
Measuring the Effectiveness of Civil Society: A Quantitative analysis of perceptions of stakeholders

SHAHID HABIB

Department of Governance and Public Policy, National University of Modern Languages,
Islamabad, Pakistan
Email: shabib@numl.edu.pk

Abstract: Civil society played significant role in strengthening democracy and good governance. The purpose of the current paper was to analyse the effectiveness of the civil society and examine the relationship between the dependent (civil society effectiveness) and independent variables (civic engagement, civic participation, civic association, and co-operation/ partnership). A survey questionnaire was distributed to all the seven categories of participants, and in response of 650 questionnaires 600 were received back. For empirical verification, in depth statistical tests were applied, including Standard Regression, Structural Equation Model (SEM), One Sample T-test, and correlation to test various assumptions of the study. Statistical analysis revealed that independent variables significantly contributed to the dependent variable. This study signifies the impact of independent variables (civic engagement, civic participation, civic association, and co-operation/ partnership) to achieve the effectiveness of civil society. Along with this, both (national and international) databases have been used for the qualitative analysis. Therefore, databases and survey results showed similar results. This research revealed that civil society does not hold good history in Pakistan. Both civilian and military dictators did not give free space to the civil society in the country. This showed that civil society organizations had a limited political space in the country. Therefore, CSOs have limited impact on policy making and implementation. We recommend that civil society should move beyond the awareness raising to mitigate the conditions conducive to spread of terrorism and extremism, which include marginalization, injustice, and violation of human rights, lack of rule of law, fragile democratic culture, and poor governance.

Keywords: *Effectiveness of Civil Society, CSOs, Civic Engagement, Civic Participation, Civic Association, and Co-Operation/ Partnership*

1. INTRODUCTION

The civil society exhibits different roles across the globe. Each country's distinct level of empowerment and participation reflects in the level of its civic health. Many researchers have opined that for the promotion of democracy, good governance and economic prosperity, an enabled civil society is vital. A vigorous civil society points to healthy norms of a strong democracy. During the last decade, the debates globally have created polar, at times antagonistic, relations between the state and civil society. Stemming from the neo-Gramscian literature of the 1980s, the state was perceived as "a hegemony protected by the armor of coercion," whereas civil society was observed as the bearer of democratization and the agent for setting limits on state power. Hence a vibrant civil society became an essential pillar of a mature democracy. Moreover, civil society organizations (CSOs) are now perceived as

representatives of diverse and sectorial interest groups, widening access to and public participation in public institutions and the process (Muthien et al, 2000). As Marina Caparini (2004) argued that “civil society is a crucial agent for limiting authoritarian government, strengthening the empowerment of the people and enforcing social accountability. Therefore, it is considered a crucial factor in improving the quality and inclusiveness of governance.” Marvin G. Weinbaum (1996) wrote that viable civil society is seen as important bridge between state and citizen. Civil society also effectively takes part in accountability and political participation which leads towards good governance. Robert Putnam (1993; 2000) has argued that a healthy civil society is key to making democracy work. In his view, civil society is the microcosm for the development of democratic norms and practices. Social interaction in voluntary NGOs is a school of democracy.

Governance flourishes when facilitated by an empowered and active civil society. Civil society provides avenues to people for effectively participating in dialogue and decision-making, on matters of public and collective concern. A vigorous civil society shapes durable links between government, community, and individuals, while generating trust and confidence among them. It promotes participation, social accountability, and civic engagement, which leads to a strong democracy. Such a society creates mindfulness among community members and mobilizes them for mutual interests. Owing to these facts, civil society effectively contributes towards improvement of the lives of community and reduces poverty. This, in turn, leads to good governance (Civil Society: a framework for action, 2004). Theorists and academicians have always believed in the role of civil society in democracy and governance; they have established that civil society can effectively bridge the gap between citizens and state.

Now civil society occupies the central position in governance and democracy. Therefore, its effectiveness ensures good governance and democracy in the country. Globally, despite its centrality, civil society is facing numerous challenges too. Many institutional and structural challenges confront civil society, hence impeding optimal function of civil society. Trends across the globe showed that a vibrant civil society ensures human rights, rule of law, and service delivery. It also acts as a watchdog and holds all stakeholders accountable. In order to ensure these functions, civil society has to include aspects like civic engagement, civic participation, civic association, and co-operation/ partnership.

However, in Pakistan, even after more than seventy years of independence, an effective civil society has not been realized. The role, scope, and operation of civil society have changed considerably over the years in Pakistan. Due to feeble societal forces, civil society in Pakistan has not been involved in the political activities during dictatorial regimes. Further, Pakistan possesses a weak democratic culture which has resulted in multiple military take-overs after independence. In the backdrop of limited civil society involvement and participation, it was quite difficult for the elected governments to complete their term of office. We can argue that there is a void between existence of effective civil society and actual civil society practices in Pakistan. As we discussed above, civil society has had limited participation in governance and democracy as well as in the policy making process. Weak rule of law and lack of human rights has led to limiting the role of civil society for ensuring good governance and democracy. In this backdrop, this study fulfils the much-needed research gap by measuring the relationship between civil society effectiveness, civic engagement, civic participation, civic association, and co-operation/ partnership. In this

research, we are primarily concerned with the effectiveness of civil society in Pakistan. This research is governed mainly by the proposition that to what extent is the civil society in Pakistan effective and engaged. In addition, we have three driving research questions about this broader query. These are:

- a. *Is Pakistani civil society effective or not effective in term of civic engagement, civic participation, civic association, and co-operation/ partnership?*
- b. *Does any relationship exist among the civil society effectiveness and their predictors such as civic engagement, civic participation, civic association, and co-operation/ partnership?*
- c. *What is the impact of the predictors of the study such as civic engagement, civic participation, civic association, and co-operation/ partnership on the outcome variable civil society effectiveness?*

In order to ensure these functions, civil society has to include aspects like civic engagement, civic participation, civic association, and co-operation/ partnership. In the following sections, we detail the method, sample and measures and our analytical approach, and then present the study findings.

