

# Influence of Civil Society Organizations in Promoting Democratic Governance: A Case of Select Civil Society Organizations in Juba, South Sudan

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**Abstract:** Civil Society organization refers to organized groups of people who operate in the communities with a purpose of influencing the behavior of the society in a manner distinct from both government and business organizations. Civil society organizations can play a big role in promoting democratic governance in a country. This may only be achievable if all governance organs operate in a transparent manner. The aim of this study was to assess the strategies used by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in promoting democratic governance in the Republic of South Sudan, by looking at two CSOs in South Sudan known for their strong advocacy for democratic governance and adherence to democratic principles in governance. The study was guided by the following specific objectives which include: Investigation into the strategy of Civil Society Organizations in promoting democratic governance by training leaders in South Sudan : An examination of the strategy of local leadership in promoting democratic governance in South Sudan by creating political awareness and economic development; and to assess the need for reviewing the existing laws and policies in order to promote democratic governance in South Sudan. The study was guided by two theories; Theory of Conflict - Karl Marx which holds that society is controlled by those in power hence disagreements always arise between the poor and the rich and theory of Social Capital Theory by Putman which believes that the benefits of social capital accruing to the community encompasses norms and networks which facilitates the collective actions for mutual benefits. This study adopted descriptive survey design. This design is preferred as it helps the researcher determine the extent to which each independent variable is related with the dependent variable. Target population comprised of 350 people from two civil society organizations and residents and important stakeholders from South Sudan. Key informants were purposively sampled from leaders of the local government and representatives from the civil society organization under study. Stratified sampling technique was used to select a sample size of 187 respondents who was selected from target population comprising of three clusters/groups. Purposive sampling was used to select the respondents necessary for interview. Data was collected by use of interview process (for the key informants) discussion guide for focus group discussion and a questionnaire was designed for community members. Data was analyzed using both content and theme analysis and was presented in form of frequency tables, charts, graphs and narrative report. The researcher used Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25 in the analyzing quantitative data. The CSOs had carefully chosen and implemented in various cases that have been critical in achieving their intended objectives. Further, the findings showed that the strategies put in place so far had significantly proved to be

effective in getting the general public as well as the government of South Sudan and its different agents in supporting the initiatives of the CSOs, there by promoting democracy in the country.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study was to provide an understanding of the strategies of CSOs in promoting democratic governance in South Sudan by CSOs keep the government in check by monitoring their functions, advocating for human rights and freedom of media as well as protecting these rights

The achievement of democratic governance has been a challenge in many developing countries due to political interference and lack of commitment by political leaders. The civil society organizations have found themselves being engaged in enlightening the citizens on the requirements of the democratic governance principles. South Sudan has gone through a period of lack of compliance with democratic. The Civil Society Organizations in South Sudan are now attempting to enlighten the communities of their role in promoting democratic practices.

Democratic governance is the bedrock of every government in ensuring that the governments have successful system of values and standards (Pring 2017). Democratic governance promotes government institutions to function according to democratic processes and norms. The key for the progress of the society in any government depends on the advancement of its democratic governance and is also associated with having a strong political goodwill that attend to the needs and will of the people. For democratic governance to prevail, all governance organs must operate in a transparent manner through the watchdog of civil society organizations (Duffield, 2014). Successful democracies in one way or another depends on how well its civil society organizations (CSOs) are constituted (Waddell, 2017).

There are countries that have strong civil society organizations that oversee transparent running of governments across the globe. These organizations ensure efficient delivery of services to the people. Civil society organizations are essential in promoting economic development (Diamond, 2015). Civil society is defined as the realm of organized social life that's voluntary, self-generating, self-supporting, and

autonomous from the state, and bound by a legal order or set of rules that govern their functions within the state. Civil society organizations consist of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) (international, regional and national), faith based organizations, and community based organizations and other grass-root organizations (Diamond, 2015).

In order to show the importance of civil society organizations in democratic building across the world, three roles must be played by these organizations to aid governance and this include: provision of services, holding governments to account, markets accountable through representation or advocating for citizens representation and building their capacity to take active roles in governance posts. Waddell (2017) came up with different roles of the civil society in promoting democratic governance and they include: political mobilization, political education, promotion of popular participation in governance, legal aid, capacity building, micro-credit services, childcare and reproductive health services to the people in the society. Studies from different countries have pointed to the fact that CSOs have important roles to play at bringing about democratic governance and political development in terms of citizens' participation in decision making either directly or through their elected representatives and this is for the enhancement of their living standards (Stark, 2008).

The role of civil society groups in the electoral process and advancement of democratic governance is very important as it help elect competent leaders who are able to formulate and implement sound policies for social development. This then raises the standard of living of the common citizens. According to Bakare (2011) election is not people's choice, it is selection. Most of these things are predetermined behind the scene and given to those who had no clue or any blueprint or idea.

The concept of civil society is meant to create political systems across the world that helps sustain democratic ideals within governments; this is after it had been conceded by a formerly reluctant authoritarian state. The ultimate objective is thus to adapt or create civil associations that are willing to work within the system rather than to shape organizations that intend to combat the state. The 1996 USAID report insists for example, that sustaining newly emerging democracies will depend on building autonomous centers of social and economic power that promote accountable and participatory governance (Lewis & Kanji, 2009). Civil society organizations globally inculcate democratic habits among their members, build a culture supporting democracy and through advocacy, they influence the government to adopt positions that their members support as well as advocating to follow formal rules facilitating open, free and fair political debate or discussions. The ideas of civil society began to be increasingly invoked within development policy as part of wider debates about politics and democratization, public participation and improved service delivery (Lewis & Kanji, 2009).

In a study conducted in Sri Lanka by Scholtens and Bavinck (2018), it was established that the civil society have a role to play in that country but there exist many challenges that make their performance extremely difficult. The study established that the civil society organizations were engaged in various empowerment programs such as the Northern Sri Lanka Fish Project to enable the poor people living there live a dignified life besides advocating for respect for human rights. However, the government had on many occasions harassed and accused civil society conveners of being agents of external forces out to destabilize the country and warned that it would spare no evil in crushing any such entities. This is a clear indicator of the lack of voice by the local citizen and hence participation in the governance of their own country. A similar study conducted by Kumara (2018) established that the civil society in Sri Lanka were involved in community empowerment programs, advocacy for respect of human rights but were regularly threatened and harassed by state authorities. The above findings in the Sri Lankan case demonstrate the distrust governments in pseudo-democracies have towards civil society organizations involved in democratic governance and their readiness to use force to suppress dissent. Government crackdown has rendered the civil society weak and fragmented and hence incapable of undertaking its role in the promotion of democratic governance.

A study by Isumonah (2004) in Nigeria shows the existence of a strong relationship between the presence of vibrant CSOs and the proper institutionalization of democratic governance. In particular, the study established that CSOs helped articulate the needs of the citizens and further held state institutions to account for their actions. This study agrees with others such as Mutua (2009) and Mafunisa (2004) which have shown that civil society organizations are facilitators of democratic norms for good governance and political development in a nation. They agitate transformation and enhance the level of awareness among the general citizenry, hence empowering them to become more actively involved in their own governance.

