

The Role of Civil Societies in Development of Democracy in Bangladesh

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Abstract

The concept of civil society has been contentious among the political philosophers. However, the conceptual developments of civil society encompass three basic ideas – civil society as an associational life and a part of society, civil society as a form of good society, and civil society as the public sphere that enables citizens to work together for the common good on the basis of trust and cooperation. Thus the concept of civil society reinforces the concept of democracy. This paper aiming to analyze the role of civil societies in consolidating democracy represents brief accounts of the conceptualization of civil society and democracy and shows how civil society strengthens the democratic institutions through holding the state authority accountable and transparent to the citizens with reference to civil society and democracy nexus in Bangladesh.

Key words: civil society, democracy, democratic transition and consolidation, accountability, NGOs, and good governance

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