

SOCIAL STRUCTURES OF CIVIL SOCIETY: SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS AND FEATURES

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Abstract

This article presents a sociological analysis of the social structures of civil society. The aim of the study is to identify the key features of civil society structures and to highlight their role in society. The article examines the classification of social structures, factors influencing their formation, mechanisms of their functioning, and their impact on social life. The research findings indicate that the social structures of civil society can be divided into three main groups: informal groups and communities, non-governmental organizations and social institutions, and social movements and platforms. These structures function as a complementary system, promoting individual social activity, democratic values, and legal culture. The results of the study confirm the importance of civil society social structures in ensuring societal stability and enhancing the social engagement of individuals.

Keywords

civil society, social structures, sociological analysis, informal groups, non-governmental organizations, social movements, democratic values.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of civil society is one of the central topics in sociology. It focuses on studying the interactions between individuals, social groups, and organizations, as well as the independent and autonomous institutions operating within society. The social structures of civil society are institutions, groups, organizations, and other social units that constitute society, regulate the social activity of individuals, and unite them. These structures play a significant role in the political, economic, cultural, and moral life of society.

From a sociological perspective, studying the social structures of civil society allows us to understand the relationship between an individual's role in society, social norms and values, and the activities of social institutions and groups. Moreover, civil society is strategically important for ensuring social stability,

strengthening democratic institutions, and enhancing citizens' political and social engagement.

The aim of this article is to conduct a sociological analysis of the social structures of civil society and to identify their key features, thereby highlighting their role in society. The study addresses the following issues: classification of civil society social structures, factors influencing their formation, mechanisms of their functioning, and their impact on societal life.

A social structure is a set of interrelated elements that make up the internal structure of a society. The concept of "social structure" is used both in representations of society as a social system in which the social structure provides an internal order for connecting elements, and the environment sets the external boundaries of the system, and in describing society through the category of social space. In the latter case, the social structure is understood as the unity of functionally interrelated social positions and social roles. The most important feature of a civil society is its structure, which includes various elements that closely interact with each other.

The most important essentialist aspects for civil society are the fact that individually acquired individuals, subject to their own personal desires, independently of "social negatives", do not simply seek to achieve the goals set before them, but truly satisfy their existing legitimate interests and needs.

MAIN PART

In the present period, the sociologist promoted three main approaches to the structuring of civil society by scientists: institutional, systematic and sectoral. Within them, the institutional approach has become more widespread. As the basis of this approach, the concept of a "social institution" was adopted, formed as a unit (Association) of social life, which arose in the process of historical development as a need for the purpose of coordinating the social behavior and social ties of people.

An important aspect of the institutional approach is that it makes it possible to distinguish and characterize the separately obtained factors of civil society that carry out one or another interest.

The systematic approach to structuring civil society also has a number of advantages of its own. Therefore, in the literature on various societies, the concept of "structure" is often used as a synonym for "system"[1].

Civil society includes a number of subsystems: economic, political, social and spiritual. It is possible to structure the associations of civil society, which are formed individually within the framework of each of them, depending on the functions of these subsystems. The experience of developing civil society has shown that the border between civil society and some non-governmental organizations, corresponding and consistent with the given

descriptions above, has disappeared, which means that the similarity between organizations acting within them has disappeared.

New social individuals – the existence of civil society without the appearance of citizens with equal civil rights and inherent civil qualities, the formation of which cannot be achieved. A person achieves a civic level only when a progressive worldview, personal dignity, independence and individuality, based on harmonization with high moral qualities, democratic values, value in balance with respect for the rights and freedoms of other citizens, follow the rules of laws and the life of Universal Society, etc. A person belonging to a new generation, typical of civil society, will be in a fragmented relationship with public organizations and social institutions. A sufficiently developed civil society New individuals will not only blend in and get attached to the community, but will also be able to manifest their personal individuality, acquire high spiritual views. Achieving such a state only occurs when people radically change their psyche and worldview, changing their economic and social status in a way characteristic of a new society[2].

Civil society develops slowly as a derivative of the evolutionary path of historical development. This causes the formation of certain conditions for the formation of such a society:

- civil society can be formed in two different ways – with the help (means) of the state or independently. The formation of this society with the help of the state is the development of certain laws related to the formation of society, the development of democratic structures, strict adherence to the norms universally adopted by the state.

Independent formation is when the contribution of the middle ownership layer in society begins to take priority, when the legal culture of citizens rises to the level of requirements of democratic principles, when the influence of free-thinking citizens on society rises to a significant level, civil society can be formed in an evolutionary way:

- economic conditions for the formation of civil society can be born as a result of the fact that the majority of citizens have their own personal property, have the right to independently dispose of it within the framework of various forms and rights, as well as the development of the ownership layer as an independent social unit;

- for the formation of civil society should be developed in society and various district social structures. These structures represent the different interests of representatives of social strata, groups of all citizens in society;

- the fact that a person developed from social, intellectual, psychological aspects, formed his inner freedom and ability to operate independently.