2. THEORETICAL BASE AND HYPOTHESES DEVELOPMENT

Effectiveness of Civil Society

White (2006) argued that civil society is essentially the residual part of society that fills the gap between the state and the individual. Much of what has been written and discussed by political theorists, lawyers, and government policymakers about the positive effect of vibrant civil society. Therefore, a robust civil society plays essential role in achieving democratization, good governance, rule of law, environmental regulation, gender equality, labor rights, and poverty reduction. Although a strong civil society may not be quite the universal solution for the societal problem that many are seeking, but it can be a powerful step in the direction of better governance that is transparent, accountable, and better public service provision by the state to its citizens. Thomas Paine and Georg Hegel gave the modern concept of civil society that separates civil society from the state (White, 2006). In the view of Neo-Marxist theorist, Antonio Gramsci, “civil society is the realm of independent and autonomous political association, holding in check the tyranny of the state.” Therefore, the term civil society is an evolving and often contested construct whose meaning has varied in different times and places. Effective civil society plays a vital role in bringing democracy and sustainable development which lead towards good governance. Danida (2008) viewed that civil society actors contribute to promote human rights, rule of law and formulate demands and expectations to public authorities and other groups. This is an important prerequisite for long term poverty reduction and promotion of democratization as well as creation of cohesion in society. In authoritarian countries, civil society has limited political space, participation, and involvement in the functioning of government. CSOs should be independent in their functioning for the promotion of democracy, and this will enhance their effectiveness. Indicators and predictors of effective civil society are presented below.

Indicators of effective civil society

We will measure effectiveness of the civil society through five indicators/ functions: human rights, public communication, rule of law, service delivery and intermediation between

citizen and state derived from literature review. Kirchsclaeger (2009) said that human rights are the rights of all human beings and accepted universally. According to Durwood (2007) rule of law plays a vital role to enhance good governance which further leads towards sustainable development and democracy. While public communication serves as the important function of society by selecting and communicating societal interests and events in a unique way (Chaffee, 1987). According to World Bank (2005), NGOs play an active role in the provision of public services where government is not able to deliver them. They also work for the service delivery and emergency relief of the citizens during disastrous natural calamities, e.g. earthquake, flood, drought, famine etc. As far as intermediation between citizens and state, Gaventa (2001) stated that civil society has capacity to bridge gap between government and citizens. It also performs an effective role of mediation between citizens and government by strengthening the voice of citizens, demonstrating their needs and societal interests. The constructs of this effective civil society are presented on the basis of these indicators. The next section presents the predictors of effective civil society and their relationship.

Civic engagement and effective civil society

Civic engagement refers to making a difference in the civic life of the community. It promotes the qualities of life and enhances the capacity of the community. Civic engagement is the vital tool in conflict resolution and peace building in the community. It refers to a broad set of practices and attitudes of involvement in social and political life, which converge to increase the vigor of a democratic society. Civic engagement conveys the communal involvement in advocacy, peace building, and empowerment. It creates social and political bonds in the community. In the process of civic engagement, the individual sees him or herself as an integral part of the community and work for the societal interest as well as achieve democratic values (Margaret E. Banyan, 2007).

Civic engagement is a process that allows citizens to influence, share, and control public affairs. It also creates networking and interaction among community to engage for the positive public outcome. Civic engagement is the effective tool to raise awareness among citizens and encourage for the social development (Khalid Malik and Swarnim Wagle, 2002). It is the participation of civil society actors, organizations and citizens at large to influence public policy and pursue common goals. Citizens and CSOs participate in public policy debate and raise awareness among key stakeholders.

According to Richard P. Adler & Judy Goggin (2005) civic engagement is an activity where individuals come together for collective actions to influence civil society at large. It is an important tool to create consensus and social harmony among different sections of society. It also helps to solve societal problems through the political process. An extensive study of relevant literature has revealed that civic engagement ensures vibrant civil society. Civic engagement is the effective tool for and exerts a significant impact on a robust civil society. Following that rationale, we hypothesize that:

Hypothesis 1: There is the significant impact of civic engagement on the civil society effectiveness.

Civic Participation and effective civil society

Civic participation encourages citizens to participate in the political process and policy making process. Civic participation is important for the strong democracy and good

governance. Citizens have the opportunity to give their valuable input in the policy formulation process. This participation enables citizens to hold politicians accountable. CSOs act as a watchdog to identify corruption, and also to promote transparent governance and set agenda for the public policy. Civic participation enables individuals to demonstrate their concerns effectively.