South Sudan has been facing unending conflict that started in 2013 due to lack of effective democratic governance policies in place. Some of the challenges facing South Sudan are attributed to bad politics which is grounded on negative ethnicity rather than on ideology which hinder democratic governance (Howel, 2006). However, studies have shown that CSOs in South Sudan have played a key role in trying to help the country to gain peace as a precursor to good governance and development (Virk & Nganje, 2016). The protracted leadership conflicts have greatly undermined the delivery of key services to the population and especially the vulnerable groups, thus leaving a governance gap that civil society groups have been struggling to fill.

## II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The study adopted the Network theory of governance and the social capital theory

### 2.1 Network Theory of Governance

Network Theory of Governance by castells (1996) explains under what conditions network governance integrates with other processes within a government. The theory says that the network form of governance is a response for decisions made by various governments. These conditions drive institutions toward structurally embedding their decisions. Structural embeddedness enables the use of social mechanisms for coordinating and safeguarding of these decisions. When all these conditions are in place, the network governance form has advantages over both hierarchy and government solutions (Klijn & Koppenjan, 2016).

Network Theory of Governance associates itself with transformations of state and society in the formulation, determination and implementation of public policy. The theory engages public, private and civil society actors at transnational, national, regional and local levels in shaping the future of individual societies. The weakness of governance networks theory however is that may fail as it is often said to mitigate the risk of failure and enable governance networks to achieve desired outcomes in terms of more effective and democratic governance and more innovation policy making (Klijn & Koppenjan, 2016). In this study the theory of governance network is offers important opportunities for theoretical and methodological development, and for the generation of new knowledge with both academic and policy that can be relevant in South Sudan.

### 2.2 Social Capital Theory

According to Putman (1993), Social capital theory involves the benefits of social capital accruing to the community which encompasses norms and networks facilitating collective actions for mutual benefits. Joining and participating in voluntary organizations is critical in spurring social capital and providing individual with skills and knowledge which enable them to develop the community or a country. Connecting this theory to the study, CSOs just like any other voluntary organizations in a country provide the much needed support which is essential in developing social capital of any given country. Coleman (1988) adds that social capital exist between individuals while this theory discusses the notion that is based on the premise that social relations among the community or individual level have the potential to facilitate the accrual economic or non-economic benefits.

The strengths of social capital theory is that it is important to the functioning of modern economies and stable liberal democracy as an important base for cooperation and across sectors and power differences, the theory has also advocates for growth in facilitation of labour markets, low levels of crime and improvements in the effectiveness of institutions of governance. Relating the above theory to this study,

development of social capital in South Sudan can happen through collective efforts of voluntary organizations who can engage in advocacy, lobbying and setting both economic and political roadmap in the country. As are envisioned as having ability to provide effective strategys in promoting democratic governance which creates a sense of belong in a social capital perspective.

### 2.3.1 Civil Society Strategies for Promotion of Democratic Governance

Strategies for promoting democratic governance indicate that at the center and foundation of the strategies essential for promotion of democratic governance is an understanding country in the context (historical, geographical and social fabric), values and priorities while engaging in in-depth political and policy dialogue (Collier, 2000). Once these foundations are established and value understood, the strategies to fostering democratic governance can then be implemented. Given the context of South Sudan, a country still reeling from the effects of prolonged civil war, having a thorough comprehension of the context is very critical. According to a report by USAID (2013), on strategy on democracy human rights and governance, effective strategy to democratization of a nation's governance and leadership should encompass refocusing and reframing the intended outcomes of the nations' 'traditional' democracy and governance while taking into consideration the previous sub-sectors of governance, civil society, rule of law, elections and political processes.

The sociological conception of civil society strategy expands the concept of civil society to include a wide range of societal groups and programs. It sees the civil society as a realm composed of all sorts of associations and organizations that exist outside of the state and market, and working to protect collective interests (Nwachuku, 2014). Civil society organizations are often assumed to be institutions that facilitate communication between citizens and policymakers. He further states that the strategies of the African civil society to the consolidation of democracy and good governance can be analyzed under four headings: promotion of social justice, rights and the rule of law; enhancing state performance; promotion of popular participation in public policy making; and promotion of transparency in governance (Nwachuku, 2014).

According to Williams (2016), civil society organization's advocacy is only as effective as the space allowed by government, the resources available from funders, and their own internal capacity. The organizations may act in the interests of certain groups in society, but do not necessarily have a mandate to be their representatives. Examples of public benefit organizations include philanthropic organizations, civic organizations, advocacy groups, as well as welfare and developmental organizations. The mutual benefit organizations, on the other hand, are formed to benefit its members. These organizations include cooperative societies,

trade unions, communal associations, and professional associations (Williams, 2016). Mutual benefit organizations are in principle formed by and accountable to its members. If members do not like what the leadership of the organization is doing, they are at liberty to change it. The beneficiaries of the organization are the same as those responsible for the governance of the organization; this is what distinguishes mutual benefit from public benefit organizations.

According to Orji (2009), the conventional notion of civil society views civic associations as organizations with formal structure that would permit the pursuit of specific civic interests. The organizations must eschew violence, respect pluralism, the law and other actors. In other words, civic organizations should act not only within constraints of legal or pre-established rules, but also with a sense of respect for the opinion and feelings of others. The above criteria narrow the concept of civil society, allowing for the predominance of a political conception of civil society. The political conception of civil society stems from the conventional notion of civil society. It limits the constitutive elements of the civil society only to civic organizations that pursue public interest through “civil” means. Thus, the key issues underlying civil society include the idea of civility, voluntarism, economic freedom, citizenship, rights, rule of law and democratic representation (Nwachuku, 2014). While promoting democracy and strengthening good governance is at the core component of post-conflict peace-building initiatives, Santiso (2002) accentuates the need to move from the mortar and brick strategies of merely proving development assistance to more modern and relevant strategies which averts fence-sitting to playing an active and openly political role in post-conflict democracy building and governance reforms.

There are several approaches to achieving democratic governance in a nation, among the commonly known ones are electoral process as well as through activities of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The CSOs can achieve this goal through enhancing peoples’ safety agenda through advocacy, promotion of economic development and the improvement of the local leadership through their daily activities. Democratic governance will also ensure respect to fundamental human rights in the country of South Sudan hence the aim of the study. Diamond (2015) civil society organizations are essential in promoting democratic space in any country across the world.

Hamburg (2015) further explained that to be part of CSOs, groups must meet some other conditions as well since CSOs leaders have respect for the rule of law, for the right of other groups to express their opinions which extend to tolerance and practice of pluralism and diversity. In promoting unity and harmony, CSOs train citizens about their rights as enshrined in the constitution of the country as democratic citizens in order to work together and promote democratic space. In ensuring that there is high level of monitoring of government roles, MacDonald (2016) argues that, there has to be coalition of organizations who are not part of any political party in

ensuring that democracy is of high level in the country. Further, entrenchment of democratic governance demands that those in power act to re-legitimise the State in contexts such as that of South Sudan where State’s legitimacy had been lost. Re-legitimization of the State encompass efforts like developing a democratic culture, promoting the rule of law and defending freedoms, citizen information and accountability and renovating the administration and promoting local democracy.

Promoting the territorial reorganization is also essential in promoting democratic governance and involves devolving governance to local levels and decentralization of national resources and decision-making powers. Additionally, there is need to promote effective and transparent public action and this requires those in power to, among others, contribute to macroeconomic stability, support transparent public financial management, and fight corruption. Finally, the capacity of the citizens need to be developed and strengthened as a way of promoting governance. The effect of this is that it strengthens the legitimacy and power of the State to provide public services and it develops individual possibilities for a genuine exercise of freedoms (CICID, 2006).

