ABSTRACT

In India, the number of NGOs has increased dramatically in part because the state's ability to function as the primary actor in development has waned. It is necessary to analyze NGOs potential collaboration with governments to show that NGOs, as a set of the more active members of civil society, do serve to keep the state in check not only through direct confrontation but also through co-operative and facilitative operations.

Theoretical issues involving NGO-state relations will be explained by an examination at the empirical level of the drinking water crises in rural Gujarat (India). PRAVAH is an issue-based network of NGO representatives, academics and advocacy workers whose main objective is to ensure drinking water to all people in Gujarat through women's participation. It has recently begun to work with the state to promote bottom-up, community-led drinking water development initiatives in Gujarat. The specific subtleties that exist between PRAVAH and the Gujarat Water Supply and Sewerage Board will demonstrate the elements of co-operation that arise within NGO-state partnerships and will bring about more specific conclusions to the meaning and impact of civil society and its relationship to the state.[1]

INTRODUCTION

Within the last decade, academic literature has been inundated with discussions regarding civil society and the state. It has been acknowledged that these two spheres are somewhat intertwined yet no uniform conclusions have been derived to confirm the boundaries of this relationship. In other words, a certain amount of uncertainty extends into the relationship