Burr, Caro & Moorhead (2002) claim that civic participation is at the heart of democracy. Democracy is unthinkable without the ability of citizens to participate freely in the governing process. Therefore, civic participation is the effective tool which motivates citizens to participate in political process. It is also an effective tool to mobilize citizens to demonstrate societal interest and influence public policy for the betterment of the poor community. Civic participation encourages political participation at all levels, local to national.

Kahne & Spote (2008) argue that healthy participation in the life of the community is the essentially important component of life in a democratic society. Citizens effectively participate in the political process through a voting process. Individuals hold politicians accountable through political participation as well as effectively participate in social accountability. Civic participation is the vital component of vibrant civil society. Heidi Moksnes (2010) wrote that peoples' participation provides ample opportunity to the citizens in exercising their civil and political rights, as well as express, their opinion openly. It is also an effective tool for the community to demonstrate and pursue societal interests effectively. Civil society groups exert pressure on the state to grant and protect human rights. Civil society promotes civic participation which further strengthens transparency, accountability, and participatory democracy. Political participation has an influence on decision making at different levels for the societal good. After going through an extensive literature review, it is deduced that civil society effectiveness can be ensured through civic participation. Following that rationale, we hypothesize that:

Hypothesis 2: There is the significant impact of civic participation on the civil society effectiveness.

Civic association and effective civil society

CSAs provide an effective platform for the collective decision-making and action for the societal interest. CSAs provide effective networking among all walks of life. Civil society is the domain in which associative relations are the dominant means of social organization (Warren, 1999). David & Skandera (1998) argued that CSAs play a vital role in a democratic society. They enable individual to effectively contribute to public life and participate in political activities. CSAs, like clubs, churches, charity/ welfare organizations, non-profits and community groups of all types etc. make positive change in the life of the poor community. CSAs act as an intermediary between individuals and public institutions. CSAs operate better when independent of government control and influence.

Mufunisa (2004) claimed that CSAs are more active in the fight against ineffective governments. In South Africa, CSAs are first established in 1980s and mainly deal with the local governance or local level. The main function of the CSAs is to watch over the activities of the legislature, control over corruption, awareness among citizens, and advocacy of public policy, participation in the policy making process as well as raise public interest and societal problems. Along with this, CSAs also attempt to eliminate favouritism, inequality, and injustice in services.

The scholarly literature revealed that the civic association ensures vibrant civil society. CSAs are the vital component for the robust civil society. Following that rationale, we hypothesize that:

Hypothesis 3: There is the significant impact of civic association on the civil society effectiveness.

Co-operation/ partnership and effective civil society

Warren (1999) wrote that civil society comes together for collective decision-making and action for the societal interest. Civil society is the effective tool for the coordination and cooperation with the government to achieve societal goal. Robust civil society identifies the potential problems and helps the government in agenda setting as well as policy making. Civil society cooperates with the government in the policy-making process such as public education, welfare, management of public resources, environmental issues, occupational health and safety, public health, urban planning and development, research and development and agricultural policy to achieve the societal goal.

According to Holly Sims (1997) in 1980s, there was a shift paradigm to participate the non-profit sector in the service provision as well as development. The administrations of US and UK encouraged the civic cooperation. Therefore, USA, World Bank, and International Monetary Fund (IMF) increased aid to the non-profit/ private sector rather than the governments which were viewed to be corrupt and inefficient. NGOs in both industrialized and non-industrialized countries were key beneficiaries of a new paradigm shift. There was a rapid growth in non-profit sector during this decade. Voluntary organizations mushroomed in Pakistan during 1980s and joined an array of non-profit organizations which were working since independence.

Keating (2005) argued that civil society has gained significant importance in developmental cooperation in the mid-1980s. It has also increased participation of voluntary organizations/ NGOs in this regard. Due to this, state favoured the privatization of state welfare and infrastructure services. It also promoted the public-private partnership for the development and service delivery. Civil society cooperates with the state in service functions such as education, health, and social sector etc. Detlev Wolter (2004) says that United Nation (UN) recognized the growing need and opportunity for close cooperation with civil society. UN has entered into the new millennium with the strong partnership with CSOs for the sustainable development. Non-profit sector has played major role in the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, in 2004 the UN officials declared that “partnership with NGOs is no longer an option, it is a necessity”. Following that rationale, we hypothesize that:

Hypothesis 4: There is the significant impact of co-operation/ partnership on the civil society effectiveness.

Thus, we have taken predictors that ensure effectiveness of civil society to achieve democracy and good governance in the country as well as strengthen the democracy and good governance. Independent variables of this study are civic empowerment, civic participation, civic association, and cooperation/ partnership and each variable has its own dimensions. Dependent variable, of civil society effectiveness contain the following items;

human right, rule of law, service delivery, public communication, intermediation between citizens and state. The theoretical framework is presented below.