According to Shepherd (2015), countries should not perceive CSOs as a threat to their existence but rather as a binding force that unites or link them with the citizens of their countries. This is majorly because, CSOs have the capacity to meet grass-root people and conduct civic education which creates awareness in the country such as voter registration as well as why there is need for electing leaders with good characters and not “my tribe person syndrome” which has seen African countries such as South Sudan lag behind in economic, social and political development. This study therefore intends to investigate the strategy of Civil Society Organizations in promoting democratic governance in South Sudan so find of the CSOs in that country are positively improving democratic space. The findings by Kimutai and Amisi (2018) suggest that civic education is significant in entrenching good governance and without the same good governance and quality of public participation is hampered.

### *2.3.2 Effectiveness of Civil Society Strategies for Promotion of Democratic Governance*

The role of civil society organizations in the electoral process and advancement of democratic governance is very important as it help elect competent leaders who are able to formulate and implement sound policies for social development. Effective civil society organizations advocacy are only as effective as the space allowed by government, the resources available from funders, and their own internal capacity. The effectiveness of organizations is measured through benefit its beneficiaries get (Williams, 2016). Mutual benefit organizations are in principle formed by and accountable to its beneficiaries. If beneficiaries do not like what CSO organization are doing, then they are at liberty to change it.

Nicaragua has more than 75 percent of the population who live on less than US\$ 2 a day, the national chapter of Transparency International launched a television campaign in 2003 to highlight the fact that more than 200 public officials were being paid more than US\$ 40,000 a year, and that former presidents and vice presidents who went on to serve in other offices were collecting full pensions in addition to their salaries. The television spots stylishly produced and with a soundtrack donated by the award-winning pop musician Juan Luis Guerra, caused a public outcry (NORAD, 2016). As a result, the Nicaraguan parliament passed a law eliminating the pension benefits of retired officials who hold another elected office, and reducing the salaries of the 236 highest-paid officials by 10 percent. This shows the important part this civil society in assisting the people of Nicaragua get out of poverty.

The interaction between civil societies and governance is intricate and inseparable. This is so because the context of civil society practically, checks governance and democratic processes (Kelly, 2012). Effective civil society strategies are like beauty that is needed to supplement something. Immediately after independence in early 1960s some African countries such as Kenya and Ghana had higher GDPs per capita than countries such as Singapore and Malaysia. currently these Asian countries have become the Asian Tigers, whereas Kenya and Ghana are immersed in perennial poverty, armed conflicts and small scale insurgencies, cross-border terrorism, unrelenting economic crises, financial corruption (NORAD, 2016). These means that if these African countries had effective civil society organizations, they could have propelled them to economic prosperity.

There has been rapid growth in the number and diversity of CSOs in many African countries since the late 1990s. According to the African Civil Society Organizations Summit Report of 2007, in some countries, the Non-Governmental Organization sector is bigger than the commercial and agricultural sectors combined, making significant contributions to the Gross Domestic Product (Rocha & Sharma 2008). Nevertheless, in recent years, it has become widely recognized that such proliferation of CSOs has an inadequate and ineffective response to various development and governance-related challenges, because many CSOs tend to focus on a single-issue mode of operation, and act at the margin; their efforts are mostly localized undermining their ability to tackle the root causes of Africa's political and economic challenges (Rocha & Sharma 2008).

EU-TAPP (2016) indicates, South Sudan is a very young country with little capacity, coming out of decades of conflict that has affected the people's economic base as well the existing leadership structures. Post-independence economic crisis, renewed civil war, and the president's decision to treble the number of states have made implementation of local governance programmes harder still.

Effectiveness of civil society strategies is very integral part of the realization of the developmental programs and the democratic practices that are relevant for the peace and stability of the country (EU TAP, 2016). The need to work with traditional authorities; the importance of having an on-ground presence (state-based teams) in project implementation; taking a phased approach to capacity building; and working with existing state structures rather than setting up alternatives remains top most priority to democratic governance in South Sudan.

Civil society plays a pivotal role in democratic governance in South Sudan and any other state. It involves the process of directing behaviour of people on a predetermined way towards the attainment of certain goals. Simpsen and Donor (2012) view civil society strategies as an objective directed behaviour in which a group is influenced to act relative to some shared goals in a manner that result in lower cost and have effective attainment of desired objectives.

Generally to strategize is to have a higher order of capability with strategic value to nation's development. CSOs therefore exercise their powers to deliver quality and right services to citizens. According to Naidu (2011) CSOs are concerned with doing the right things aimed at driving the country to a higher level. According to Naidu (2011), governments are concerned more with promoting particular interests than with promoting the overall interests of a nation. This section is fundamental as it investigates the effectiveness of Civil Society strategies in promoting democratic governance in South Sudan.

### *2.3.3 Adequacy of Legal Framework for Promotion of Democratic Governance*

Democracy and good governance and its international standards, is when the people can freely move and access services, share their opinions freely and are freely involve in the design of their direct participation in managing their own affairs without imposition of a third party's influence or dictating terms. MacDonald (2016) it is inclusive perfection in the decision making process between and amongst the society in governance. Democracy must be based on the particular conditions of each society, but also on the shared values of the equal dignity and rights of all human beings as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that are globally accepted (MacDonald, 2016).

For democracy to work, it requires a well-functioning judicial system based on the principles of the rule of law and a just political settlement hence peoples' safety and wellbeing was protected and promoted by the activities being done to undertake them. United Nations (2015) Civil Society Organizations which advocate for democratic governance and inclusion is essential because it allows free and fair elections, functioning political parties, independent media and vibrant civil society organizations and NGOs that can operate freely for welfare and development of state. The agitation for development by the civil society organizations will definitely mean democracy is at the centre stage for development.

According to a study conducted by UNDP (2017) in most African countries, macroeconomic conditions have consistently declined due to conflicts which have been necessitated through lack of proper laws and policies within these countries. Government revenues these countries have collapsed due to the disruptions by corruption. This has caused a significant decline in household purchasing power preventing many people from affording minimum food requirements due to exorbitant prices for locally produced and imported food, and a sharp increase in poverty from 44.7% in 2011 to 65.9% in 2015.

Hasenfeld and Garrow (2012) assessed on how laws and policies aid non-profit human service organizations in advocating for social rights in a Neoliberal welfare state. The study illustrates how institutional, economic and political environment is shaped by laws and policies where CSOs advocacy both at national and local level as a result of devolution. The findings of the research study concluded that CSOs play a key role of advocacy in expansion of welfare state in contributing to democratic governance if laws and policies within countries are effective.

Haynes (2013) carried a study on effects of law and policy on democracy on democratic governance in the third world country. Since most of the developing countries have recorded issues of low level of democracy and poor governance, it has raised a storm in determining the role of law and policies in promoting democracy. The findings of the study indicates that law and policies play a big role in protecting CSOs in enlightening citizens from discrimination and suppression of rights which are the main cause of instability leading to poor governance by the oppressive governments.

