

Acknowledgement

Civil society, as it is understood today, is relatively a recent phenomenon in India. The concept was essentially built up to accelerate the spirit of volunteerism among the persons with constructive and philanthropic mind in the society and to help the government to get rid of the difficulties from the crisis of governability.

The activists and the volunteers associated with the **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)** in India needs to know the history, structure and nature of different civil society organizations present in and around his surrounding. The present work (proposed thesis) is a multi dimensional effort concentrated on the specific areas at the grass root (panchayat) level in the district of Cooch Behar and is intended to cater to a much wider audience.

The chances of all these information, in many cases, depend on a variety of factors, such as, the content on the activities of the organizations, timeliness, and the different actors involved, availability of space, etc.

There are very little or no work of its kind at the grass root level. In this sense, the present work is, perhaps, the first attempt of its kind at collecting all useful and relevant information at one place in the Indian context. It also seeks to present the same in a logical order and in lucid language.

An exhaustive bibliography is given to assist the reader, if he wishes to have a more detailed probe in such area of his interest.

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