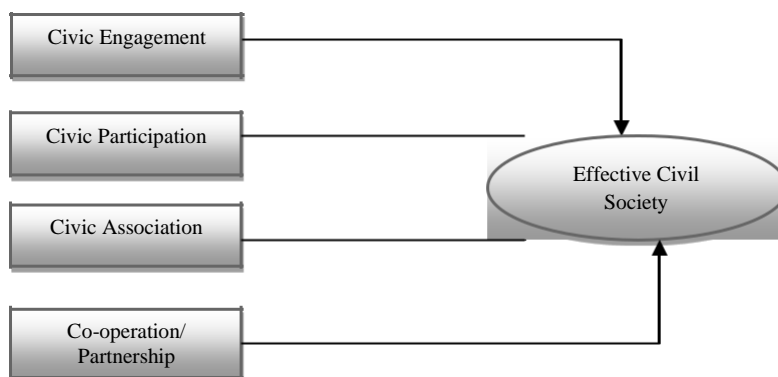


Figure. 1. Conceptual framework for the paper

3. METHOD

The research context

The research draws on a research sample from twin cities like Islamabad Capital Territory of Pakistan and Rawalpind. There are a few important reasons which motivated us to select population of the current study from these locations as Citizens here in twin cities generally have a better understanding of civil society and CSOs and People from across the Pakistan are living in these cities, because of better facilities and jobs. Therefore, participants are providing adequate representation of the entire population of the country. Further, majority of CSOs (local and international) have their head offices in these cities.

Sample and procedure

Civil society comprises of multiple stakeholders, so we believe that the number of respondents help for the data collection and enhance the significance of the study. I have selected potential actors of civil society, such as Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and civil society activists, Academia/ Professionals, media, Lawyers, Individuals, Politicians or political workers and Students/ student unions or federations. We have used convenience sampling technique for the data collection for the current study, which depends on the different stratum which is suitable for the underhand study as mentioned above. The sample collected is presented below:-

Table 1
Participants

Participants	Frequency	Percent
Academia/Professionals	50	8.3
Civil Society activists and CSO personals	125	20.8
Individuals	100	16.7
Lawyers	125	20.8
Media Personals/ Journalists	50	8.3
Politicians/ Political Workers	50	8.3
Students	100	16.7
Total	600	100.0

Measures

Based on the commonalities identified through an extensive literature review, discussion with four civil society experts, four academician, and experts of NGOs the model was validated. All the questionnaires have been constructed with the help of literature review. We have clearly identified dimensions of every variable after going through an extensive literature review.

The survey instrument has the influence of the following scholars: Wolfe (1989), Caparini (2002), Rizvi (2005), Encarnacion (2003), Hildy Teegen (2004), Carothers (1999-2000), Sulek (2008), Habermas (1996), Schmidt (2000), Merloe (2002), Merkel and Lauth, Thania Paffenholz and Christoph Spurk (2006), Diamond (1994), Abele (2006), Belloni (2001), Ezell (2001), E. Anderson (2005), Agukoh (2005), Heidi Moksnes (2010), S. Verba (1993), Mufunisa (2004) and Daryl Glaser (1997). We have used a five point Likert scale to measure the dependent variables and independent variables. The respondents have been given the numerical option ranging from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5). The analysis of the collected data by applying statistical tools, SPSS (version 23.0) and Amos. It also includes data preparation, validity and reliability, co-relation, regression analysis, and testing of hypotheses H1 to H4.

4. FINDINGS AND RESULTS

The findings are presented below:-

Validity and Reliability

The overall value of *Cronbach's Alpha* was around 0.8 that shows the reliability of collected data. The reliability of data is presented in Table 2

Table 2
The result of reliability of Dependent and Independent Variables

	Reliability Statistics		
	Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items	Valid
Effective Civil Society	.800	22	100%
Civic Engagement	.697	12	100%
Civic Participation	.700	10	100%
Civic Association	.763	10	100%
Co-operation/ Partnership	.833	9	100%

Convergent validity was analyzed by applying factor analysis (FA) on each dimension or FA was performed on each variable (dependent and independent variables) and was used as a *Principal Component Analysis* with *Varimax Factor Rotation*.

There was total 63 items in the whole instrument. The instrument had 4 predictors (IVs) and 1 response (DV) variable. After applying FA, the number of items was the same as before the test. Minimum *Factor Loading* of any item received are more than 0.60 (criteria set was 0.4) that are called excellent.

Table 3
Summary of Assumption of factor analysis

Variables	Bartlett's Test of Sphericity			
	KMO	Approx. Chi-Square	Df	Sig.
Civil Society	.752	4332.375	231	.000
Civic Engagement	.674	1815.656	66	.000
Civic Participation	.657	1367.571	45	.000
Civic Association	.798	1410.559	45	.000
Co-operation/ Partnership	.804	2021.337	36	.000

Note: the values of all the three assumptions of FA of the variables (dependent and independent) are in an acceptable range and are satisfied and suitable for the further analysis of this study.

Model Fitness

The summary of the Model Fitness demonstrates that Degree of Freedom Value (42-32) 10, **chi square** value 21.9, and chi square divide by Degree of Freedom (Ratio of chi square and degree of freedom) is 2.65 and p-value is .000 which is less than 0.05. **RMSEA** (taking the square root of the resulting ratio gives the population, root mean square error of approximation) by Steiger and Lind, and **RMSEA** by Browne and Cudeck (1993) is 0.064**. **GFI** (Goodness of Fit Index) was devised by Jöreskog and Sörbom (1984) for estimation, and generalized to other estimation criteria by Tanaka and Huba (1985) is 0.99. **AGFI** (Adjusted Goodness of Fit Index) takes into account the degrees of freedom available for testing the model is 0.91. Therefore, all above-mentioned values show that the model fits for the further analysis of this study.

