

Topic: Role and Responsibilities of Civil Committees in the Current Environment

The essay should mainly cover the following broad points:

The idea of committees arose from the need of a focused attention, deliberations or study on a specific topic. Such committees consist of subject matter experts or the people who have the authority to call such experts as and when required. Governments world over have depended on committee systems. The system is increasingly becoming a favoured approach in view of the rising complexities and even expanding sphere of state intervention. However, change in governance paradigm, where citizen participation in the processes is considered necessary to have effective governance and public service delivery, has brought increased attention to committees where citizens are also members of a body to look into specific issues.

In the context of decentralization, an important role has been envisaged for grass root level institutions. There are bodies whose members are citizens only, but they have proved to be effective in realm of public affairs. Though in case of developing countries, it may be said that the state has often played a facilitating role to make such bodies effective. In developed societies, citizens have been able to demand such facilitation from the state. However, such instances are not exclusive and there are instances of both the types in both types of societies.

The essay writers may look into the factors that have given impetus to more demand for citizens' engagement in the governance process and in this context what roles and responsibilities are assumed or indicated by the citizens. The measures to make such committees effective may be discussed to find the necessary and sufficient conditions for them to be able to discharge their roles. The writers may also analyze the domain contestation between the citizens or their groups and the state agencies and to what extent the state is willing to cede ground to such demands. The legitimacy of such arrangements may also be explored.

The competitors need not take up discussions relating to defence subjects as the essay topic is restricted to civil committees.