

# **Political Aspects of Civil Society in Indian Working Culture**

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Civil society is a voluntarily organized body that is intermediate between the state and the family. People here live with their self-interest and personal choice and with minimum constraints. Though traditionally civil society and state were treated synonymously, Hegel separated these terms for the first time. Civil society has been described as a primary source for the civic virtues required to maintain a stable polity. Though it is a source of community and solidarity and also a sphere of social homogeneity and identity, yet it is also a sphere of plurality, diversity and conflict. The values of civil society are those of political participation and state accountability. Thus, it provides the necessary basis for participation in formal political institutions. The institutions of civil society are associational. It advocates pluralism and is opposed to totalitarianism. When state becomes an authoritarian political institution, its authority is to be challenged by the civil society.