

**THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN
PROMOTING SOCIAL CHANGE IN BENIN METROPOLIS**

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**UNDERGRADUATE SOCIAL STUDIES STUDENTS' ATTITUDE
TOWARDS FAMILY INSTABILITY**

By

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CERTIFICATION

We the undersigned, certify that the research work was carried out by Igue Precious EHINOMHEN, with matriculation **EDU2001469** in the Department of Curriculum and Instructional Technology, Faculty of Education, University of Benin, Benin City.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to God Almighty the creator and source of strength of the researcher for His mercy, love, grace and wisdom.

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The researcher's inherent gratitude goes to God Almighty who has been the source of her strength in this great institution, for his unfailing love, grace and mercy which sustained her irrespective of the uncertainties she encountered throughout the duration of this course.

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ABSTRACT

This study was designed to investigate the role of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin metropolis. To achieve the purpose intended for the study, four research questions were raised to guide the study.

The population of this study consist of all SS 2 students in public senior secondary school in Benin Metropolis. There are 6890 students in Benin Metropolis. Egor Local government area. The sample for the study consists of 180 students drawn from three Local Government Area in Benin Metropolis (Egor, Ikpoba -Okha and Oredo). The simple random sampling techniques was used to select 3 schools each from the Local Government Areas making a total number of 9 schools. 20 students were purposively selected from each of the schools making a total of 180 students. A questionnaire titled "civil society and social movement on social change (CSSMSC)" was the instrument for data collection. The question is divided into two sections, section A talks about student demographic variable and section B was designed in to 4 points like scale formular of strongly Agree (SA), Agree(A), Disagree(D) strongly disagree (SD) and elicited comment on (The role of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin Metropolis) In order to ascertain the reliability of the instrument a pilot testing was done using 20 students who are not part of the sampled population and data obtained was analyzed using the Cronbach Alpha correlation coefficient formular and a reliability coefficient of 0.69 was obtained which indicated that the instrument is reliable.

Findings from the study revealed that civil society movements play a pivotal role in mobilizing grassroots activism, it was also shown that civil society movements play a crucial role in challenging existing power structures built to undermine human right. It was revealed that Civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change by advocating for societal transformations. It was shown that civil society movements play a crucial role by mobilising community members at the local level to address social issues. It was recommended that Civil society organizations should empower grassroots activists to address social issues at the local level. Civil society movements should mobilise community members at the local level to address social issues.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study

Civil society is a crucial aspect of a democratic society, as it represents the space where citizens can freely and actively engage in social, cultural, and political activities outside of the state and the market. In recent years, the concept of civil society has gained increasing attention as it is seen as a key factor in promoting democracy, human rights, and social cohesion. Civil society plays a significant role in promoting democracy by providing a space for citizens to organize, mobilize, and advocate for their rights and interests. It serves as a watchdog that monitors government actions, holds political leaders accountable, and ensures transparency

and accountability in decision-making processes. Civil society also acts as a bridge between the state and the citizens, facilitating dialogue, exchange of ideas, and collaboration between different actors in society.

Furthermore, civil society organizations (CSOs) play a crucial role in advancing human rights, social justice, and equality by advocating for marginalized groups, raising awareness about social issues, and lobbying for policy changes. They also provide essential services and support to vulnerable communities, such as education, healthcare, and social assistance, which can help address social inequalities and promote inclusion. Civil society is essential in a democratic society as it helps to foster a culture of participation, dialogue, and cooperation among different actors in society. It promotes pluralism and diversity of opinions, which are vital for a vibrant and inclusive democracy. Civil society also contributes to the development of social capital, trust, and reciprocity among citizens, which are necessary for a functioning democracy. Moreover, civil society organizations play a critical role in promoting social cohesion, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding by bringing together different groups and fostering dialogue and mutual understanding. They also serve as a buffer against authoritarian tendencies

and abuses of power by holding governments accountable, defending human rights, and promoting the rule of law.

Social movements are a form of collective action that aims to bring about social, political, or cultural change by mobilizing groups of individuals around a common cause or shared values. Social movements have played a significant role in shaping history, challenging power structures, and advancing social justice. This essay will explore the concept of social movements, their characteristics, goals, tactics, and impact. It will also examine the role of social movements in promoting social change and democracy.

Social movements are characterized by several key features that distinguish them from other forms of collective action. One of the main characteristics of social movements is their collective nature, as they involve a group of individuals who come together to address a specific issue, challenge an injustice, or advocate for a common goal. Social movements typically emerge in response to perceived grievances, inequalities, or injustices in society.

Another characteristic of social movements is their grassroots origin, as they often start from the bottom-up, with ordinary citizens, activists, and community

organizers leading the way. Social movements can be organized around various issues, such as civil rights, labor rights, environmental protection, gender equality, and peace. They can take different forms, including protests, demonstrations, strikes, boycotts, and advocacy campaigns.

The primary goal of social movements is to bring about social change, whether it be reforming existing institutions, transforming social norms, or challenging power dynamics. Social movements often advocate for specific policy changes, legal reforms, or societal transformations that address the root causes of social problems and injustices. They seek to raise awareness, mobilize support, and pressure decision-makers to address their demands. Social movements also aim to empower marginalized groups, give voice to the voiceless, and challenge dominant narratives and structures that perpetuate inequality and discrimination. They provide a platform for individuals to come together, share their experiences, and work collectively towards a common vision of a more just, equitable, and inclusive society. Social movements can create spaces for dialogue, debate, and collaboration among diverse groups and actors in society.