Table 4
Summary of Model fitness indexes

Indexes	Standard value	Observed value	Recommended By
x ² /df	≤3.00	2.65	Wheaton et al. (1977) and Carmines and McIver (1981)
GFI	≥0.90	0.99	Jöreskog and Sörbom (1984) and Jöreskog and Sörbom (1984)
AGFI	≥0.80	0.91	Jöreskog and Sörbom (1984) and Jöreskog and Sörbom (1984)
NFI	≥0.90	0.97	Bentler & Bonett (1980) and Bollen (1989b)
CFI	≥0.90	0.98	Bentler (1990)
RMSEA	≤0.080	0.064	Browne and Cudeck (1993)

Correlation Among Variables

The result of the table of correlation of civil society with co-operation/ partnership, civic association, civic engagement, and civic participation, we see that civil society has a higher and very stronger uphill (positive) relationship with civic engagement. This means that changes in civil society are strongly correlated with changes in the civic engagement. Civil society and cooperation/participation has a moderate positive relationship with each other. While civil society has a weak uphill (positive) linear relationship with civic participation and civic association. Table paints the clear picture of relationships between variables.

Table 5

The result of the Pearson Correlation of Dependent and Independent Variables

Correlations					
	Civil Society	Civic Engagement	Civic Participation	Civic Association	Cooperation/ Partnership
Civil Society	1				
Civic Engagement	.873**	1			
Civic Participation	.282**	.223**	1		
Civic Association	.287**	.227**	.510**	1	
Cooperation/ Partnership	.363**	.318**	.458**	.278**	1

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Regression Analysis

Assumptions of Multi-collinearity, Normal distribution of the data, Linearity and Homoscedasticity were ensued. *Variance Inflation Factor (VIF)* and *Tolerance* are two measures that can guide a researcher in identifying Multi-collinearity. VIF and Tolerance were found to be well within ranges. The results are presented below.

Table 6

Results of the Multi-collinearity Statistics

Variables	Collinearity Statistics	
	Tolerance	VIF
Civic Engagement	.878	1.139
Civic Participation	.631	1.585
Civic Association	.726	1.377
Co-operation/ Partnership	.740	1.351

Further, data was normally distributed. Moreover, the Linear curve confirmed the linearity of the data. Last assumption of the regression analysis is homoscedasticity which shows the scattered distribution of the data. Before proceeding to regression analysis, it is necessary that data should be in the homogeneous form. The scatterplot diagram ensued the homogeneity of data. One of the figure is presented below.

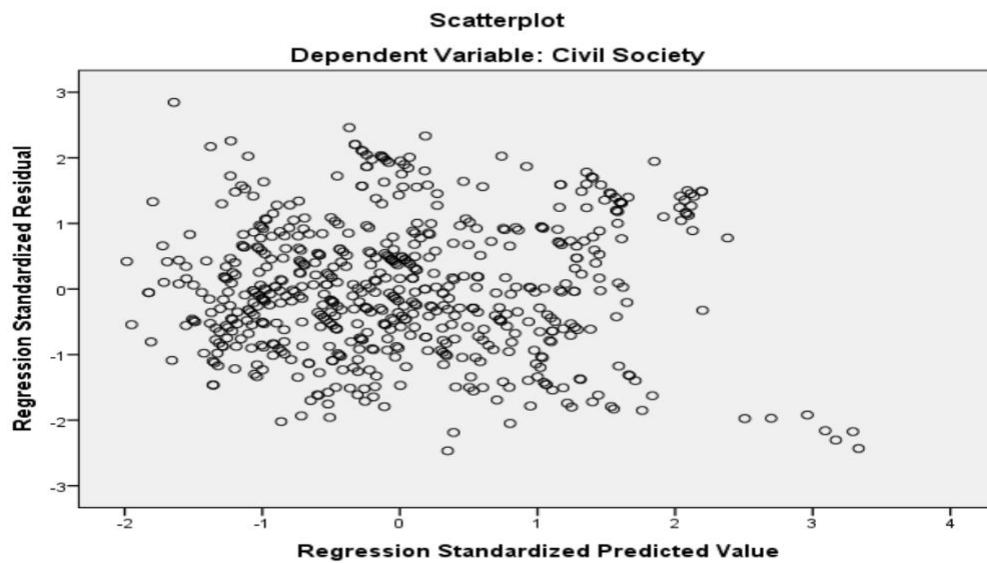


Figure. 2. Scatter Plot

We have run a regression analysis of civil society on co-operation/ partnership, civic association, civic engagement, civic participation. The Equation is

Effective Civil Society = f (Co-operation/ Partnership, Civic Association, Civic Engagement, Civic Participation)

*Effective Civil Society= b1+ b2*Co-operation/Partnership+ b3*Civic Association + b4*Civic Engagement+ b5* Civic Participation*

Model Summary

Adjusted R-Square

Adjusted R-Square measures the proportion of the variance in the dependent variable (effective civil society) that was explained by variations in the independent variables (co-operation/ partnership, civic association, civic engagement, civic participation). In this model, the “Adjusted R Square” shows that 77.5% of the variance was explained. Further, R-Square measures the proportion of the variation in the dependent variable (effective civil society) that was explained by variations in the independent variables. In this Model, the "R-Square" tell us that 77.6% of the variation (and not the variance) was explained. Std error of the estimate measures the dispersion of the dependent variables estimate around its mean (in this Model, the “Std. Error of the Estimate” is 0.25). Compare this to the mean of the “Predicted” values of the dependent variable. If the Std. Error is more than 10% of the mean, it is high.