Farrer, Marinetti, Cavaco and Costongs (2015) carried a study on the advocacy for democratic governance by demanding for effective democratic policy that removes barriers for accessing full democratic rights in Sub Sahara Africa. The study findings indicated that CSOs should be given an enabling environment through countries enacting good law and policies which gives room for effective in advocacy roles with efforts to raise awareness and understanding of the social political and economic determinants of all human rights as part of democratic governance. Allow civic education on the socio-political determinant and as part of civic training which should be encouraged within disadvantaged communities. Properly entrenched laws and policies by countries will have a central role in advocating for democratic space given the challenges.

The legitimate question in South Sudan now is where the country is in regard law and policy in relation to the above principles of democracy and good governance which include; Transparency, Accountability, Inclusively, Fiscal responsibility, Good Leadership, Respect for Human Rights and Rule of Law, Democracy and Fair competition for public offices The political leadership adopted a decentralized democratic system of government. These are concerns that

have been raised by the civil society organizations both national and international in pushing for a more inclusive and democratic state. This section therefore intends to assess the strategy of existing laws and policies in promoting democratic governance in South Sudan.

### III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study adopted qualitative and quantitative research methods. It pursued descriptive and survey research design. The study was conducted among CSOs in Juba South Sudan.

The target population for this study was 3 opinion leaders, one from each of the three payams that make up Juba Municipality, 278, 000 people who make up the adult population in Juba (SSNBS, 2017), 10 employees of CEPO based in Juba, 12 employees of WAV based in Juba and 36 government employees attached to the state department for Justice. The statistics for CEPO, WAV and the state department for Justice were obtained during a reconnaissance to their offices based in Juba. Thus, the total target population was 278,058.

#### *Sampling Procedure and Sample*

##### *Sampling Procedure*

The study used stratified sampling method to get the respondents. The sample size were put into four strata namely, adult population, CEPO, WAV and officials from the Ministry of Justice responsible for coordinating governance issues. Purposive sampling followed, in which case the top leaders in each stratum was identified for in-depth interviews. For the adult population stratum, three opinion leaders were identified, one from each of the three payams that make up Juba municipality namely Juba Town, Munuki and Kator. The three were added to 2 leaders of CEPO, 2 leaders from WAV and 3 senior Ministry of Justice representatives involved with policy and the activities of civil society groups i to make a total of 10 key informants. Proportionate simple random sampling was used to obtain the remaining 384 respondents for the questionnaire.

##### *Sample Size*

The sample size for this study was obtained using Krejcie and Morgan's (1970) population and equivalent sample size table attached as Appendix V. From the table, a target population of 278,058 corresponds to a sample size of 384.

Table 3.1 Sample Size

	Percent Proportion	Sample Size
Adult population	84.1	323
Opinion Leaders	0.7	3
CEPO	2.6	10
WAV	3.1	12
Ministry of Justice	9.5	36
Total	100	384

Source: Researcher (2019)

### Data Collection Instruments and Procedure

Data was collected through primary and secondary methods. Questionnaires were distributed to the respondents. Interviews were also conducted with target informers and Focus Groups.

*Pilot Testing was conducted on a non sampled to establish the reliability of the tools and validity of the results*

### Data Analysis and Presentation

Quantitative data was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 23 while qualitative data was analysed using Content analysis method through NVIVO

*Legal and Ethical Considerations were observed during the study.*

## IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

### 4.1 Response Rate

Out of the 374 questionnaires administered, 311 were returned by the respondents. Of the 311 questionnaires that were received back, 302 were fully answered and it is this number that was used in the analysis. This means that with regards to the questionnaires, the response rate was 81%. Additionally, the researcher was able to reach and interview all the targeted interviewees representing a 100% success rate in this case. In both cases, the response rates were adequate to permit the researcher to proceed with data analysis as advanced by Fincham (2008), who contends that a response rate of at least 60% is adequate in research studies.

Table 4.1 Response Rate Based on Questionnaires and Interviews

Questionnaires Administered	Questionnaires used in Analysis	Response Rate
374	302	81%

Source: (Field data, 2020)

### 4.2 Biodata of Respondents

The study sought to establish three characteristics of the respondents namely their age, level of education and gender. This information was considered important in explaining and where possible comparing trends emerging from the data during the analysis process. The findings from the respondents' biodata were as discussed below.

#### 4.3.1 Age

The study sought to establish the distribution of the respondents in terms of their age and the findings were as illustrated in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Age of Respondents

Age bracket	Frequency	Percentage (%)
21-30 years	39	13
31-40 years	112	37
41-50 years	139	46

Over 51 years	12	4
Total	302	100

Source: (Field data, 2020)

From the responses obtained, the study established that a majority of the respondents (46%) were those aged between 41 and 50 years followed by those aged between 31 and 40 years (37%). Respondents in the age bracket of 21 to 30 years accounted for 13% while the over 51 year olds constituted 4% of the sample size. The findings indicated that a majority of the respondents (83%) were in the most productive age of 31 to 50 years and that they were involved in a wide variety of governance issues and hence could make sense of the study items. Given that this study was carried out in Juba, this finding was found to be in agreement with Jedwab, Christensen and Gindelsky (2014) who argue that the most productive age of a population is likely to be found in urban settings where there are more opportunities and the pace of activities suits this demographic's agility.

#### 4.3.2 Level of Education

The study sought to establish the distribution of the respondents in terms of their education levels and the findings were as illustrated in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Level of Education

Level of Education	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Primary	18	6
Secondary	115	38
College	106	35
University	63	21
Never been to school	0	0
Total	302	100

Source: (Field data, 2020)

The study established that 38% of the respondents had a secondary level of education closely followed by those that had a college education at 35%. A further 21% of the respondents had a university education while 6% indicated that they had a primary level of education. None of the respondents indicated that they had never been to school. It was instructive to note that more than half (56%) of the respondents had either a college or a university level of education. This was attributed to the fact that the study was in an urban area, precisely the country's capital city which houses many industries and institutions that require the services of workers with a college level of education. Moreover, as Campbell (2006) argued, education is a powerful explanatory factor in determining a person's understanding and participation in governance processes. Therefore, this finding gives credence to the quality of responses that the study sought as most of the respondents understood the questions by virtue of their good education credentials. The same group can also influence those with

lower levels of education through informal interactions in matters relating to democratic governance and the activities of civil society actors.

#### 4.3.3 Gender

The study sought to establish the distribution of the respondents in terms of their gender and the findings were as illustrated in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Gender of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	202	67
Female	100	33
Total	302	100

Source: (Field data, 2020)

As illustrated in Table 4.4, the study found out that a majority of the respondents were males who accounted for 67% while the rest (33%) were females. This finding implied that more than two thirds of the population in Juba comprises of males. This finding can be attributed to various factors such as women remaining behind in the rural homes as their husbands move to urban areas to seek for employment to provide for the families. The findings could also imply that most of the government departments and civil society organizations had more men as employees given that these were some of the strata from which the respondents were drawn in addition to the general population. The gender lens is important because it highlights the levels of engagement of the females in terms of governance in Juba and the wider South Sudan.

#### 4.4 Analysis and Findings

As explained in section 3.6, the data was analyzed in accordance with the study objectives. The findings are presented in line with the objectives as shown hereunder.

##### 4.4.1 Civil Society Strategies for Promotion of Democratic Governance

The results of the data analysis based on the first objective of the study are presented in Table 4.2. From the results of the analysis, 44% of the respondents were in agreement that CSOs organize and train government workers on democratic governance principles while 34% were in disagreement. The rest 22% of the respondents were indifferent.