Social movements employ a variety of tactics and strategies to advance their goals and objectives, depending on the context, resources, and level of organization. Some common tactics used by social movements include protests, marches, sit-ins, civil disobedience, and direct action. These forms of resistance can draw attention to social issues, disrupt the status quo, and pressure decision-makers to listen to their demands. Social movements also utilize communication and media strategies to raise awareness, mobilize support, and shape public opinion. They use social media, online platforms, and traditional media outlets to reach a wider audience, share their message, and build solidarity among supporters. Social movements may also engage in lobbying, advocacy, and coalition-building to influence policy-making, hold governments accountable, and create lasting change. Social movements have had a profound impact on society, politics, and culture throughout history. They have played a key role in advancing civil rights, labor rights, women's rights, environmental protection, and social justice. Social movements have been instrumental in challenging oppressive regimes, promoting democracy, and fostering social change. They have raised awareness about pressing social issues, mobilized public support, and pushed for policy reforms. Social movements have also influenced public opinion, cultural norms, and values, shaping the way

people think about social issues and changing societal attitudes towards marginalized groups. Social movements have sparked debates, conversations, and dialogues about important social issues, such as racism, sexism, poverty, and inequality. They have inspired individuals to take action, stand up for their rights, and work towards a more just and equitable society. Social change refers to the transformation of societal institutions, attitudes, values, and behavior over time. It can occur in various forms, such as technological advancements, political revolutions, cultural movements, and economic developments. Social change is essential for the progress and improvement of society and can have a significant impact on individuals and communities.

Statement of the Problem

Social changes can bring about numerous challenges that individuals and communities may face. Some common challenges include resistance to change: People often resist social changes due to fear of the unknown, attachment to traditions, or concerns about losing power or privilege. This resistance can slow down or hinder the progress of positive social changes. Social changes may exacerbate existing inequalities and discrimination within society. Some groups

may face marginalization or oppression as a result of changing norms or values. Social changes can lead to clashes between different cultural, religious, or ethnic groups. These conflicts may stem from differences in values, beliefs, or practices, and can result in social tensions and divisions. Changes in the economy can impact different groups of people unequally, leading to widening income gaps, unemployment, and economic instability. Environmental degradation: Some social changes, such as increased industrialization or urbanization, can contribute to environmental degradation and climate change. This can have long-term negative consequences for society as a whole Political instability: Social changes may also lead to political unrest or instability, as individuals and groups compete for power, resources, or influence in the changing social landscape. Rapid social changes can be stressful and overwhelming for individuals, leading to mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and feelings of isolation or alienation. Addressing these challenges requires proactive and inclusive approaches, such as promoting dialogue and understanding between different groups, advocating for social justice and equality, and fostering resilience and adaptability.

Research Questions

The following research question were raised to guide the study

1. What are the contemporary role of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin Metropolis?
2. What are the challenges of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin Metropolis?
3. What are the best strategies for civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin Metropolis?
4. What are the ways enhancing the effectiveness of civil society and social movements in Benin Metropolis?

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate the role of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin metropolis.

Specifically, the study is to find out.

- i. the contemporary role of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin Metropolis.
- ii. determines the challenges of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin Metropolis.
- iii. Find out the best strategies for civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin Metropolis.

- iv. find out the ways enhancing the effectiveness of civil society and social movements in Benin Metropolis.

Significance of the Study

This study will be of significance to Students, Activists and advocates, Policy Makers and Researchers.

The study will provide students with evidence-based knowledge and strategies on how civil society and social movements can effectively promote social change in Nigeria. It will help activist and advocate better understand the dynamics of social movements,

identify key stakeholders and allies, and develop more impactful advocacy campaigns.

The study will inform policymakers on the importance of civil society in advancing social change and provide them with insights on how to effectively engage with civil society organizations. It could also highlight the role of social movements in holding governments accountable and pushing for policy reforms that address social issues.

The study will contribute to the academic knowledge base on civil society and social movements in Nigeria, providing valuable insights for further research and analysis. It could also help researchers identify gaps in the existing literature and suggest areas for future study, ultimately advancing scholarship in this field.

Scope/ Delimitation of the Study

The scope of this study borders on the role of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin Metropolis.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter reviews related literature and it is discussed under the following Sub-headings;

- Concept of Civil Society
- Concept of Social Movements
- Concept of Social Change

- Role of Civil Society and Social Movements in Promoting Social Change
- The Challenges of Civil Society and Social Movements in Promoting Social Change
- Strategies for Civil Society and Social Movements in Promoting Social Change
- Recommendations for Enhancing the Effectiveness of Civil Society and Social Movements
- Summary of Reviewed Literature

Concept of Civil Society

Civil society can be defined as the space where individuals come together to voluntarily engage in collective action for the common good, separate from the state and the market. It is essentially the arena of society where citizens can freely express their views, organize themselves, and advocate for social change. Social movements, on the other hand, can be understood as organized efforts by individuals or groups to bring about social, political, economic, or cultural change. One of the key characteristics of civil society is its role as a check on governmental power. By providing an alternative space for citizens to voice their opinions and advocate for their rights, civil society acts as a counterbalance to the power of the

state. This can be particularly important in societies where governments are authoritarian or unresponsive to the needs of their citizens. For example, in countries where freedom of speech is limited, civil society organizations can play a crucial role in speaking out against government abuses and promoting human rights.

Concept of Social Movement

Social movements are a key component of civil society, as they are often the driving force behind social change. Whether advocating for racial equality, LGBTQ rights, environmental protection, or other causes, social movements are instrumental in challenging societal norms and pushing for progress. These movements can take many forms, from grassroots organizations to large-scale protests and demonstrations. By mobilizing individuals around a common cause, social movements have the power to bring about significant transformations in society.

One example of a successful social movement within civil society is the civil rights movement in the United States. Beginning in the 1950s and continuing through the 1960s, this movement sought to end racial segregation and discrimination against

African Americans. Through nonviolent protests, sit-ins, marches, and legal challenges, civil rights activists were able to bring about changes in laws and attitudes that had a lasting impact on Nigeria society.