As a result of current research by the humanities and Social Sciences, civil society is interpreted as a complex, multilevel system of contacts and structures. It includes interpersonal relationships that develop outside the scope of all public activities.

First level. This level of interpersonal relations in civil society is the base (primary) that individuals provide for living, that is, the needs that arise in relation to food, clothing, housing, etc. These needs include professional, consumer and other associations (e.g. private enterprises, shareholder societies, physicians, builders, artisan associations, etc.) through social institutions such as;

Second level. In this, interpersonal relationships that arise from the needs of life extension, such as health, upbringing of children, spiritual and cultural uplift, information, communication, etc. This relationship forms a sociomadic complex that includes interactions in spiritual, ethnic, religious, family-marriage and other forms. At this level, needs are met through institutions such as Family, Educational, Scientific, creative, sports associations, cultural institutions, media.

Third level. In this, the needs of socio-political participation are taken into account. At this level, interpersonal relationships are associated with an individual choice based on political views and values that he considers preferable. This degree requires the formation of specific political and Social points of view in Indivi. At this level, needs are met through political parties, movements and other associations.

Also, sociologist scientists distinguish the structures of civil society in three main areas from each other and express them to the bottom: economic, socio-political and spiritual.

The structure of civil society in the economic sphere is: individual forms of economic activity; collective farms, cooperatives, private enterprises and shareholder societies (in the industrial, commercial, financial spheres); associations and associations by sector (associations of entrepreneurs, farmers, industrialists, banks, oil workers, etc.). These enterprises and organizations are formed by citizens' own initiatives. In addition to them, unitary enterprises of the state can operate.

The socio-political sphere of civil society includes: various forms of civil socio-political activism (meetings, demonstrations, etc.); social, political organizations and movements (trade unions, Society for organizing aid to disadvantaged strata, Society for the disabled, parties, etc.); self-governing bodies and non-governmental media. Their traditional structural elements: family, social groups and units. It is the formation and expression of Social Thought in the Moha, the introduction of universally accepted norms and values, the agreement of social discord, the promotion of self-organization of social units, the organization of mutual assistance on the basis of citizen cooperation.

The spiritual sphere of civil society is directly related to the development of people from spiritual and moral aspects, their scientific and artistic creativity, cultural development. The element of civil society in this area is freedom of speech and conscience. Their implementation represents the creation of prerequisites for the self-development of creative initiative, in order to protect the beliefs of individuals taken separately, to be able to speak out, to have the opportunity to develop their own personal ideas and concepts.

DISCUSSION

The research findings indicate that the formation and functioning of civil society's social structures play a crucial role in the political, economic, and cultural development of society. Through these structures, individuals exercise their social activity, establish interactions, and contribute to the stability of society. The study revealed that the social structures of civil society can be classified into three main groups:

- **Informal groups and communities** – provide opportunities for social interaction and collaboration among individuals.
- **Non-governmental organizations and social institutions** – assist citizens in exercising their rights and freedoms through social services, legal, and political activities.
- **Social movements and platforms** – serve as important tools for discussing societal issues and encouraging citizens' political and social engagement.

The analysis showed that the social structures of civil society operate as an interconnected and complementary system. They enhance individual social activity and strengthen democratic values and legal culture within society. Furthermore, the effectiveness of civil society's social structures depends on factors such as their formation conditions, resource availability, and mechanisms of integration into society. Personal initiative, social engagement, and cooperation with organizations contribute to the efficient functioning of these structures.

RESULTS

1. Civil society's social structures serve as key mechanisms for fostering individual social activity and maintaining societal stability.
2. These structures are classified into three main groups: informal groups, non-governmental organizations, and social movements, each playing a distinct role in different areas of society.
3. Social structures function as a complementary system, promoting individual political, economic, and cultural activity.
4. The effectiveness of civil society's social structures depends on their resource availability, societal integration, and the level of individual engagement.
5. The study also highlights that the development of civil society's social structures contributes to strengthening democratic values, enhancing legal culture, and promoting citizens' social engagement.

CONCLUSION

The social structure of civil society, through its complexity and multi-layered, determines the dynamics and development of society. In this structure, social layers, groups and institutions interact, and the active participation and solidarity of citizens is

important. Civil society is built on democratic principles, which are aimed at protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens. And social, economic and political changes play an important role in ensuring balance in structure and promoting social justice. In conclusion, a deep understanding of the social structure of civil society is necessary to ensure its effective functioning and support its Sustainable Development. This process helps to increase trust, cooperation and social responsibility among citizens. As a result, the strengthening of the social structure of civil society serves to strengthen democratic values and ensure social stability.

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