

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM: ANALYZING CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Public participation and civil society are integral to the Indian political system, reflecting the core values of democracy and active citizenship. This article delves into the various dimensions of citizen engagement and the significant role civil society organizations play in influencing governance and policy-making. By examining the diverse avenues through which citizens participate—such as voting, protests, social media activism, and grassroots initiatives—the study underscores the dynamic interaction between the populace and the state. It highlights how these participatory mechanisms empower citizens to hold elected officials accountable and advocate for policy changes. The article also addresses the challenges to effective public participation, including political apathy, socio-economic barriers, and the limitations of existing institutional frameworks. Furthermore, it explores the potential of digital platforms and new forms of civic activism in enhancing public engagement. Through a comprehensive analysis, the article emphasizes the importance of fostering an active, informed, and participatory citizenry for the strengthening of democratic processes and the promotion of social justice in India.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Public Participation, Civil Society, Indian Political System, Citizen Engagement, Democracy, Governance, Social Media Activism, Grassroots Movements, Policy Influence, Accountability*

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