Another example of a contemporary social movement is the environmental movement, which seeks to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the environment and combating climate change. Through a combination of advocacy, education, and direct action, environmental activists have been able to push for policies that promote sustainability and conservation. This movement has gained widespread support around the world, with millions of people participating in events such as the Global Climate Strikes to demand action from governments and corporations. In conclusion, civil society and social movements are essential components of a healthy and vibrant society. By providing a space for citizens to organize and advocate for change, civil society plays a crucial role in promoting democracy, human rights, and social justice. Social movements, in particular, have the power to challenge the status quo and push for meaningful reforms that benefit all members of society. It is through the collective efforts of individuals and groups

within civil society that positive change can be achieved and a more equitable and just world can be realized.

Concept of Social Change

Social change refers to alterations in social structures, culture, laws, and institutions over time. These changes can occur gradually or rapidly and can have a profound impact on the way society functions. Social change can be driven by a variety of factors, including technological advancements, economic shifts, political movements, and cultural shifts. According to sociologist William (2014), social change is a process that is inevitable and constant. He argued that as societies evolve, new ideas and technologies emerge, leading to changes in social norms and values. Ogburn coined the term "cultural lag" to describe the phenomenon where cultural beliefs and practices struggle to keep up with technological advancements, causing tension and conflict within society. Another influential theorist in the study of social change is Karl Marx, who believed that economic forces drive social change. Marx (2017) argued that capitalism creates inequality and exploitation, leading to class struggle and eventually revolution. He believed that capitalism would eventually collapse and be replaced by socialism or communism. One example of social change in recent years is the legalization of same-sex marriage in

many countries around the world. This shift in societal attitudes towards rights reflects changing cultural norms and a greater acceptance of diversity and equality. Overall, social change is a complex and dynamic process that is shaped by a wide range of factors. It plays a crucial role in shaping the future of society and influencing the lives of individuals.

Role of Civil Society and Social Movements in Promoting Social Change

Civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change by advocating for societal transformations, challenging existing power structures, and mobilizing grassroots activism. These movements have historically been instrumental in addressing social injustices, promoting human rights, and advancing democratic values (Tarrow, 2021). One of the roles of civil society movements is to advocate for societal transformations by raising awareness about pressing social issues. By organizing protests, campaigns, and demonstrations, civil society organizations draw attention to injustices and inequalities within society, prompting public discourse and policy changes. For example, the civil rights movement in the Nigeria used nonviolent protest tactics to challenge racial segregation and discrimination, leading to the passage of landmark legislation such

as the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Through their advocacy efforts, civil society movements can influence public opinion, shape policy decisions, and bring about lasting social change (Keck & Sikkink, 2019). Furthermore, civil society movements play a crucial role in challenging existing power structures and holding governments and corporations accountable for their actions. By engaging in advocacy campaigns, lobbying efforts, and legal challenges, civil society organizations can push for reforms and accountability measures that promote transparency, integrity, and good governance. For instance, the environmental movement has been successful in raising awareness about climate change, mobilizing public support for renewable energy initiatives, and pressuring governments to adopt sustainable policies. Through their advocacy efforts, civil society movements can challenge entrenched power structures, advocate for social justice, and promote accountability in decision-making processes (Goodwin, Jasper., & Polletta, 2020).

Moreover, civil society movements play a pivotal role in mobilizing grassroots activism and empowering marginalized communities to advocate for their rights and interests. By organizing community-based initiatives, capacity-building

programs, and coalition-building efforts, civil society organizations can empower grassroots activists to address social issues at the local level. For example, the women's rights movement has empowered women to challenge gender-based discrimination, violence, and inequality, leading to significant gains in women's rights and gender equality. By fostering grassroots activism and empowering marginalized communities, civil society movements can promote social mobilization, civic engagement, and community empowerment. Additionally, civil society movements are essential agents of social change that play a critical role in promoting societal transformations, challenging power structures, and mobilizing grassroots activism. By advocating for social justice, holding governments and corporations accountable, and empowering marginalized communities, civil society organizations can bring about lasting social change and advance democratic values. Through their advocacy efforts, civil society movements can shape public opinion, influence policy decisions, and promote social justice for all members of society. In today's increasingly interconnected world, civil society movements will continue to play a pivotal role in driving social changes and advancing collective aspirations for a more just and equitable society.

The Challenges of Civil Society and Social Movements in Promoting Social Change

Civil society movements play a critical role in promoting social change, but they also face numerous challenges that can hinder their effectiveness and impact. One of the primary challenges faced by civil society movements is the lack of resources and funding to sustain their activities and initiatives. Many civil society organizations operate on limited budgets and rely on donations, grants, and volunteer labour to support their work. This can create financial constraints that limit their ability to reach their target audiences, mobilize support, and sustain long-term advocacy campaigns. Without adequate resources, civil society movements may struggle to make a lasting impact on social issues and bring about meaningful change (Stoeckle & Corey-Boulet, 2019).

Additionally, civil society movements often encounter resistance and opposition from powerful interests, including governments, corporations, and other privileged groups. These actors may seek to suppress or undermine civil society activities through legal restrictions, censorship, intimidation, and harassment. For example, authoritarian regimes may crackdown on dissent and civil society activities to

maintain their hold on power and suppress opposition voices. In such contexts, civil society movements face significant challenges in advocating for social change and promoting democratic values (Piven & Cloward, 2017).