Table 7

Results of the Variables contribution

Model Summary^b				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.881 ^a	0.776	0.775	0.25245
a. Predictors: (Constant), Co-operation/ Partnership, Civic Association, Civic Engagement, Civic Participation				
b. Dependent Variable: Civil Society				

The value of $r = 0.881$ indicates that the dependent and independent variables are positively related. Therefore, the linear relationship is very strong. The coefficient of multiple determinations is 0.776. Therefore, 77.6% of the variation in the dependent variable (civil society) is explained by its predictors (civic engagement, civic participation, civic association, and co-operation/ partnership) and 22.4% is not. The regression equation appears to be very useful for making predictions since the value of R square is high. ANOVA describes the goodness of fit. In the ANOVA table 8, last column shows the goodness of fit of the model. The lower significant level has significantly increased the goodness of the model. As we see our “Sig” is lesser than 0.01. Therefore, we conclude that our model has fitted the data.

Table 8
Result of the Model Fitness

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	131.604	4	32.901	516.229	.000 ^b
	Residual	37.921	595	.064		
	Total	169.526	599			
a. Dependent Variable: Civil Society						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Co-operation/ Partnership, Civic Association, Civic Engagement, Civic Participation						

Influence of independent variables on dependent variable (effective civil society)

Table 9 reveals that independent variable civic engagement has T statistic value 40.100 for the b coefficient provided very strong evidence ($p < 0.05$) that the slopes associated with civic engagement was not equal to zero ($b \neq 0$). The b coefficient associated with civic engagement (0.742, $p < 0.001$) was positive indicating a direct relationship with civil society. Therefore, if we would increase dependent variable (Effective Civil Society) by 1 then on average than independent variable (Civic Engagement) goes up by 0.7.

For independent variable civic participation T statistic 1.417 for the b coefficient provided strong evidence ($p < 0.05$) that the slopes associated with civic participation was not equal to zero ($b \neq 0$). The b coefficient associated with civic participation (0.342, $p < 0.05$) was indicating a positive relationship with civil society. Therefore, if we would increase civil society (dependent variable) by 1 then on average than independent variable (civic participation) goes up by 0.34.

Similarly, civic association (independent variable) T statistic 2.782 for the b coefficient provided strong evidence ($p < 0.05$) that the slopes associated with civic association was not equal to zero ($b \neq 0$). The b coefficient associated with the civic association (0.480, $p < 0.05$) was indicating a positive relationship with civil society. Therefore, if we would increase dependent variable (Effective Civil Society) by 1 then on average, independent variable (Civic Association) goes up by 0.48.

The independent variable co-operation/ partnership T statistic 2.918 for the b coefficient provided strong evidence ($p < 0.05$) that the slopes associated with co-operation/ partnership was not equal to zero ($b \neq 0$). The b coefficient associated with co-operation/ partnership (0.324, $p < 0.05$) was indicating a positive relationship with the dependent

variable (effective civil society). Therefore, if we would increase civil society (dependent variable) by 1 then on average than independent variable (co-operation/ partnership) goes up by 0.32.

The probability of the *T* statistic (3.334) for the *b* coefficient provided real evidence ($P < 0.001$) that the intercept was not equal to zero ($b \neq 0$). However, the coefficient associated with the intercept (0.233) indicated a direct relationship with civil society. The intercept represented the value of civil society when all independent variables were not equal to zero.

Table 9
Data summary of Coefficients

Coefficients^a				
Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error		
(Constant)	.233	.070	3.334	.001
Civic Engagement	.742	.019	40.100	.000
Civic Participation	.342	.022	1.417	.005
Civic Association	.480	.016	2.782	.005
Co-operation/ Partnership	.324	.016	2.918	.004

a. Dependent Variable: Civil Society

5. HYPOTHESIS TESTING H1 TO H4

Analysis is done to predict the amount of variance in the dependent variable (effective civil society) explained by a set of independent variables (civic engagement, civic participation, civic association, and co-operation/ partnership).

1. In order to test the hypothesis H1, the dependent variable (effectiveness of civil society) is regressed on independent variable civic engagement. The result of the regression shows that independent variable civic engagement significantly contributes toward the effective civil society development which supports the H1 Hypothesis.

2. In order to test the hypothesis H2, the dependent variable (civil society effectiveness) is regressed on independent variable civic participation. The result of the regression betas about the dependent variable effectiveness of civil society shows the positive and significant impact of civic participation on dependent variable civil society effectiveness. The result of the regression shows that independent variable civic participation significantly contributes to design a model of effective civil society which supports the H2 Hypothesis.

3. In order to test the hypothesis H3, the dependent variable (effectiveness of civil society) is regressed on the independent variable civic association. The result of the regression betas about the dependent variable effectiveness of civil society shows the positive and significant impact of civic association on dependent variable civil society effectiveness. The result of the regression shows that the independent variable civic association significantly contributes to design a model of effective civil society which supports the H3 Hypothesis.

