities, but suffer from universal and widespread gender discrimination. According to the United Nations Human Development Report, Afghanistan is still at the very bottom of the list of countries in terms of gender development and is ranked No.154 in this regard. Afghan women have not stopped working to mitigate these gender inequalities and exclusions and their activities in this area continue.

Certainly, the work of civil society organizations in the last decade and a half has brought about dramatic changes in the lives of women in Afghanistan. Examples of these changes are the increasing presence of women in society in cultural, economic, political and social spheres.

If the focus of civic institutions is more on changing people's opinions and beliefs, one can hope to improve the status of women and even men in society, and the best way to do so is through cultural (film and serial) media work. Because the media, especially the visual media, has the largest audience in the community and indirectly influences the thoughts and culture of the community. (Ramizi, 2019)

Conclusion

In view of the above elements, in the following, I will see to what extent the historical background of the creation of civil society in Afghanistan was instrumental in its creation in Afghanistan, and to what extent its impact on its growth and development under current conditions. However, liberal democracy as a mother and key concept retains its place in assessing the level of democracy and democracy in this process. In all of these democracy assessment models and calendars, the role of civil society and the level of freedom of civil society institutions in working for the benefit of the people in the process of transition to democracy and accepting the military as democratically important and fundamental.

Civil society has led to new developments at national, international and regional levels by working closely with civil society institutions or NGOs and external actors to support, strengthen and grow these institutions, a new phenomenon in Democratic games were later known as animated civil society or specialized civil society organizations. In fact, it was the strong influence of external actors such as Western governments, international organizations, NGOs and international actors with civil society institutions or political parties that played a key role in the process of democracy and democracy in developing countries.

Civil society in Afghanistan is also in various areas of democracy and democracy, such as raising public awareness and raising the level of legal awareness of the people in the elections that is the role of informing of the public, which increases the level of political consciousness of society and makes their participation in elections more accurate and effective. Secondly the election is not only an engagement or a political action, but also an engagement and a civil action. A democratic society, as it cannot exist without elections, cannot exist without civil society.

also in the empowerment of women that has undoubtedly brought about dramatic changes in the lives of women in Afghanistan over the past one and a half decades. Examples of these changes are the increasing presence of women in society in the cultural, economic, political, and social spheres. And more recently, strengthening and defending human rights that
promote human rights values cannot be assessed apart from the important role of civil society in society. Citizenship is the essence of the value of contemporary civil society, intertwined with the civil liberties of citizens. Civil society institutions have played an important and constructive role in these sectors in Afghanistan.

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