Furthermore, internal divisions, conflicts, and rivalries within civil society movements can hinder their effectiveness and cohesion. Diverse coalitions of activists, organizations, and individuals may have differing priorities, strategies, and ideologies, leading to tensions and disagreements over goals and tactics. This can weaken the solidarity and unity of civil society movements, making it difficult to mobilize collective action and achieve common objectives. Intra-movement conflicts and divisions can undermine the impact and credibility of civil society efforts to promote social change (van-Laer, J., & Aelst, 2019).

Moreover, civil society movements may struggle to engage and mobilize marginalized and disenfranchised communities, particularly those facing systemic discrimination, poverty, and exclusion. These communities may have limited access to resources, information, and opportunities to participate in civil society activities. As a result, civil society movements may struggle to amplify the voices and concerns of marginalized groups and address their specific needs and priorities.

Without meaningful engagement with marginalized communities, civil society movements may fail to effectively promote social change and advance inclusive and equitable development.

In conclusion, civil society movements face a range of challenges in promoting social change, including limitations in resources, resistance from powerful interests, internal divisions, and difficulties in engaging marginalized communities. Despite these challenges, civil society organizations continue to play a vital role in advocating for social justice, challenging power structures, and mobilizing grassroots activism. By recognizing and addressing these challenges, civil society movements can strengthen their impact, inclusivity, and sustainability in advancing social change. Through collective action, collaboration, and resilience, civil society movements can overcome obstacles and contribute to a more just and equitable society for all.

Strategies for Civil Society and Social Movements in Promoting Social Change

Civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change by advocating for societal transformations, challenging existing power structures, and mobilizing grassroots activism. To be effective, civil society organizations need to

employ the best strategies to advance their causes and achieve meaningful impact (Chenoweth, & Stephan, 2021). One of the most effective strategies for civil society movements in promoting social change is building strategic alliances and partnerships with like-minded organizations and individuals. By collaborating with other civil society organizations, community groups, and grassroots activists, movements can amplify their voices, pool resources, and expand their reach. Strategic alliances enable movements to build a broader coalition of supporters, increase their advocacy capacity, and leverage collective power to influence policy decisions and societal norms. For example, the global climate justice movement has successfully mobilized a diverse coalition of environmental organizations, indigenous groups, youth activists, and other stakeholders to advocate for sustainable policies and address the climate crisis (Moyer, 2021).

Another key strategy for civil society movements is engaging in public education and awareness-raising campaigns to mobilize support, raise consciousness, and foster dialogue on pressing social issues. By utilizing media, social media, public events, and educational materials, movements can reach a wider audience, inform the public about social injustices, and stimulate public debate and action. Public

education campaigns are essential for building solidarity, demystifying complex issues, and empowering individuals to take informed action. For instance, the Black Lives Matter movement has used social media platforms, protests, and community events to raise awareness about police brutality, systemic racism, and racial injustice, sparking a national conversation and mobilizing support for racial equity and social justice (Klandermans, 2014).

Moreover, civil society movements can effectively utilize nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience as powerful tools for social change. By engaging in peaceful protests, sit-ins, strikes, and other forms of civil disobedience, movements can disrupt the status quo, attract media attention, and challenge oppressive systems and policies. Nonviolent resistance can build public sympathy, expose injustices, and pressure decision-makers to address social grievances. For example, the civil rights movement in the United States, led by Martin Luther King Jr., utilized nonviolent tactics such as boycotts and marches to challenge racial segregation and discrimination, ultimately catalyzing legislative reforms and social change. In addition, civil society movements can leverage technology and digital tools to amplify their advocacy efforts, engage supporters, and mobilize action. Social

media platforms, online petition platforms, and digital communication tools enable movements to reach a global audience, mobilize supporters quickly, and organize decentralized actions. By harnessing the power of technology, movements can create virtual communities, share information, and coordinate collective action across borders. For example, the #MeToo movement, sparked by Tarana Burke and amplified by social media, empowered survivors of sexual harassment and assault to share their stories, raise awareness, and advocate for systemic change to end gender-based violence.

Furthermore, civil society movements can employ a combination of advocacy strategies, including lobbying, legal advocacy, grassroots organizing, and storytelling, to achieve their goals and effect social change. By utilizing a mix of tactics and approaches, movements can tailor their strategies to different contexts, engage diverse stakeholders, and address multi-faceted social issues. Collaboration between grassroots activists, policy experts, lawyers, and storytellers can amplify the impact and effectiveness of advocacy efforts. For example, the LGBTQ rights movement has utilized a combination of legal advocacy, community organizing,

public education, and personal narratives to challenge discriminatory laws, promote equal rights, and advance societal acceptance of LGBTQ individuals.

In conclusion, civil society movements have a range of effective strategies at their disposal to promote social change, including building alliances, engaging in public education campaigns, utilizing nonviolent resistance, leveraging technology, and employing diverse advocacy approaches. By employing these strategies strategically and creatively, civil society movements can advance their causes, mobilize support, and effect meaningful change in society. Through collaboration, innovation, and resilience, civil society movements can continue to be powerful agents of social transformation and advocates for justice and equity.

Recommendations for Enhancing the Effectiveness of Civil Society and Social Movements

Enhancing the effectiveness of civil society and social movements is essential for driving social change, promoting democratic values, and advancing human rights. In this essay, we will discuss recommendations for improving the impact and sustainability of civil society organizations and movements, drawing on key strategies and best practices. One of the first recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of civil society and social movements is to prioritize diversity, equity,

and inclusion within organizations and movements. By fostering diverse leadership, representation, and perspectives, civil society organizations can better reflect the communities they serve, amplify marginalized voices, and address systemic inequalities. Embracing diversity and inclusion can enhance the relevance, credibility, and impact of movements, leading to more inclusive and equitable social change initiatives. Research has shown that organizations with diverse leadership are more innovative, resilient, and effective in achieving their goals (Hunt., 2018).