With regard to whether CSOs complement government agencies in provision of public goods and services, 56% of the respondents agreed that the CSOs actually do provide these services. About 32% of the respondents disagreed with question statement and 12% of the respondents were not certain whether or not these organizations complement government agencies in the provision of public goods and services like education and health care.

Respondents were also asked to their views on whether CSOs train and empower local communities to establish business startups as a strategy for enhancing promotion of democratic

governance in the South Sudan. A significant majority of the respondents 77% agreed that CSOs actually help members of local communities to establish business startups, 13% were neutral with regard to this question and the remaining 10% expressed disagreement.

As to whether CSOs speak out against corruption in order to enhance democratic in the country, 65% agreed that the institutions speak out against corruption as a strategy aimed at entrenching democratic governance in South Sudan while 23% of the survey participants disagreed that CSOs speak out against corruption as a means of ingraining democratic governance in South Sudan. The rest 12% of the respondents were neutral with regard to this question.

The survey participants were also asked if CSOs in South Sudan mobilize and facilitate citizens to participate in policy and decision making. In response to this question, 63% agreed, 7% were neutral and the rest 30% were indifferent. According the results of the analysis, 71% of the respondents were in agreement that CSOs in South Sudan do conduct civic education programs to raise citizens' awareness of their rights and freedoms, 20% were in disagreement with this question statement while 9% were indifferent in response to the question. Approximately 53% of the respondents agreed that facilitation of provision of paralegal services to aggrieved persons seeking redress is done by CSOs in South Sudan, 29% of the survey participants disagreed that CSOs facilitate the provision of paralegal services to aggrieved persons seeking redress while the remaining 18% were neutral. With regard to the question on whether CSOs present petitions to state authorities on behalf of citizens, 62% of the respondents agreed that these institutions do present such petitions to government authorities as a strategy towards entrenching democracy in the country, 19% of the respondents disagreed the CSOs do take such steps and an equal proportion, 19%, were indifferent.

Table 4.5 Strategies Used by CSOs in Promoting Democratic Governance

	1	2	3
CSOs organize and train government workers on democratic governance principles	44%	22%	34%
CSOs complement government agencies in the provision of public goods and services like education and health care	56%	12%	32%
CSOs train and empower local communities to establish business startups	77%	13%	10%
CSOs speak out against corruption	65%	12%	23%
CSOs mobilize and facilitate citizens to participate in policy and decision making	63%	7%	30%
CSOs conduct civic education programs to raise citizens awareness of their rights and freedoms	71%	9%	20%
CSOs facilitate the provision of paralegal services to aggrieved persons seeking redress	53%	18%	29%
CSOs present petitions to state authorities on behalf of citizens	62%	19%	19%

Source: (Field data, 2020)



In addition to the various strategies identified in the questionnaire, there are a number of other strategies that respondents identified that the CSOs used to promote democracy in South Sudan. One of the main strategies that conspicuously came out from many respondents was the aspect of championing constitutional reforms. Most respondents noted that CSOs in South Sudan were very much involved in asking the government to do away with certain aspects of the country's constitution that were no longer promoting the spirit of democracy but simply rolling back on the gains made. Besides the citizens, the CSOs were also found to be actively engaging with religious institutions to help drum support for democracy in the country.

The outcomes from the interviews were largely similar to what the questionnaire respondents expressed. One of the interviews had the following to say:

“South Sudan is still a young country both in terms of its existence and democracy. Achieving true democracy has been a challenge but thanks to various CSOs which have come up in our country and working together with the government to see that democracy is realized by all citizens and the government. I would like to commend the CSOs for continuously playing a key role in shaping our constitution. The CSOs have also been active in enlightening the citizens of South Sudan on their human rights, an important significant strategy in democratization process here in South Sudan.” [Interviewee 1]

The sentiments was echoed by many respondents. Another interviewee noted the role that CSOs were playing in urging the government to ensure that the academic curriculum in South Sudan strongly captured the issue of democracy. The interviewee commented as follows:

“Recently I interacted with the heads of one of the CSOs in this Municipality and the leaders informed me that in addition to other strategies they were putting in place such as conducting civic education programmed, they were working on a proposal to petition the government to ensure that the subject of democracy is taught in schools in the country right from the primary level to the higher education levels in the country. In my view I find this strategy very commendable because even our young citizens will appreciate what democracy is, and as they grow, they will actively take part democratic processes and activities in the country.” [Interviewee 7]

Figure 4.1 shows that a significant majority of the respondents, 91% were in support of the activities being carried by the CSOs in South Sudan which are aimed at entrenching and strengthening democratic governance in South Sudan while a negligible proportion, 9% were not in support of such activities.

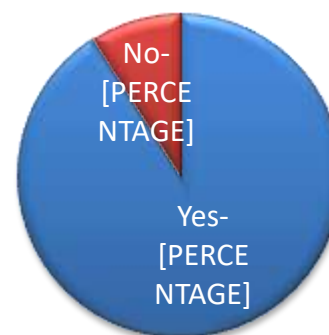


Figure 4.1 Support for Activities of CSOs Aimed at Strengthening Democratic Governance

Source: (Field data, 2020)

One of the major challenges that the respondents identified as a key challenge to the activities of the CSOs is insufficient funds to carry out their activities. This is because almost all the CSOs rely on donor funds to carry out their activities and when funds reduce or are completely cut then the CSOs are not in a position to effectively carry out their activities and in some instances the activities are brought to a complete halt. Additionally, South Sudan being a relatively young nation, high illiteracy levels was found to be another major challenge. In most instances the CSOs distribute their sensitization material and carry out their forums in English. However, because the majority of the populace are illiterate, carrying out sensitization programmes become very challenges. The CSO also sometimes report cases of resistance especially from small rebel groups which still exists in pockets in different regions of the country. Finally, insufficient support and cooperation from the government of South Sudan, from time to time and certain specific issues such as human rights, was found to be a challenges in the process of implementation of strategies by the CSOs.

Failure of most African states to achieve true democracy immediately after attaining independence was cited as one of the motivators of the involvement of the CSOs in championing for democracy in South Sudan. Most of the interviewees commented that it was important for the country not to take the same trajectory as its counterparts in the continents. Below is a comment made by one of the interviewees:

“The reasons the CSOs are working hard to entrench democracy in this country at the earliest opportunities is drawn from the lessons from other African countries. After colonization, most African countries failed to democratize. Further, there was no space for NGOs and CSOs to work. But for South Sudan we are lucky, we are living in an era where NGOs and CSOs are appreciated and have much space to work. As a result, CSO like WAV have space to work and see that democracy is practiced and upheld in the country.” [Interviewee 11]

The strategies adopted by the CSOs were also found to be motivated by the need to engage all stakeholders at the same time and from the onset in entrenching democracy in the country. This is evidenced by the decision to engage the judiciary, citizens, and other key stakeholders right the process of democratization right from the inception of the establishment of the country.

