

CSS-2022

Civil society refers to all of the places where individuals gather together to have conversation, pursue common interests and, occasionally, try to influence public opinion or public policy. In many respects, civil society is where people spend their time when they are not at work or at home. For example, a group of people gather at a local park every Thursday afternoon for a game of football. Most of them arrive well before the game begins and any for some time after it ends. Some of them go out for dinner or a drink after the game. In the course of their meetings they talk about a wide range of topics, including football but also extending, to include issues such as work, family, relationships, community events, racial issues and politics. This kind of solidarity can be found in a variety of other places in civil society – such as sports clubs, bowling leagues, reading groups and social movements – where individuals get together to associate on the basis of some shared interest fostering more effective forms of citizenship. Even though people may come together on the basis of an interest they all share in common, they eventually have to develop productive strategies for dealing with conflicts and differences that emerge within the association. Team mates in a bowling league discover, on certain issues, significant differences of opinion. And yet, because they value the association and look forward to participating in its activities, they do not respond to these differences by exiting the scene. Instead, they search for the ways of interacting that will not threaten the solidarity of the group. In the process, they learn to appreciate and to tolerate social differences, a valuable skill to have in an increasingly multicultural nation. They also develop a general sense of social trust and mutual obligation, which makes society function more efficiently (this is what political scientists and sociologists are talking about when they refer to the importance of social capital). (Gathering together in an association, people begin to think about their shared private interest as a collective public interest, and they try to make sure that this public interest is safe and secured. For example, the group that gets together for a weekly football game begins to talk about the park as an important community resource; if feel that the park is being mistreated or mismanaged, will organize a 'save the park' campaign to try to influence their local politicians and the other residents of the community.) Recently, there has been growing concern that civil society is weaker than it used to be, because people are losing interest in joining associations. As citizens become increasingly disconnected from voluntary associations, they will experience less trust and less social connection, and as a result political institutions will function less efficiently. However, some scholars opine that many people are simply choosing to participate in different kinds of associations with fewer face-to-face meetings but supplemented with 'virtual' interactions facilitated by resources.

Questions

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1. How does author characterize the concept of civil society?

The author characterizes the concept of civil society to the all places where people meet each other to have conversations and talks. These people share common interests due to which they meet up. When they meet up they talk about the variety of topics, such as family, politics, and education. Thus, these healthy engagements foster effective form of citizenship.

2. Why does civil society strives towards better socialization drive by tolerance?

Civil society strives towards better socialization because they are united by the common interests. In order to deal with conflicts, they have to develop productive strategies because they value their associations and keep wants to participate. Therefore, they interact in the way that does not threaten their solidarity and tolerate differences with each other.

3- What do you understand by the term "social capital" in passage?

'Social capital' in the passage refers to the social solidarity and cohesion which promotes the welfare of the state. In other words, it means when people will have social trusts on each other and will consider it mutual obligation to work for the betterment of society, it will be like an investment or capital for state. Therefore, political scientist and sociologists might highlight its importance.

4- Why does civil society assume the role of public stake holders?

~~Civil~~ Civil society assumes the role of public stake holders when their shared private interest becomes a public interest. When they meet each other they discuss different things. Consequently, when interest of many people ally and it is for the public welfare, they try to influence politicians and local public.