Another key recommendation is to strengthen organizational capacity and sustainability by investing in training, professional development, and institutional strengthening. Civil society organizations often operate with limited resources and face challenges in fundraising, governance, and strategic planning. By investing in capacity-building initiatives, organizations can enhance their skills, knowledge, and infrastructure to deliver more impactful programs, engage stakeholders, and navigate complex social issues. Building organizational capacity is crucial for sustaining long-term impact and resilience in the face of external challenges and internal changes.

Moreover, enhancing collaboration, networking, and partnerships among civil society organizations can leverage collective strengths, resources, and expertise to address common goals and challenges. By fostering collaboration across sectors, movements can amplify their impact, expand their reach, and create synergies that enhance their effectiveness. Strategic partnerships with academia, businesses, government agencies, and other stakeholders can facilitate knowledge sharing, resource mobilization, and advocacy efforts. Collaborative initiatives can also help build solidarity, trust, and shared vision among diverse stakeholders, leading to more sustainable and inclusive social change outcomes.

Additionally, promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance practices within civil society organizations can enhance trust, credibility, and legitimacy among stakeholders, donors, and the public. By adopting transparent reporting mechanisms, ethical fundraising practices, and participatory decision-making processes, organizations can build trust with their constituents, donors, and partners. Good governance practices can also increase organizational efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability, leading to improved outcomes, impact, and resilience in promoting social change. Research has shown that organizations with

strong governance structures are more likely to achieve their mission and goals (Hosking, 2019).

Furthermore, utilizing innovative communication strategies, digital tools, and technology can enhance the outreach, engagement, and mobilization of civil society movements. By leveraging social media platforms, online advocacy tools, and digital storytelling techniques, organizations can expand their audience, spark dialogue, and mobilize support for their causes. Digital advocacy can enable movements to reach new audiences, raise awareness about social issues, and facilitate decentralized actions. Technology can also improve organizational efficiency, data management, and collaboration, leading to more effective and sustainable social change initiatives.

In conclusion, enhancing the effectiveness of civil society and social movements requires a holistic approach that prioritizes diversity, capacity-building, collaboration, governance, and innovation. By implementing these recommendations, civil society organizations can strengthen their impact, sustainability, and resilience in promoting social change and advancing democratic values. Through inclusive leadership, strategic partnerships, transparent

governance, and innovative communication, civil society movements can amplify their voices, mobilize support, and effect meaningful change in society.

Summary of Reviewed Literature

It was discovered Civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change by advocating for societal transformations, challenging existing power structures, and mobilizing grassroots activism. These movements have historically been instrumental in addressing social injustices, promoting human rights, and advancing democratic values. One of the roles of civil society movements is to advocate for societal transformations by raising awareness about pressing social issues. By organizing protests, campaigns, and demonstrations, civil society organizations draw attention to injustices and inequalities within society, prompting public discourse and policy changes. For example, the civil rights movement in the Nigeria used nonviolent protest tactics to challenge racial segregation and discrimination, leading to the passage of landmark legislation such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Through their advocacy efforts, civil society movements can influence public opinion, shape policy decisions, and bring about lasting social change

Furthermore, civil society movements play a crucial role in challenging existing power structures and holding governments and corporations accountable for their actions. By engaging in advocacy campaigns, lobbying efforts, and legal challenges, civil society organizations can push for reforms and accountability measures that promote transparency, integrity, and good governance. For instance, the environmental movement has been successful in raising awareness about climate change, mobilizing public support for renewable energy initiatives, and pressuring governments to adopt sustainable policies. Through their advocacy efforts, civil society movements can challenge entrenched power structures, advocate for social justice, and promote accountability in decision-making processes. Moreover, civil society movements play a pivotal role in mobilizing grassroots activism and empowering marginalized communities to advocate for their rights and interests. By organizing community-based initiatives, capacity-building programs, and coalition-building efforts, civil society organizations can empower grassroots activists to address social issues at the local level.

Civil society movements play a critical role in promoting social change, but they also face numerous challenges that can hinder their effectiveness and impact. One

of the primary challenges faced by civil society movements is the lack of resources and funding to sustain their activities and initiatives. Many civil society organizations operate on limited budgets and rely on donations, grants, and volunteer labour to support their work. This can create financial constraints that limit their ability to reach their target audiences, mobilize support, and sustain long-term advocacy campaigns. Without adequate resources, civil society movements may

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Furthermore, internal divisions, conflicts, and rivalries within civil society movements can hinder their effectiveness and cohesion. Diverse coalitions of

activists, organizations, and individuals may have differing priorities, strategies, and ideologies, leading to tensions and disagreements over goals and tactics. This can weaken the solidarity and unity of civil society movements, making it difficult to mobilize collective action and achieve common objectives. Intra-movement conflicts and divisions can undermine the impact and credibility of civil society efforts to promote social change (van Laer, J., & Aelst, 2019).

Moreover, civil society movements may struggle to engage and mobilize marginalized and disenfranchised communities, particularly those facing systemic discrimination, poverty, and exclusion. These communities may have limited access to resources, information, and opportunities to participate in civil society activities. As a result, civil society movements may struggle to amplify the voices and concerns of marginalized groups and address their specific needs and priorities. Without meaningful engagement with marginalized communities, civil society movements may fail to effectively promote social change and advance inclusive and equitable development. In conclusion, civil society movements face a range of challenges in promoting social change, including limitations in resources, resistance from powerful interests, internal divisions, and difficulties in engaging

marginalized communities. Despite these challenges, civil society organizations continue to play a vital role in advocating for social justice, challenging power structures, and mobilizing grassroots activism. By recognizing and addressing these challenges, civil society movements can strengthen their impact, inclusivity, and sustainability in advancing social change. Through collective action, collaboration, and resilience, civil society movements can overcome obstacles and contribute to a more just and equitable society for all. Another key strategy for civil society movements is engaging in public education and awareness-raising campaigns to mobilize support, raise consciousness, and foster dialogue on pressing social issues. By utilizing media, social media, public events, and educational materials, movements can reach a wider audience, inform the public about social injustices, and stimulate public debate and action. Public education campaigns are essential for building solidarity, demystifying complex issues, and empowering individuals to take informed action. For instance, the Black Lives Matter movement has used social media platforms, protests, and community events to raise awareness about police brutality, systemic racism, and racial injustice, sparking a national conversation and mobilizing support for racial equity and social justice. In conclusion, enhancing the effectiveness of civil society and social

movements requires a holistic approach that prioritizes diversity, capacity-building, collaboration, governance, and innovation.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the methods and procedures used to carry out the study under the following sub-headings:

- Research Design
- Population of the Study
- Sample and Sampling Techniques
- Research Instrument
- Validity of the Instrument
- Reliability of the Instrument
- Method of Data Collection

- Method of Data Analysis

Research Design

The descriptive survey research design was used for this study. The choice the design is based on the fact that the variable of the study was explained the way they are and not manipulated.

Population of the Study

The population of this study consist of all SS 2 students in public senior secondary school in Benin Metropolis. There are 6890 students in Benin Metropolis. Egor Local government area (Edo State Ministry of Education 2024)

Sample and Sampling Techniques

The sample for the study consists of 180 students drawn from three Local Government Area in Benin Metropolis (Egor, Ikpoba -Okha and Oredo). The simple random sampling techniques was used to select 3 schools each from the Local Government Areas making a total number of 9 schools. 20 students were purposively selected from each of the schools making a total of 180 students.

Research Instrument

A questionnaire titled "civil society and social movement on social change (CSSMSC)" was the instrument for data collection. The question is divided into two sections, section A talks about student demographic variable and section B was designed in to 4 points like scale formular of strongly Agree (SA), Agree(A), Disagree(D) strongly disagree (SD) and elicited comment on (The role of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin Metropolis

Validity of the Instrument

The content validity of the instrument was established after an intensive screening by the supervisor and two experts from the Department of Curriculum and Instructional Technology, University of Benin. Their inputs and correction in terms of clarity and appropriateness of language was used to develop the final draft.

Reliability of the Instrument

In order to ascertain the reliability of the instrument a pilot testing was done using 20 students who are not part of the sampled population and data obtained was analyzed using the Cronbach Alpha correlation coefficient formular and a reliability coefficient of 0.69 was obtained which indicated that the instrument is reliable.

Method of Data Collection

The researcher was personally administered the questionnaires to the respondents in the sampled institution. The collection was done immediately after the completion of the questionnaire.

Method of Data Analysis

The data collected for this study was analyzed with the use of simple percentage, frequency count and mean score analysis.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This chapter focuses on the presentation of results collected from the investigation.

The findings are also discussed.

Question 1: What are the contemporary role of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin City?

Table 1: Distribution of responses on the contemporary role of civil society and social movements in promoting social change

	ITEMS	N	Mean Score	Remark
1.	Civil society movements play a pivotal role in mobilizing grassroots activism	180	2.57	Agreed
2.	Civil society movements play a pivotal role in empowering marginalized communities to advocate for	180	3.15	Agreed

	their rights and interests.			
3.	Civil society organizations empower grassroots activists to address social issues at the local level	180	2.79	Agreed
4.	Civil society movements play a crucial role in challenging existing power structures built to undermine human right	180	3.28	Agreed
5.	Civil society movements play role in advocating for societal transformations	180	3.22	Agreed

Criterion Mean: 2.50

The data in Table 1 above shows that items 1, 2, 3 and 5 met the mean score standard of 2.50 and, therefore, were agreed. This, therefore revealed that civil society movements play a pivotal role in mobilizing grassroots activism, It was shown that civil society movements play a pivotal role in empowering marginalized communities to advocate for their rights and interests. It was seen that civil society organizations empower grassroots activists to address social issues at the local level. It was revealed that civil society movements play a crucial role in challenging existing power structures built to undermine human right. It was shown that civil society movements play role in advocating for societal transformations.

Question 2: What are the challenges of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin City?

Table 2: Distribution of responses on the challenges of civil society and social movements in promoting social change

	ITEMS	N	Mean Score	Remark
1.	One of the primary challenges faced by civil society movements is the lack of resources to sustain their activities and initiatives.	180	2.54	Agreed
2.	Civil society movements often encounter resistance that hinder the promotion of social change	180	2.62	Agreed
3.	Civil society movements encounter resistance from powerful interests, including governments,	180	2.59	Agreed
4.	rivalries within civil society movements can hinder their effectiveness and cohesion.	180	3.25	Agreed
5.	One of the primary challenges faced by civil society movements is the lack of resources to sustain their activities and initiatives.	180	3.24	Agreed

Criterion Mean: 2.50

The data in Table 2 above shows that items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 met the mean score standard of 2.50 and, therefore, were all agreed. This, therefore, means it was revealed that one of the primary challenges faced by civil society movements is the lack of resources to sustain their activities and initiatives. It was shown that Civil society movements often encounter resistance that hinder the promotion of social change, it was discovered that civil society movements encounter resistance from powerful interests, including governments, It ws shown that rivalries within civil society movements can hinder their effectiveness and cohesion. It was revealed that one of the primary challenges faced by civil society movements is the lack of resources to sustain their activities and initiatives.

Question 3: What are the best strategies for civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin City?