#### 4.4.2 Effectiveness of Civil Society Strategies for Promotion of Democratic Governance

Table 4.3 present results of analysis of questionnaires data on effectiveness of civil society strategies for promotion of democratic governance in South Sudan. Respondents were asked the effectiveness of the training opportunities offered by CSOs to government employees as a strategy for promoting democratic governance in South Sudan. Approximately 51% of the respondents agreed that this strategy was effective, 26% disagreed on the effectiveness of this strategy while the remaining 23% were neutral in their response. With regard to the question on effectiveness of public goods and services offered by CSOs to supplement those offered by the government as a strategy for promoting democratic governance, 55% of the respondents agreed that this strategy was effective, 29% disagreed with the question statement and the rest 16% expressed indifference. Approximately 52% of the respondents agreed that training and empowering local communities to establish businesses as a strategy towards promoting democracy in South Sudan has been effective, 39% disagreed with the effectiveness of this approach while the rest 9% of the respondents were neutral. Drastic reduction in corruption levels in public institutions due to pressure by CSOs on public officers as a strategy was also assessed. With regard to this question, 31% of the respondents agreed that there was drastic reduction in corruption cases, 55% disagreed that corruption levels in public institutions had drastically reduced due to pressure by CSOs on public officers while the rest 14% were not certain whether corruption levels in public institutions had drastically reduced due to pressure by CSOs on public officers.

More than half of the respondents, 58%, agreed that constructive participation of citizens of South Sudan in policy and decision making led to quality policies, 22% of the respondents were of a contrary opinion and disagreed with the questions statement and the rest 20% were not sure whether citizens participated constructively in policy and decision making which led to quality policies due to trainings offered by CSOs. With regard to question on civic education programmes, 63% of the respondents agreed that such programmes conducted by CSOs had enhanced citizens' awareness of their rights and freedoms as strategy toward promoting democratic governance, 16% disagreed on the effectiveness of this strategy while the rest 21% were indifferent. The survey participants were also asked about the effectiveness of the paralegal services offered by CSOs as a means to promoting democratic governance in the South

Sudan. In response to this question, 52% agreed that this strategy was effective, 31% disagreed with the effectiveness of this approach and the rest 17% expressed indifference. About 53% of the respondents agreed that petitions presented to state authorities by CSOs on behalf of citizens made government respond in meeting the needs thus the effectiveness of this approach in embedding democracy in the country, 23% opined that petitions presented to state authorities by CSOs on behalf of citizens did not make government respond in meeting the needs hence an ineffective strategy and the remaining 24% of the respondents were indifferent.

The question statement on parliament has passing laws advocated for by CSOs to support the entrenchment of democratic governance was agreed to by 57% of the respondents. Approximately 33% of the respondents disagreed with this question statement and the remaining 10% were indifferent. About 54% of the respondents agreed that violators of human rights had been arrested and punished since CSOs begun actively advocating for the respect of human rights thus the strategy being effective in entrenching democracy in the country, nearly one third of the respondents, 30% disagreed with this question statement and he remaining 16% were not certain whether those who violate human rights had been arrested and punished since CSOs begun actively advocating for the respect of human rights.

Table 4.6 Effectiveness of Strategies Used in Promoting Democratic Governance

	1	2	3
Training of government workers on democratic governance by CSOs has made them more efficient in service provision	51%	23%	26%
Public goods and services offered by CSOs have plugged governance spaces arising from government inaction	55%	16%	29%
Local communities trained and empowered to establish businesses by CSOs have become resilient and active in governance	52%	9%	39%
Corruption levels in public institutions have drastically reduced due to pressure by CSOs on public officers	31%	14%	55%
Citizens participate constructively in policy and decision making leading to quality policies due to trainings offered by CSOs	58%	20%	22%
Civic education programs conducted by CSOs have enhanced citizens awareness of their rights and freedoms	63%	21%	16%
Paralegal services offered by CSOs to aggrieved persons seeking redress have made them obtain justice	52%	17%	31%
Petitions presented to state authorities by CSOs on behalf of citizens has made government respond in meeting the needs	53%	24%	23%
Parliament has passed laws advocated for by CSOs to support the entrenchment of democratic governance	57%	10%	33%
Violators of human rights have been arrested and punished since CSOs begun actively advocating for the respect of human rights	54%	16%	30%

Source: (Field data, 2020)

The willingness of the government of South Sudan to cooperate and work closely with the CSO was also deemed by majority of the respondents as a breakthrough indicator in promotion of democratic governance in the country. Respondents also noted gradual incremental changes in behavior of police which included reduction in arbitrary arrests was significant indicator in growing democracy in the country.

Respondents identified irregular trainings of the general public and the government officials as a weakness of the training strategy and this was due to the insufficient funds available to the CSOs. Majority of those who opined that arresting and punishing violators was not effective in promoting democracy were of the view that in most instances the sentences handed to the perpetrators were handed very lenient punishments. This was coupled by what some respondents considered weak judiciary systems that often gave a lifeline to human rights offenders.

Responses from the interviews were largely positive with regard to the effectiveness of the CSOs in promoting democratic governance in South Sudan. One of the interviews commented as follows:

“Fairly speaking, the CSOs have done commendable work in the country towards promoting democracy in South Sudan. In my view, the education and sensitization programmes as well as the partnership created between these institutions have been the most effective in entrenching democracy in the country simply because they it is a multi-stakeholder partnership that has brought together all the relevant stakeholders.” [Interviewee 2]

In reference to prosecution of human rights violators, another interviewee commented that this strategy would prove very significant and encouraging if those in government were severely dealt with just like the normal citizen of the country is dealt with when they commit other crimes:

“Jailing violators of human rights, as advocated for by the CSOs is very good and a good strategy in promoting democracy in this country. The problem is that there are some people in the government agencies who seem to be enjoying government protection. Such unfortunate occurrences seem to water down the gains being made and only serve to embolden other people in government and even the general public to continue violating human rights. Therefore, there is need for the government to ensure that even its employees who violate human rights are adequately punished. This will help in promoting democracy in this country on that front.” [Interviewee 15]

Other interviewees generally felt that the strategies put in place by the CSOs with the support of the government were effective in realizing establishment of democracy in South Sudan.

#### 4.4.3 Adequacy of Legal Framework for Promotion of Democratic Governance

Results captured in Figure 4.2 show that 56% of the respondents were aware of laws and policies in use to facilitate the work of CSOs in promoting democratic governance in South Sudan while the rest 44% were not aware of such laws of policies. Respondents who indicated that they were aware of laws and policies in use to facilitate the work of CSOs cited the Non-Governmental Organizations Act of 2016 which sets out the framework for civil society engagement in governance.

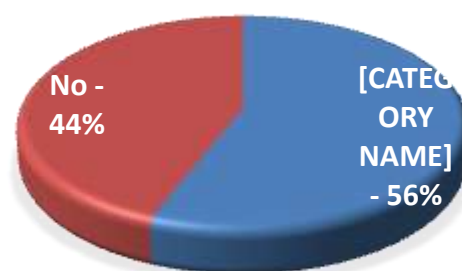


Figure 4.2 Awareness of Laws or Policies in Use to Facilitate the Work of CSOs

Source: (Field data, 2020)

While the law and policies in place were deemed to be good, it was noted that majority of respondents were of the opinion that more needed to be done in enacting more specific laws as the current one was omnibus in nature. They further argued in favor of clear policy guidelines from the government so that civil society advocacy work is not interfered with on grounds of ‘subversion’. In this regard, a key informant noted thus:

The government needs to be very clear in terms of the regulations and policies that it wants us (civil society organizations) to follow. Sometimes we engage in certain programs and then the government stops us midway, simply stating that our activities are illegal and subversive yet when we ask what law or policy we have offended, the government functionaries do not state any. It is a difficult working environment because the government sees us as irritants (Interviewee 5)

Thus there was need to allow the CSOs freehand to operate as long as they were operating within the law.