4. In order to test the hypothesis H4 (co-operation/ partnership significantly contributes toward the effective civil society development) through standard regression analysis,

underlying assumptions of regression such sample size; multi-colinaerity, homo-scadicity, linearity and normality of the data of dependent variables. The dependent variable (effectiveness of civil society) is regressed on independent variable co-operation/ partnership. The result of the regression betas about the dependent variable effectiveness of civil society shows the positive and significant impact of the co-operation/ partnership on the dependent variable effectiveness of civil society. The result of the regression shows that independent variable co-operation/ partnership significantly contributes to design a model of effective civil society which supports the H4 Hypothesis.

5. DISCUSSIONS OF THE FINDINGS

If we discuss results of H1, this is certain that civic engagement is the important tool for the civic society effectiveness. The concept of civic engagement is supported by Putnam (2000), Leighley & Nagler (1992) to make civil society vibrant and effective. Peace building is the core dimension of civic engagement. Therefore, peace building activities are the effective mechanisms to civically engage the community (Anderson & Olson 2003; Fast and Neufeld 2005; Paffenholz 2005b; Paffenholz and Reychler 2006; Church and Rogers 2006). The result of regression analysis revealed that civic engagement has a positive contribution in the development of civil society effectiveness. The value of b coefficient (0.742, $p < 0.05$) indicated strong positive impact of civic engagement (independent variable) on effective civil society (dependent variable). The result of *Kruskal-Wallis* revealed that 58 percent participants were negative on civic engagement. Similarly, dimensions of civic engagement such as advocacy and peace building indicated negative result. Therefore, the value of *Kruskal-Wallis* showed that 67 and 54.5 percent participants ranked negative advocacy and peace building respectively. Another dimension (empowerment) indicated a positive result. Therefore, the value of *Kruskal-Wallis* revealed that 54.5 percent participants were positive on empowerment. On the whole, the results of *Kruskal-Wallis* depict a clear picture of low civic engagement which has significant impact on civil society effectiveness. Survey results and literature revealed the low civic engagement in the country leads toward the ineffective civil society. Therefore, civil society is not working effectively in the peace building and advocacy. Civil society also fails to empower the community. These factors are linked with the historical perspective of the state of civil society in the country.

If we discuss results of H2, we have argued that “participation is a process that the stakeholders influence and sharing control of development projects and resources and the decisions that affect them” (World Bank, 1996). Civic participation is an important component of civil society effectiveness. Therefore, civic participation has significant impact on the civil society effectiveness. Hypothesis has been tested through statistical analysis. Therefore, statistical analysis depicts the clear picture that H2 is supported. The value of b coefficient (0.342, $p < 0.05$) showed a positive impact of civic participation on civil society effectiveness. This indicates positive influence of independent variable (civic participation) on dependent variable (civil society). Therefore, if we would increase civil society (dependent variable) by 1 then on average civic participation (independent variable) goes up by 34%. This indicates civic participation is significantly contributing to the civil society effectiveness.

The results of *Kruskal-Wallis* showed that 65.67 percent respondents were negative on civic participation. Similarly, dimensions of civic participation such as political participation, social accountability, and community participation showed negative sign. Therefore, the results of *Kruskal-Wallis* indicated that 60.4, 60.2, and 56.7 percent respondents were negative on political participation, social accountability, and community participation respectively. The values *Kruskal-Wallis* depicts a clear picture of low level of civic participation in Pakistan. This also indicates the weak democracy in Pakistan.

Ali Iqbal (2009) argued that democratic process gave right to the people to choose their representatives. Election is the core component of the democracy. Civic health indicates the level of political participation in the country. Political participation is a key element in the democracy or democratic system. Election gives opportunity to participate in the political process. In other words, election has significant importance in the political participation. Community participation indicates the civic health of the community. Children get motivation from their parents to participate in the political process and communal work. But under the dictatorship people are less interested in the country situation due to lack of political process.

As far as H3 is concerned, Civic associations are key component of civil society effectiveness. Therefore, civic associations contribute to the civil society effectiveness. Hypothesis has been tested through statistical analysis which revealed that H3 was supported. Literature review revealed that civic association can be ensured through networking, information sharing, and collective actions. The result of regression analysis revealed that civic association has a positive contribution towards the development of civil society effectiveness in Pakistan. The results of coefficients showed positive influence of civic association on civil society effectiveness. Therefore, *b* coefficient (0.480, $p < 0.05$) associated with civic association indicating a positive relationship with civil society (dependent variable). This shows, if we would increase dependent variable (civil society) by 1 then on average, civic association (independent variable) goes up by 0.48. This means civic association is significantly contributing to the effectiveness of civil society.

The result of *Kruskal-Wallis* also showed that 57.5 percent respondent were negative on civic association. The dimensions of civic association such as networking and collective action showed a positive sign. The results of *Kruskal-Wallis* indicated that 52.8 and 59.2 percent respondent were positive on networking and collective action respectively. On the other hand, information sharing demonstrated negative sign. Therefore, 57.3 percent participants are of the view that civic associations have low information sharing in the country.