Table 3: Distribution of responses on the best strategies for civil society and social movements in promoting social change

ITEMS	N	Mean Score	Remark
1. Civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change by advocating for societal transformations,	180	2.64	Agreed
2. Civil society movements play a crucial role by mobilising community members at the local level to address social issues	180	2.88	Agreed
3. Civil society organisation usually partnerships with like-minded organizations and individuals.	180	2.51	Agreed
4. One of the strategies of civil society movements is engaging in public enlightenment and awareness	180	2.78	Agreed
5. Civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change such as civil right	180	2.78	Agreed

Criterion Mean: 2.50 Grand Mean: 2.93

The data in Table 3 above shows that items 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 met the mean score standard of 2.50 and, therefore, were all considered agreed. It was revealed that Civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change by advocating for societal transformations, It was shown that civil society movements play a crucial role by mobilising community members at the local level to address social issues. It was seen that civil society organisation usually partnerships with like-minded organizations and individuals. It was revealed that one of the strategies of civil society movements is engaging in public enlightenment and awareness, It

was shown that civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change such as civil right.

Question 4: What are the ways enhancing the effectiveness of civil society and social movements in Benin metropolis?

Table 4: Distribution of responses on the ways enhancing the effectiveness of civil society and social movements

	ITEMS	N	Mean Score	Remark
1	It strengthens organizational capacity and sustainability by investing in training	180	2.64	Agreed
2	Civil society movement help in strengthening advocacy and communication Strategies	180	3.32	Agreed
2	Civil society movement help to defend and protect the interest of the common man in the society	180	3.28	Agreed

4	Civil society movement it helps in empowering membership and community engagement	180	2.78	Agreed
5	Civil society movement help in utilizing data and evidence-based practices	180	2.71	Agreed

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

The data in Table 4.5 above shows that items 1,2,3,4 and 5 met the mean score standard of 2.50 and, therefore, were all agreed. It was shown that Civil society movement strengthens organizational capacity and sustainability by investing in training. It was shown that civil society movement help in strengthening advocacy and communication Strategies. It was revealed that civil society movement help to defend and protect the interest of the common man in the society, it was seen that civil society movement it helps in empowering membership and community engagement, It was revealed that civil society movement help in utilizing data and evidence-based practices

Discussion of Findings

From research question one it was revealed that civil society movements play a pivotal role in mobilizing grassroots activism. It was shown that civil society movements play a pivotal role in empowering marginalized communities to advocate for their rights and interests. It was seen that civil society organizations

empower grassroots activists to address social issues at the local level. It was revealed that civil society movements play a crucial role in challenging existing power structures built to undermine human right. It was shown that civil society movements play role in advocating for societal transformations. This was in line with work of (Tarrow, 2021) who revealed that Civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change by advocating for societal transformations, challenging existing power structures, and mobilizing grassroots activism.

From research question two it was seen that one of the primary challenges faced by civil society movements is the lack of resources to sustain their activities and initiatives. It was shown that Civil society movements often encounter resistance that hinder the promotion of social change, it was discovered that civil society movements encounter resistance from powerful interests, including governments, It was shown that rivalries within civil society movements can hinder their effectiveness and cohesion. It was revealed that one of the primary challenges faced by civil society movements is the lack of resources to sustain their activities and initiatives. This was in accordance with work of (Stoeckle & Corey-

Boulet, 2019) one of the primary challenges faced by civil society movements is the lack of resources and funding to sustain their activities and initiatives.

From research question three it was revealed that Civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change by advocating for societal transformations. It was shown that civil society movements play a crucial role by mobilising community members at the local level to address social issues. It was seen that civil society organisation usually partnerships with like-minded organizations and individuals. It was revealed that one of the strategies of civil society movements is engaging in public enlightenment and awareness. It was shown that civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change such as civil right. This was in accordance with work of (Chenoweth, & Stephan, 2021) they claim that Civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change by advocating for societal transformations, challenging existing power structures, and mobilizing grassroots activism. To be effective, civil society organizations need to employ the best strategies to advance their causes and achieve meaningful impact

From research question four it was shown that Civil society movement strengthens organizational capacity and sustainability by investing in training. It was shown that civil society movement help in strengthening advocacy and communication Strategies. It was revealed that civil society movement help to defend and protect the interest of the common man in the society, it was seen that civil society movement it helps in empowering membership and community engagement. It was revealed that civil society movement help in utilizing data and evidence-based practices. This was in line with work of (Hunt, 2018) who shown that organizations with diverse leadership are more innovative, resilient, and effective in achieving their goals.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

In this chapter, the summary of the study is presented alongside the conclusion drawn from the analysis of data collected in the course of the study. The recommendations offered in relation to the findings of the study are also highlighted.

Summary

This study was designed to investigate the role of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin metropolis. To achieve the purpose intended for the study, four research questions were raised to guide the study. The questions raised and examined include: What are the contemporary role of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin Metropolis? What are the challenges of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin Metropolis? What are the best strategies for civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin Metropolis? What are the ways enhancing the effectiveness of civil society and social movements in Benin Metropolis?

The population of this study consist of all SS 2 students in public senior secondary school in Benin Metropolis. There are 6890 students in Benin Metropolis. Egor

Local government area. The sample for the study consists of 180 students drawn from three Local Government Area in Benin Metropolis (Egor, Ikpoba -Okha and Oredo). The simple random sampling techniques was used to select 3 schools each from the Local Government Areas making a total number of 9 schools. 20 students were purposively selected from each of the schools making a total of 180 students. A questionnaire titled "civil society and social movement on social change (CSSMSC)" was the instrument for data collection. The question is divided into two sections, section A talks about student demographic variable and section B was designed in to 4 points like scale formular of strongly Agree (SA), Agree(A), Disagree(D) strongly disagree (SD) and elicited comment on (The role of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin Metropolis) In order to ascertain the reliability of the instrument a pilot testing was done using 20 students who are not part of the sampled population and data obtained was analyzed using the Cronbach Alpha correlation coefficient formular and a reliability coefficient of 0.69 was obtained which indicated that the instrument is reliable.