The overarching suggestion among most of the respondents was that since the CSOs were carrying out activities that were

essential in promoting democracy in South Sudan, the government needed to include them in the national budgeting by setting aside money for the CSOs. This suggestion, the respondents held, would be important in plugging the budget deficits of the CSOs and ensuring that their activities were not interrupted by lack of donor funds. It was also deemed that presence of the CSOs in the smallest administrative units of the government was important in supporting the work of the CSOs in supporting democratic governance in South Sudan. As such, there were recommendations by some respondents that policies be put in place to ensure that CSOs were not just concentrated in urban settings but also in rural setting and in the smallest national government administration units.

There was almost unanimous agreement among the interviewees that better laws and policies needed to be developed and the existing ones improved in order to facilitate operations of the CSOs working toward promoting democratic governance in South Sudan. One of the interviewees suggested development and implementation of a policy that would see creation of a government agency within the ministry of justice that would be dedicated to working with the relevant CSOs in carrying out their activities aimed at advancing democratic governance in the country:

“In addition to the existing policies, I believe that a special agency of the government should be created in the relevant ministry, in my view ministry of justice, to work closely with the CSOs in enlightening the populace and also supporting other activities of these institutions that are focused in the government.” [Interviewee 13]

Other policies suggested by the interviewees touched having more locals employed in the CSOs to help teach and pass the intended messages using the local dialect.

## V. DISCUSSIONS OF THE MAIN FINDINGS

### *Civil Society Strategies for Promotion of Democratic Governance*

Realization of democratic governance remains the goal of most countries in the world, more so the less developed countries that are only coming out of their oppressive and highly autocratic regimes. While in the in the past the struggle to achieve democracy was more of a fight characterized by armed struggles, shedding of blood and even loss of lives, in the recent past the quest for democratic governance has seen a significant change in approaches used by citizens and other organized institutions within nations. Given the upsides of democratic governance which include reduction in issues with exploitation, faster economic growth and equality among all citizens. Numerous approaches have been put in place to in the drive toward realization of democratic governance. Additionally, different parties, ranging from individual efforts to organizations institutions have thrown their hats in the arena to see that their countries are governed democratically and all citizens are eligible and have the opportunity to vote on issues affecting them directly or through representatives.

One of the key players in South Sudan just like in other countries, in the drive towards democratic governance has been the CSOs. In Sudan, these institutions continue to play significant role in helping the government of the day to lead the country in a democratic way. The strategies that the CSOs have adopted towards realization of their objectives have been lauded as not only peaceful but largely appropriate in the context of South Sudan. At the core of their strategies in promoting democracy and governance are efforts aimed at consolidating democratic governance beyond elections, strengthening the institutions of democratic governance, enhancing the rule of law and supporting other civil society organizations working driving in the same direction.

An underappreciated impediment to democratization in less developed countries like South Sudan is their history of civil conflicts. As was experienced in South Sudan, and akin to the findings by Collier (2000), conflict research has shown that half of all civil conflicts that have ended revert to conflict within few years. Countries that have been lucky enough not to relapse and made the most significant progress toward democracy have generally only experienced minor armed conflict. In contrast, the democratic progress of South Sudan which has suffered from protracted past experiences of civil and communal warfare has been slow and limited. It remains to be seen whether as more of these conflicts are resolved and time since their resolution passes, Africa’s post-conflict democratizers will be able to break this pattern. Further, democratic transitions are can be confounded by the fact that, in some cases, the democratization process stalls. The process of political liberalization plateaus for an extended period of time. Experience from South Sudan between the two main political protagonists show that such plateaus typically reflect some sort of democratic blockage by all or a section of political leaders. This may be as a result of leaders who are not genuinely committed to a democratic transition but who want to reap the benefits of being perceived as on a democratic path.

Democratic governance is an essential facilitator of human development through creation of conditions in which citizens can thrive. Human development acknowledges citizens as the real wealth of a nation. Conversely, economic empowerment and human development, which is one of the areas of focus by the CSOs is critical for realization of democratic governance. People who are not economically empowered are likely to be exploited and subjected to poor governance. However, through economic empowerment, the populations have a voice and also resources to not only meet their needs and also put the government to task. The freedom offered in the structures of democracy allows the general population to seek any result they want. As established by Williams (2016), economically empowered citizens are able to contribute their resources towards supporting the activities of the CSOs in promoting democratic governance. Democratic governance also grants citizens the freedom to conduct legally allowed businesses and to look for different employment

opportunities. Retrospectively, economic empowerment drives the country towards democratic governance. Advocacy for human rights advocacy is another appropriate positive strategy adopted by the CSOs in South Sudan. In countries where the governance is all but democratic, violation of human rights is a commonplace.

### *Findings*

The study finds that CSO are essential in promoting democratic governance and awareness in communities in South Sudan

Akin to the findings of Diamond (2015), CSOs are essential in the fight for human rights, which is in turn very fundamental in promoting democratic governance. Democratic governance implies that citizens participate in national activities such as election and formulation of policies based on informed, critical reflection. In line with the findings of the study carried out by Nwachuku (2014), one of the most effective ways to ensure that citizens are informed is through civic education which prepares them for sustaining and enhancing self-governance. Civic education programs in emerging democracies like South Sudan have been mainly championed by the CSOs and have been very integral in empowering the citizens to be well-informed and active in the political and democratic processes and activities in the country. Further, through civic education, the citizens of South Sudan have been equipped with relevant knowledge about their constitution and the country's governance.

### *Effectiveness of Civil Society Strategies for Promotion of Democratic Governance*

The findings of the study have shown that tremendous and remarkable progress is being made in the promoting democratic governance in the country. Besides the input of other players, strategies advanced by the CSOs have played and continue to play a fundamental role towards realization of democratic governance in South Sudan. Good democratic governance must focus on promoting, protecting and upholding human rights. It therefore goes that meaningful democratic governance in any sense cannot be realized in the absence of promotion, protection and upholding of human rights. A finding comparable with that of Kelly (2012), due the increased advocacy by the CSOs in South Sudan, notable progress has been made in ensuring that human rights, which is defined by among other factors respect for individual dignity, is upheld by government agencies and employees in the country. Specifically, the police and military personnel are constantly urged to treat all citizens, including violators of law, with a lot of dignity. This is due to the fact that democratic governance goes beyond freedom from hunger and poverty to address other fundamental issues associated with respect for human rights. To this end, this strategy employed by the CSOs in South Sudan have been effective in fostering respect, protection, promotion and fulfillment of human rights, all which are aspects of the essential framework for

effective democratic governance and reaffirmation of democratic practices in the country.

Democratic governance is also better promoted and enhanced through better service delivery by government institutions and agencies as well as informed public holding government to account. Building a highly capable public sector that can deliver quality services to the people cost-effectively requires better equipment of the government offices as well as appropriate and adequate training of the government personnel. This is also one of the areas that the CSOs in South Sudan have been focusing on, and going by the findings, has been a very effective strategy in promoting democracy through better service delivery. Through issue-based social movements, the CSOs have brought about wider change for more inclusive development in the country. This finding is consistent with that of Naidu (2011) who averred that CSOs exercise their powers to deliver quality and right services to citizens. In addition to quality service delivery, accountability of the government employees placed in various positions within the government, begin with the president who is the top civil servant, is prudent in building effective government institutions capable of delivering quality services and responding adequately to citizens' needs thus promoting democratic governance.