In networking items, majority of the participants 52.3% were of the view that social media is not an effective tool for social networking whereas 47.8 % participants were of the view that social media does not provide a platform to CSOs for the collective action in the country. Almost 52% participants were of the view that civil society fails to build alliances among different organizations/ groups. Another 50.5% participants were of the view that effective communication is not important tool to mobilize community at large. Therefore, results showed weak networking of the CSOs in the country. However, for the last few years a group of CSOs took a positive step to establish civil society forum in the country. They invited non-profit organizations from all walks of life to join the forum and make a strong civil society networking in the country.

Similarly, the items of collective actions showed same results. Therefore, 67.2 percent participants were of the view that international organizations such as World Bank, IMF, and UNO support CSOs in Pakistan. (NGORC journal) CSOs have strong connections with international organizations like the UN, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other international non-profit organizations (INGOs). In 1980, international NGOs started work in Pakistan and created networking with domestic non-profit organizations (NPOs). Initially, international NPOs came for the rehabilitation of Afghan refugees in 1980s. Now, INGOs are effectively working with domestic NPOs in different fields. Majority of NPOs are getting

funding from international donors. Besides this, CSOs work is recognized outside the Pakistan and replicated in different parts of the world. Fayyaz Baqir (2007) argued that the Orangi Pilot Project has been replicated in Africa and Asia. It was awarded “*cities without Slumps*” by the *UN Habitat*. UNDP replicated rural support programme in different parts of the world for the poverty alleviation programme. UNDP replicated rural support programme in two districts of Andhra Pradesh (India) with two million dollars. Tasneem Siddiqui was awarded Ramon Magsaysay Award and Social Entrepreneur of World and Aga Khan Award. As far as H4 is concerned, Co-operation/ partnership is also important component of civil society. Therefore, co-operation/ partnership significantly contributes to the civil society effectiveness. Statistical analysis depicts the clear picture that H4 is supported.

Literature review revealed that co-operation/ partnership can be ensures through *PPP*, resource mobilization, and collaboration. The result of regression analysis revealed that co-operation/ partnership has positively contributed in the development of civil society effectiveness. The result of *b* coefficient (0.324, $p < 0.05$) showed a positive impact of co-operation/ partnership on civil society effectiveness. This indicates positive influence of co-operation/ partnership on the effective civil society. Therefore, if we would increase dependent variable (civil society) by 1 then on average independent variable (co-operation/ partnership) goes up by 32%. This means co-operation/ partnership is the important contributor in the effectiveness of civil society.

The result of *Kruskal-Wallis* showed that 58.4 percent respondent were negative on co-operation/ partnership. Similarly, dimensions of co-operation/ partnership such as *PPP* and resource mobilization showed negative sign whereas collaboration showed positive sign. Therefore, the results of *Kruskal-Wallis* indicated that 62.9 and 62.2 percent respondent were negative on *PPP* and resource mobilization respectively. On the other hand, 53.2 percent participants were positive on collaboration. Therefore, *Kruskal-Wallis* depicts clear picture of low level of co-operation/ partnership among the civil society actors. This also indicates the lack of partnership between CSOs and government.

The above-mentioned discussion showed weak state of co-operation/ partnership which contribute in the ineffective civil society. This is pertinent that vibrant civil society plays significant role in governance and democracy as well as in the empowerment of a community. A robust civil society builds strong links between citizens and a state and encourages social harmony among the community. Theorists of civil society clearly differentiate civil society from state and market. Vibrant civil society is regarded as a panacea for the developing world and considered as an ideal vehicle to dislodge undemocratic rule. Civil society is considered as a third force and works separately from state and market.

6. CONCLUSION

The focus of this paper was on the civil society effectiveness in the country. A robust civil society builds strong links between citizens and a state and encourages social harmony among the community. Theorists of civil society clearly differentiate civil society from state and market. Vibrant civil society is regarded as a panacea for the developing world and considered as an ideal vehicle to dislodge undemocratic rule. The results revealed that civil society is not effective on the bases of dimensions. Independent variables and their dimensions show similar results. This enables researcher to deliberate further to measure the

civil society effectiveness through Kruskal-Wallis test which shows ineffective civil society on the bases of dimensions. It was found that CSOs had a limited political space in the country. Therefore, CSOs have limited impact on policy making and implementation. Government always imposed draconian laws to suppress the civil society in the country. In order to find out the degree and nature of the relationship among the variable's researcher has employed Pearson Correlation test. Results of Pearson correlation deduced strong and positive correlation between the variables (civil society effectiveness, civic engagement, civic participation, civic association, and co-operation/ partnership). At the end researcher explored the degree of contribution of variation in civil society effectiveness through regression analysis, which showed the significant level of influence of all the predictors on ensuring the effectiveness of civil society in the country. This paper also revealed that civil society effectiveness is significantly influenced civic participation, civic engagement, civic association, and co-operation/ public private partnership. Based on the idea it can be concluded that all four hypotheses are supported and substantiated during the study. This conclusion derives from the fact that civil society is not effective in the country. Government always encourages first and second generations of CSO's (welfare based CSO, welfare and community development based CSOs) and hold hostile gesture towards the third generation of CSOs (Policy advocacy based CSOs). However, civil society played vital role in the independence of judiciary and restoration of democracy in the country. Lawyers' movement provided a political space to the civil society actors in the country. CSOs are also playing a significant role in emergency relief work, response to natural disaster, social welfare, community development, and basic services. Therefore, civil society has a bright future in Pakistan.

7. REFERENCE

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