Findings

The findings from the study include:

- It was revealed that civil society movements play a pivotal role in mobilizing grassroots activism, it was shown that civil society movements play a pivotal role in empowering marginalized communities to advocate for their rights and interests. It was seen that civil society organizations empower grassroots activists to address social issues at the local level. It was revealed that civil society movements play a crucial role in challenging existing power structures built to undermine human right. It was shown that civil society movements play role in advocating for societal transformations.
- It was seen that one of the primary challenges faced by civil society movements is the lack of resources to sustain their activities and initiatives. It was shown that Civil society movements often encounter resistance that hinder the promotion of social change, it was discovered that civil society movements encounter resistance from powerful interests, including governments, it was shown that rivalries within civil society movements can hinder their effectiveness and cohesion. It was revealed that one of the primary challenges

faced by civil society movements is the lack of resources to sustain their activities and initiatives.

- It was revealed that Civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change by advocating for societal transformations. It was shown that civil society movements play a crucial role by mobilising community members at the local level to address social issues. It was seen that civil society organisation usually partnerships with like-minded organizations and individuals. It was revealed that one of the strategies of civil society movements is engaging in public enlightenment and awareness. It was shown that civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change such as civil right.
- It was shown that Civil society movement strengthens organizational capacity and sustainability by investing in training. It was shown that civil society movement help in strengthening advocacy and communication Strategies. It was revealed that civil society movement help to defend and protect the interest of the common man in the society, it was seen that civil society movement it helps in empowering membership and community engagement.

Conclusion

Based on the findings made from data collected and analyzed, it was concluded that civil society movements play a pivotal role in mobilizing grassroots activism, it was shown that civil society movements play a pivotal role in empowering marginalized communities to advocate for their rights and interests. One of the primary challenges faced by civil society movements is the lack of resources to sustain their activities and initiatives. It was shown that Civil society movements often encounter resistance that hinder the promotion of social change, it was discovered that civil society movements encounter resistance from powerful interests, including government. It was revealed that Civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change by advocating for societal transformations. It was shown that civil society movements play a crucial role by mobilising community members at the local level to address social issues. It was shown that Civil society movement strengthens organizational capacity and sustainability by investing in training.

Recommendations

Based on the findings, the study recommends the following:

1. Civil society organizations should empower grassroots activists to address social issues at the local level
2. Civil society movements should mobilise community members at the local level to address social issues
3. Civil society movements should strategically engage in public enlightenment and awareness.
4. Civil society movements should strengthen organizational capacity and sustainability by investing in training

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APPENDIX
DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL
TECHNOLOGY
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

QUESTIONNAIRE ON ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL
MOVEMENTS IN PROMOTING SOCIAL CHANGE IN BENIN
METROPOLIS

Dear Respondent,

This questionnaire is solely for the purpose of a research. The researcher is carrying out a study on “Questionnaire on role of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin Metropolis” You are therefore requested to kindly help as much as possible to supply the needed information.

Your response shall be treated with outmost confidence.

Yours Faithfully,

The Researcher

Please read the questions carefully and tick (√) in the box provided that corresponds to the answer of your choice.

SECTION A

PERSONAL DATA

Name of School:.....
 Class:.....
 Class:.....
 Local Government Area:.....

Gender: M [], F []

Age: 13-15 years (), 16-18 years (), 19 and above ()

SECTION B SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, D = Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	D	SD
	What are the contemporary role of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin City?				
1	Civil society movements play a pivotal role in mobilizing grassroots activism				
2	Civil society movements play a pivotal role in empowering marginalized communities to advocate for their rights and interests.				
3	Civil society organizations empower grassroots activists to address social issues at the local level				
4	Civil society movements play a crucial role in challenging existing power structures built to undermine human right				

5	Civil society movements play role in advocating for societal transformations				
	What are the challenges of civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin City?				
6	One of the primary challenges faced by civil society movements is the lack of resources to sustain their activities and initiatives.				
7	Civil society movements often encounter resistance that hinder the promotion of social change				
8	Civil society movements encounter resistance from powerful interests, including governments,				
9	rivalries within civil society movements can hinder their effectiveness and cohesion.				
10	One of the primary challenges faced by civil society movements is the lack of resources to sustain their activities and initiatives.				
	What are the best strategies for civil society and social movements in promoting social change in Benin City?				
11	Civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change by advocating for societal transformations,				
12	Civil society movements play a crucial role by mobilising community members at the local level to address social issues				
13	Civil society organisation usually partnerships with like-minded organizations and individuals.				
14	One of the strategies of civil society movements is engaging in public enlightenment and awareness				
15	Civil society movements play a crucial role in promoting social change such as civil right				
	What are the ways enhancing the effectiveness of civil society and social movements in Benin metropolis?				
16	It strengthens organizational capacity and sustainability by investing in training				
17	Civil society movement help in strengthening advocacy and communication Strategies				
18	Civil society movement help to defend and protect the interest of the common man in the society				

19	Civil society movement it helps in empowering membership and community engagement				
20	Civil society movement help in utilizing data and evidence-based practices				

RELIABILITY

Reliability on role of civil society and roles of social movements in promoting social change in Benin metropolis.

RELIABILITY

/VARIABLES= A1 A2 A3 A4

/SCALE ('ALL VARIABLES') ALL

/MODEL=ALPHA.

Scale: ALL VARIABLES

Case Processing Summary

	N	%
Cases Valid	20	100.0
Excluded ^a	0	.0
Total	10	100.0

a. Listwise deletion based on all variables in the procedure.

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Numbers of items
0.69	20