As argued by Dahinden (2013), at the end of the day, the effectiveness of the strategies requires national ownership. Efforts by other actors such as the CSO and other international partners to promote democracy in the absence of strong domestic support are unlikely to be fruitless and even disastrous in the long run if the natives believe that 'foreign' leadership is being shoved down their throats. Therefore, to be successful, democracy assistance must be sensitive to context, such as different standards of living, different societal compositions and histories of conflict, or different economic and political institutional capacity. Such efforts need to be founded in an all-inclusive collective vision of progress, reflected in home-grown and shared democratic agendas.

Instead of exporting democracy, an emphasis should be placed on processes of dialogue aimed at determining factors and modalities of democracy, such as inclusive and peaceful processes of decision-making and strong domestic accountability systems for effective states. Effectiveness of the strategies by CSOs have been buttressed by close working relationships between the CSOs and local actors and marginalized groups to develop democratic ownership, as they begin to participate in the policy-making process. The CSOs engage with these local drivers of democracy through financing their activities, building their capacities and incorporating a political dialogue as to the implementation of programming into each project.

### *Adequacy of Legal Framework for Promotion of Democratic Governance*

It is wise to examine and assess the adequacy of existing legal framework to determine whether they are functioning

properly. A clear legal framework is essential to enable rights holders to identify duty bearers in charge of specific responsibilities. The institutional framework should facilitate the adequate delivery of democratic governance and be administered in a sound, transparent and accountable manner. It is agreed in South Sudan that a country that has progressive and fair laws and policies are on the right path towards realization of democratic governance. This justifies, therefore, the reason why the CSOs in South Sudan include advocacy for better laws and policies in their activities. Adoption of progressive policies ensures that the right of the underprivileged people in the society are upheld and indiscriminately implemented. Additionally, and in line with the findings of MacDonald (2016), efforts must be put in place to implement specific effective public policies to tackle undemocratic governance tendencies practiced directly by the state or through its various agencies. The rule of law is vital in advancing democracy because it is an essential instrument of good governance which the entire society, including the government, is bound.

The principle of public participation holds that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process. In South Sudan, just like any other democratically governed country participation of citizens in government decision making, which is championed for by the CSOs, is essential to the execution of a democratic system of governance in the country. Public participation through referendums, holding public hearing sessions, surveys and interviews is essential in assisting the government in executing its mandate and also developing laws and policies that are favorable to the citizens. Akin to the findings of Hasenfeld and Garrow (2012), the significance of public engagement in the process of legislating and policy formulation, as advocated for by the CSOs in South Sudan, is based on the fact that public policy outputs and effects affect those to whom the policy is targeted. Additionally, citizens are important stakeholders in promoting democratic governance hence the government needs to engage them continuously. However, despite the efforts made by the CSOs in South Sudan, the findings illustrate that the government of South Sudan, for various reasons has not adequately engaged its citizens in legislative and public policies formulation processes, and still struggles to do so. It remains relatively unclear why the government avoids engaging citizens in formulation of legislations and public policies. However, the CSOs and citizens continue to make adequate efforts in seeking to be engaged and to make contribution to the formulation of the country's laws and public policies.

Harmonious to the findings of Haynes (2013), the judiciary, through court declarations on the adequacy of the laws, is an essential organ that reviews the lawfulness of decisions and actions of state officials thus playing an essential role in promoting democracy in the country. Among other activities, the CSOs in South Sudan, working hand in hand with the

judiciary continue to ensure that justice is administered to all citizens thereby promoting democratic governance in the country. Further, the role of the judiciary in settling disputes and punishing law-breakers according to the law is a key aspect of the country's democratic governance.

In a bid to strengthen the work of CSOs and other related organizations in fostering and promoting democratic governance in South Sudan, there is need for the government to initiate institutional and legal reforms in the NGO sector in the country. These reforms are essential in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of such organizations that are integral to the entrenchment of democracy in the country. Conversely, the positive legal, policy and institutional frameworks are important in safeguarding the local communities and the welfare of the people working for and with the organizations. To achieve this, it is imperative to have a comparative analysis of legal, policy and institutional frameworks in other less developed as well as developed countries in entrenching democratic governance and borrowing and implementing the good practices.

Integration of the institutional and regulatory framework for promoting the works of CSOs and those that regulate them is important. Poor and biased enforcement of existing laws can severely hinder the activities of these institutions. Generally, current institutional and regulatory frameworks are not adequate in promoting and also regulating the activities of CSOs in the country. Moreover, progress is slower at lower levels of governance and communities.

#### *Summary of Main Findings*

In summary economic empowerment, Human rights advocacy, Provision of public goods and services and civic education programs were found to be the main strategies employed by CSOs in South Sudan to promote and uphold democratic governance in the country.

With regard to effectiveness of the various strategies, efficiency of public servants in provision of services was found to have improved tremendously over the years since the country gained independence. There are also signs of improvement with regard to respect for human rights by public servants which continues to significantly contribute to democratic governance in South Sudan. Citizens were also becoming more aware of the need to hold their government accountable and were actually making efforts to challenge government activities in instances where they believed the government did not take appropriate actions. Finally, due to the activities of the CSOs in empowering the populace economically, there was notable reduction on dependency hence the citizens were more able to take part in public participation, which significantly contributed to democratic governance. All these were attributed to the unwavering efforts of the CSOs in collaboration with the government and other relevant stakeholders.

Finally, the legal and policy framework for CSOs were increasingly getting better. Progressive laws and policy commended by CSOs were being adapted, adopted and implemented. Also notable were the positive court declarations on the adequacy of the laws which signalled progressive steps towards enhancing democratic governance in South Sudan. Lastly, public participation in legislative and public policy formulation and processes was very impressive as compared to the periods when the CSOs began their work and when the country seceded and gained independence from Sudan.

## VI. CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, the findings of the study indicated that CSOs were in deed playing significant role in promoting democratic governance in South Sudan. The CSOs have carefully chosen and implemented in various cases that have been critical in achieving their intended objectives. Further, the findings show that the strategies put in place so far have significantly proved to be effective in getting the general public as well as the government of South Sudan and its different agents in supporting the initiatives of the CSOs thereby promoting democracy in the country. Though the strategies have been fairly adequate, the findings indicated that more needs to be done in terms of developing and implementing policies and laws that support the work of the CSOs and the objectives they intend to achieve with regard to promotion of democracy in the country. Sudan being an infant country, policies and laws that have worked elsewhere can be borrowed and adopted to complement those that are already in existence.

## VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. On the backdrop of the findings of this study, one of the recommendations that is that the government of South Sudan should encourage institutions of more CSOs that focus on working with the government to promote democratic governance in the country.
2. Besides the CSOs, it is also recommended that the other non-governmental stakeholders should be roped in in the activities aimed at promoting democratic governance in the CSOs South Sudan. These institutions include the Faith-Based Organizations and Community-Based Organizations.
3. It is also recommended that the CSOs while promoting democratic governance in the country should also encourage the implementation of better policies and laws that are favourable to the.

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